



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 17

August 2019

NEW BEGINNINGS

New beginnings are always exciting, such as the birth of a child, the birth of an idea or the birth of a new year. Each is a candidate for a celebration. The birth of a new “Church Year” is also exciting, note worthy, and cause for celebration. When we begin something significant, there are always significant and long lasting implications. The birth of a child structures the next 20 years for the family and is cause for altering family patterns, buying a crib, diapers and bassinet. New ideas often alter the course of even human events, such as the birth of a new nation or the discovery of how to build a computer. The beginning of a new church year also requires new plans, patterns and structures in our schedules.

We stand on the brink of something new here at First Presbyterian Church, and it impacts all of us. It is the birth of a new “Church Year.” Like other new things, the birth of a new Church Year has lasting implications and may alter your family patterns. Each of us will be setting up our school year calendar in the next few weeks. Worship hours, Bible classes, Prayer groups, Small Groups, Youth Groups and Sunday School classes. Now is the time to set these new plans in place. How we start is most often how we finish. I know that you will want to include the programs and ministries of First Presbyterian Church in your calendars. But which ones? What will we be doing this coming year at First Presbyterian Church that you might be interested in? How will our families’ schedules need to change to make it possible for each of us to participate in those events that will most positively impact our lives for the next 9 months?

To answer these questions, the Session is holding a “FIRST JUMP START” Sunday, August 25. It will take place after each worship service and be an opportunity to explore and ask questions of those who will be hosting and leading these programs. After each worship service, there will be tables set up in the hall outside the sanctuary with balloons, candy, materials, people, ways to sign up for programs, questions answered and much more to help you get off to a great ‘JUMP START’ for the new year. Think of this as the firing of a starter’s pistol in a race or fireworks in a New Year’s Eve party. Plan to stay after worship, August 25, and get a jumpstart on your NEW CHURCH YEAR.

See you there,
Dr. Donald Baird

August Calendar Events at First Pres

AUGUST 5

AUGUST 7-9

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Monday
August 5 at 5pm



Three separate viewing
rooms showing:

Jumanji (rated PG -13)
Fireside Room

Madagascar (rated PG)
Roots Room

Curious George (rated G)
Kidz Zone

Bring a pillow and blanket
and enjoy a movie with
friends!

Snacks!

Bible
Story!

Fun!

FUSION ALASKA YOUTH CONFERENCE AUGUST 7-9, 2019

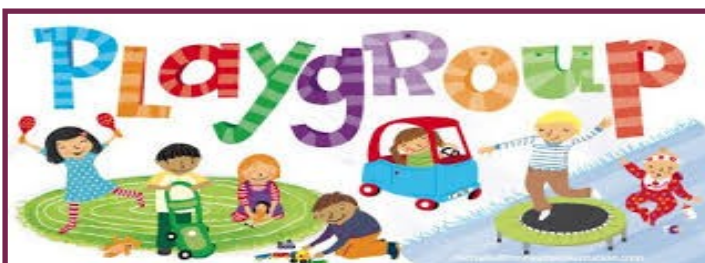
FPC Youth are headed to
Anchorage for the FUSION
ALASKA YOUTH CONFERENCE!
It is open to ALL student in grades
7-12. Register with the link online
or please feel free to pay at the
church office. Fee is \$120.00.
For additional information, please
contact Stephanie Rozell at
687-3730.

AUGUST 8

Snedden Park (on Slater Drive, behind
Chowder House by the river)

August 15

Musical Playground at Tanana Parks
(4400 S Cushman)



August Calendar Events at First Pres

AUGUST 18



Sunday August 18, 2019

- See our upcoming display outside the sanctuary and come hear what Children's Ministry is all about.
Our Children's Ministry Team will be available to answer questions, showcase Bible Telling, explain what Children's Ministry offers, and share exciting lessons for the year!
- Learn where you can support our Children.
See where you can collaborate, disciple and support Kid's Church! (Nursery, Kiosk Greeter, Story Teller, Huddle Leader, Games, Media, Snacks, supplies, curriculum development, lesson assembly, scheduler, resource room organizer, donations, and volunteers.)

August Calendar Events at First Pres

AUGUST 19



AUGUST 19

AUGUST 19

BACK TO SCHOOL!

A Prayer for Our Students

Lord, thank you for the ***unique gifts*** of every child as they transition into a new school year, fill each student with ***fresh enthusiasm*** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your ***enduring love***, give them ***confidence and grace***. Bless their teachers with ***wisdom, understanding and a heart to serve*** as they embark on the journey together. Amen!

AUGUST 25



Please make plans to stay after each worship service and learn of the birth of a New Church Year!

On Your Mark!

Get Ready!

Set!



Did you hear about the 2020 Vision Quest?
Keep your ear to the ground!



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the July 16, 2019 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

- The meeting was opened by Pastor Don, who presented a “Pastor’s Study” on an overview of corporate worship and administration of the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper). The information focused on the responsibility of the Session and the Congregation in each of these.
- The Chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee (PSC) presented a brief report. They have elected officers and have begun gathering information for the Church Information Form (CIF), that will be circulated to prospective candidates. The PSC presented a list of additional information needed from Session. The requests were forwarded to the proper Ministry Team.
- Session received a financial report from Treasurer Dave Stephenson.
- Reports from the Ministry Teams were received.
- A motion from the Mission, Outreach & Evangelism Committee, to allow the use of the facility on either Wednesday or Thursday nights for a Sex Addicts Anonymous group was passed.
- Consent Calendar items on the agenda were passed without objection. These items included:

The Special Ministries Team moved that “Session approve providing a Marriage Retreat during the fall of 2019, and allowing use of FPC facilities not previously committed to another function”.

The Special Ministries Team moved to approve conducting a talent tithe, similar to the talent tithes conducted in the past years, and providing the results to Session. The talent tithe will be passed out to the congregation during Sunday Services, explained and a request made to fill out the tithe and return it. The opportunity to complete an electronic version of the tithe may also be provided.

The Nominating Committee moved that Session review, modify if appropriate, and approve the Nominating Committee’s mission of “anticipated FPC officer-slate vacancies” for nominating year 2019 – 2020.

The Worship Ministry Team moved to change communion from the second Sunday in September to the third Sunday, September 15, 2019.

- A motion from the Personnel Committee, to set the salary range for the Children’s Ministry Director Position from \$45,000 to \$50,000 was passed.
- A motion from the Personnel Committee, to set the effective salary range for the Senior Pastor from \$75,000 to \$90,000 was passed.
- Session approved vacation leave for Pastor Don, for August 1 through 9, 2019 and November 21 through 30, 2019.
- Session decided to task each Ministry Team to a period of “Budget Vision Casting” and have each team bring their “Dream Budget” to the August Meeting, to begin the budget process.
- Ruling Elders Jim Williams and Barb Page, presented a report on the recent General Assembly Meeting.
- Each elder will be developing a list of the Characteristics, Gifts, and / or Skills that the new Senior Pastor should bring to the position. Prior to the next meeting, these will be forwarded to the Clerk to be compiled. These will be discussed and pared to the list requested by the Pastor Search Committee at our August Meeting.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to hold a “First Jumpstart” event on Sunday, August 25, 2019. This will be a time to get a “jumpstart” on the new church year. The event will be held after each service on that Sunday.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to hold a Session Retreat on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The retreat, “20/20 Vision & Beyond” will focus on setting a vision and goals for the next 3 to 5 years.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to allow use of the downstairs portion of the facility, by Classical Conversations, one day a week, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm from August through November and January through April. The use will include 5 to 7 classroom and the kitchen. Classical Conversations is a Christian-based home school program.

The next Session Meeting will be held on August 20th at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room.

**Dave Dreydoppel
Clerk of Session**

What About Those Flowers?



Have you ever wondered about the fresh flowers that are on the communion table every week? How do they get there? What is their purpose besides being a welcome bit of color especially during the long winter months? I don't know when the practice started to put fresh flowers at the front of the church, but I can make an educated guess. I think the early pioneer women began the practice. When I was a child, the ladies of the church would bring a bouquet from their gardens during the summer months to share their abundance, to brighten the sanctuary, and as a sweet smelling gift to the Lord. As more and more women began working, there were fewer people who had time to grow flower gardens, and gradually a standing

order at a local florist replaced the home-grown bouquets. So what do the flowers stand for and how are they used? Certainly during special seasons of the year, the front of the church is filled with blossoms appropriate to the season. Poinsettias at Christmas are called "Flowers of the Holy Night" but that story can wait until December. At Easter, we fill the church with Easter Lilies that signify rebirth and a new beginning.

During the rest of the year, the flowers are up to you to designate. You can honor the memory of a loved one, celebrate the birth of a child, wish a happy birthday to a friend or family member, publicly acknowledge an anniversary or graduation, honor your parents or other special person, etc. You can do this by signing up for the date of your choice on the flower sign-up list in the hallway by the main entrance. List the basic information and your name to have your request printed in the bulletin. A \$40 contribution should then be placed in the offering plate to cover cost of the flowers that Sunday. If you should want a certain type of flower, a larger arrangement or other special order, let the Worship Committee know well in advance, so the florist can be notified in a timely manner. In that case you would be welcome to take the arrangement home with you.

What happens to the flowers after the second service ends? The deacons take the arrangement to someone in the congregation who could use a cheering up, who is hospitalized, someone who is ill, bereaved, lonely, facing surgery, etc. This process completes the triple purpose of the flowers: beautification, honoring, and cheering/comforting. Please consider participating in the long-standing tradition.



Elder June Champlin
Worship

Report on Vital Church Ministries Recommendations

A year ago our church had an evaluation done by an organization called Vital Church Ministries (VCM). They laid out a number of challenges for us, and gave us recommendations on how to address each of the challenges. You are being given this report to keep you informed about what our church leadership has been doing in response to these recommendations.

Vital Church Ministries (VCM) listed four “Core” issues and one “Taproot” issue that they felt our church needed to address. This report will go through each of them and tell what has been done, is presently being worked on or still needs to be addressed.

Core Issue #1

Pay Attention to What it Means to Be the Church

Recommendation 1 – Reestablish Biblical Community by Rethinking Your Small Group Ministry

Our Session has created a committee to work on developing a small group ministry as well as other specialized ministries. Some Session members suggested the groups focus on the topics of evangelism, discipleship, conflict resolution, and emotional health along with deep biblical studies. The establishment of Koinonea (community and sharing fellowship) is one of the most important results of a small group ministry, so the importance of participation by members of the congregation cannot be over emphasized. As the committee goes about setting up small groups, we as individuals must make the effort to participate.

Recommendation 2 – Learn to Resolve Your Conflict in a Biblical and Redemptive Way

- VCM saw two conflicts in the church. One was the conflict that had arisen over Andy and Dave, and the other was a demonstration of uncharitable attitudes among attenders of 1st and 2nd services towards one another.
- After having had a congregational meeting on the issue and also having an Elders’ Corner, neither Session nor Pastor Don feels that there is more immediate action that can be directly done to address the conflicts that arose over Dave and Andy.
- To prevent future problems, the Personnel committee is working to establish some new personnel policies and Pastor Don, our Interim Pastor, is working with Session to help the elders learn to take stronger leadership.
- Although Pastor Don and the worship committee do not feel that there is a present problem of conflict between the two services and are concerned about changing schedules that can result in loss of attendance, Session is continuing to look into some possible changes.
- Pastor Don has been equipping the congregation to address additional conflict in a biblical and redemptive manner through his preaching.

Recommendation 3 –Develop an Emotionally Healthy Spiritual Life and Relational Skills

Core Issue #2

Be Intentional About Your Spiritual Formation

As Pastor Don has been preaching through the Book of Acts, he has been able to touch on this issue in some sermons. However, addressing this has been challenging. VCM's recommendations involve using small groups. But very few of our congregants participate in small groups. It may be that more effort on this will have to wait until we build up our small groups.

Recommendation 4 – Reconsider Your Church-wide Spiritual Formation Pathway

Session has split our Christian Formation committee into two committees: Adult Christian Education and Children's Ministry, reflecting our desire for increased effort to go into the spiritual formation of our congregation. Both committees are working on developing pathways towards an organized process for spiritual growth.

Core Issue #3

Revisit Leadership and What it Means to be a Leader in the Congregation

Recommendation 5 – Reinstitute a Leadership Training Process

Our interim pastor, Pastor Don, has been training the session in leadership and how to build committees and pass along leadership skills to members of the congregation.

Recommendation 6 – Go Through Some Kind of Re-visioning Process

- Session will be having a retreat in late September to go through this process.
- Session reviews our mission statement and vision statement at the beginning of each monthly meeting.

Core Issue #4

Governance is Dysfunctional and Ineffective

Recommendation 7 – Get Help from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest in Governance

- Session has had a training by the presbytery and Pastor Don continues to train us in polity.
- By September, job descriptions and responsibilities will be created or up-dated for each Session Committee, and the Personnel committee is working on a complete set of personnel policies.

Taproot Issue

In Many of Your Minds, This is not Jesus' church, this is Your Church

Recommendation 8 – As you consider the findings of this report, enter a season of prayer and fasting that results in Sacred Assembly.

This has been talked about but not acted on.

Recommendation 9 - Move your worship service times closer together so that each congregation can actually relate to the other.

This has been discussed. Since adult education classes are between services. Worship committee has not found a way to do this. Discussion continues on this issue.

Shorten the second service so that families with young children can come.

This has been done.

Attend a different worship service. Get to know people there. Greet visitors.

Some congregants have been doing this, and we encourage others to follow in their paths.

Have a coffee hour in between services and stick around so you can get to know people in your church.

There are some logistical problems with the coffee hour approach, but our encouragement of congregants to sit with people they don't know when they attend church pot-lucks seems to have produced some results.

Recommendation 10— Staff an intentional interim pastor to help you work through these issues.

We have done this and find that our interim pastor, Pastor Don, has been very intentionally moving us forward on most of these issues.

**Terry Reichardt, Elder
Personnel**

Managing

THROUGH JUNE 2019	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	277,192
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>274,156</u>
NET	<u><u>3,036</u></u>

Finances



Thank you for all the support of our youth and their efforts to follow Jesus Christ and bless their neighbors near and far! From July 21-26, the youth served their community by painting at Love INC, helping FPC elder folks, improving Tanana Lakes Municipal Park, and serving at the Rescue Mission! We also spent our evenings worshipping God and exploring what it means to respond to God's love and promises by carrying Jesus into our own lives and our neighborhood.



Stay tuned as we head to the Fusion Youth Conference in Anchorage next week!



Happy Birthday



1	Jim Aldrich	18	Peggy Nicholas
	Ava Denton	20	Rick Wagner
	Andréé Thies		Perry Schneider
	Chris Demers		Siegfried Fink
2	Joyce Gardella		Savannah VanHarper
3	Angela Adams	22	Jim Williams
	Nathan Vander Lugt	23	Lauren Bouta
4	Phillip Jones		Eli Brovold
5	Blake Bunch	24	Amber Sunderlund
6	Wally Burnett		Kathy Buckley
7	Greg Young	25	Wendy Cogley
8	Nathan Vander Lugt	26	Dan Brady
9	Kelsey Per Nore		Toby Rozell
	Karen Binkley	27	Isaac Mackey
	Bryon Cogley		Janice Cleworth
10	Linda Armstrong	28	Karson Riggs
11	Heather Young	30	Marita Bunch
13	Mark Albert	31	Barbara Nore
	Sena Gilbert		Liesl Wietgreffe
15	Paul Reichardt		Abigail Sirevaag
16	Maggie Hess		Hunter Dudgeon

