



Merry Christmas

May joy be your gift at Christmas
and may Faith, Hope, and Love be
your treasures in the
New Year!



Sunday, December 5, 2021



DESSERT *Auction*

For Youth Ministry
Summer Mission Trip

We are looking for **BOLD** and creative bakers to
donate desserts that we can place on the auction
block and receive bids.


DELICIOUS FUN!

See You there!

And the angel said unto them, Fear not,
for, behold, I bring you good tidings of
great joy, which shall be to all people/
For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, which is Christ the
Lord.

Luke 2:10





"You'll shoot your eye out; I can tell you what Christmas is all about. Lights please...; What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough; We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup; Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see; I don't know if I oughta go sailin' down no hill with nothin' between the ground and my brains but a piece of government plastic." These are quotes from some of my favorite Christmas movies. Can you guess the titles of these movies? I will list them at the end of my letter. Don't peek until you've tried figuring them out and finished my letter!

We love stories. We watch them, read them, listen to them and daydream about them. They catch our God-given imaginations and we are able to see in our minds the characters, sensations and the plots. These stories influence our heart and emotions, and many times we place ourselves in the midst of the stories pretending to be a major character in the story.

Stories that truly and strongly inspire our lives are the ones that we continue to look to in our lives. My family has one story (most of you already know what it is!) that we watch, listen to, quote and talk about throughout the year. It captures our imaginations, and that movie is *Lord of the Rings*, of course! I'm sure that most of you have a favorite story that you look to often.

Ah, but the Christmas Story is one of the most famous and celebrated story in the world with the Easter Story following closely. There are so many characters, plots, images, feelings and emotions in this story. You would think that it would grow old or boring and non-relevant. Every year, the same story is read, taught, preached, and dramatized. In fact, some people get anxious just thinking about the story as the commercialization of the season has tainted it, and it becomes associated with exhaustion and over-spending.

I believe that the story gets old or boring and non-relevant if we don't find ourselves in "The Story." You see, God never meant for us not to be in the story. God chose this story for us to best experience it by finding ourselves in it.


So, this year ask God to help you see yourself in the story and ignite your imagination as we walk through this story during the Advent season. Experience the sights, sounds, and odors, all the sensations that come from being in "The Story." Let it work its transforming power in our lives, my sisters and brothers in Christ!

With His Love,
Pastor Peter

Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

ANSWERS

"The Christmas Story", 2) "Charlie Brown Christmas", 3) "The Muppets Christmas Carol", 4) "Elf", 5) "Polar Express", 6) National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"



Men's Pancake Breakfast

DECEMBER 18



Come join us for a pancake breakfast, fellowship, and a short discussion of God's Word. The breakfast will take place in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs at First Presbyterian Church). All men are welcome and invited to bring a friend or a son. Please call, text, or email Jim Aldrich with your reservation at 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com (it helps us decide how much food we need if we can get an idea of how many are coming). See you there!

Saturday, December 18 at 9am
Fellowship Hall
Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church



Our Vision is to see the world transformed to love, worship and serve Christ.

We do this through our Mission, which is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and living faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God's love.



Coming in 2022—PRAY FIRST

21 Days of PrayerStarting January 2

*Pray about everything
Worry about nothing
And don't forget to say
"Thank You"*

Phil. 4:6

You are invited to begin the year with focusing on God's will

- *For each of us,*
- *For First Presbyterian Church,*
- *For Fairbanks*
- *For the World*

Season's Greetings from the Spicy Mustard Youth Group



Your Spicy Mustard Youth Group is going to Pennsylvania! Our Mission Trip 2022 will be traveling to Philadelphia and Harrisburg Pennsylvania to worship, fellowship, and serve alongside churches and charities that help people every day. We will be learning about the communities, praying for them, and serving with construction projects and kids' programs! We will be traveling the last week of June and we covet your prayers and financial support as we prepare for this journey. This Sunday, December 5th will be a Dessert Auction and our first official fundraiser of the season, but stay tuned for more opportunities to give, and as always, if you have a project like snow removal or major chores, let David know and the youth will be there to help!

David's Seminary News

I am completing Hebrew, Practical Theology, and Social Ethics next week and will then be enjoying a Christmas break before beginning classes again in January with Pastoral Ministry, Family Ministry, and Preaching for Special Occasions. Thank you all for your continued prayer, financial support, and words of encouragement for me on this journey!



Angel Tree

**THIS YEAR,
THERE MAY BE FAMILIES IN
OUR CHURCH WHO ARE IN NEED.**

**Please assist with identifying
members of our congregation that
may be in need this year. Your
suggestions can be made anonymously to the front office,
by placing a request in the offering plate, and/or by
contacting one of the deacons or elders. We would like
to have this list of recipients created by the second week
of November so we can better prepare our "Angels."**

The Angel Tree has been erected and is located in the Narthex

**As congregation members feel moved, they will select "paper angel
requests" and bring donations to the church no later than**

December 20

which will provide Deacons time to prepare each delivery.

**For additional information,
please contact Barbara Nore
Deacon Moderator**



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the November 16, 2021 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Conference Room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 16th.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

Pastor Peter provided a devotion based on Thankfulness

Correspondence from the Presbytery was received to propose a Discovery Workshop to be held in March 2022. A Discovery Workshop provides training in Church Polity for current and prospective church leaders. The Session voted to host the workshop.

Correspondence was received from the Deacons on proposed plans for expanding the Angel Tree program to a year round care ministry. Session voted to support the plans.

Ted Riggs Sr. spoke to Session on plans to provide a 21 Days of Prayer program, supported by the Tuesday Prayer Group.

Planning on the 2022 Budget continued.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to allow a deficit budget.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to tithe a minimum of 10% of expected church income to Missions and Outreach.

Planning is in the works for a combined meeting with Session and the Deacons in January, to include a potluck dinner, fellowship and a service project.

Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland presented a report on event that occurred at the January Presbytery Meeting in Caldwell, Idaho.

Church security was discussed. The topic was referred to the Facilities Committee for research and recommendations.

Session discussed a proposed addition / revision of a church policy and inclusion in the current personnel policy. The policy was forwarded to the Personnel Committee for recommendations.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to approve a pay raise of 5.7% pay raise for all staff.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to hold one Christmas Eve Service this year.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to approve communion being served at the Christmas Eve Service.

Written ministry team reports were received.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Moderator Dembroski prayed for the elders and for First Presbyterian, and then adjourned the meeting in prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on December 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room

Children's Ministry

This month in children's ministry, our calendar is joyfully full!



- Rehearsals have begun for the Christmas Program (Dec.12 during the church service)
- The bell choir practices on Wednesdays
- Our Advent calendars have daily art projects, stories, games and stories for us.
- We'll have a "Craft Lab" event (Dec.15 1:30-3:30) so kids can make a gift for their teachers

All of these demand rehearsals, planning, and meetings, and hard work-- but if things are working properly, they aim our kids and us toward Jesus. Hopefully, it works like this:

1. The Nativity story is everywhere. We repeat and repeat the truth that we have been given a priceless gift.
2. If all goes well, we really take that in.
3. We respond in thanks, in relief, in humility before the God who takes care of the sin we can't take care of ourselves.
4. At the center of all these events, is the message that we are not enough on our own, only our loving Father and his beautiful Son can make the world right. When we practice songs of praise and joy, when we sew or put on silly sheep costumes, when we color, or build or study or give, we remember: we are free to be his Kids, and to let him take care of things.
5. If he can take care of my sin, he can take care of this rehearsal, this decorating, this cooking, this shopping, this travelling, these crazy, precious families of ours.
6. May this season of busy-ness be a season of special remembering:

We are free to be His kids. He'll take care of us.

May that knowledge make us kinder and more generous with others and ourselves.

Carina
Children Ministry Director

Please pray this month that our kids would take Nativity story into their hearts.

STEWARDSHIP

*Loving God and our Neighbors
With our Time, Talents and Treasure
2022 Stewardship Campaign*

The Pharisees asked Jesus "What is the greatest Commandment?"

Matthew 22 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."^[d] 38 this is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[d] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Beloved First Presbyterian Church,

Just before Cynthia and I got married, about 35 years ago, we promised to make a commitment to pay tithes (10%) of our income throughout our marriage and life. We truly wanted to invest into God's kingdom and helped bring the Good News to people throughout the world. We felt so honored to be a part of Jesus' great commission of *"making disciples of every nation."*

We've had so many different financial experiences in our life, some good, some bad. But God was faithful in providing whatever resource we needed to help us in those times of needs and difficulties. God gave us a challenge by testing him and his faithfulness to us. He says in Malachi 3, that if you bring the tithe to the storehouse God will bless you *"until there is no more need."* God has been true to his word for Cynthia and me.

FPC of Fairbanks is an amazing body of sisters and brothers who love to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to others and helping them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. They have a great vision, great leaders and teachers, awesome music, wonderful programs and a strong love for each other. They have a great joy of knowing that they are doing God's will.

So, honestly, pray about what God wants you to give to First Presbyterian Church. But remember, it is what God wants you to give and not what you want to give. I find that it's always a better way to do life this way. If you can't give a full tithe then ask God if he wants you to up your giving by 1% or 2%. But please, go to our Father in Heaven and ask him personally.

After your prayerful consideration, complete a Pledge Card and either bring them with you to church to place in the offering plate or mail them to FPC (Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, 547 7th Avenue, Fairbanks, AK, 99701).

With His love,
Pastor Peter

Staff Appreciation Christmas Gift

This Christmas we are again inviting the congregation to participate in blessing our six FPC staff members:

Pastor Peter Dembroski, Transitional Pastor
David McConnell-Booher, Youth Ministry Director
Carina Menaker, Children's Ministry Director
Marta Conner, Office Manager
Paul Bonnell, Sound Projection Technician
Peggy Nicholas, Nursery Coordinator

If you would like to contribute to this special Christmas monetary gift for our staff, please put your contribution in the church offering plate on any of the four Sundays:

November 28

December 5

December 12

December 19

Be sure your checks or envelopes are marked **"FPC Staff Christmas Gift."** Cards, notes or other gifts are most welcome, too. Please turn your contributions in **no later than Sunday, Dec. 19th**. Thank you for assisting with blessing our awesome staff!

FPC Personnel Team

Terry Reichardt

Geoff Beyersdorf

Donna Brewer)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

*“The Lord bless you and keep
you,
the Lord make His face shine
on you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord turn His face toward
you and give you peace.”
Numbers 6:24-26*

1	Donna Brewer
1	Laura Strong
1	Gretchen Wietgreffe
2	Loriann Quakenbush
3	Suzanne Black
4	Bennett Gilbert
5	Keith Nore
5	Becky Fuller
7	Eleanor Marsh
9	Devin Perkins
10	Bill Glocke
10	Linda Mullen
11	Brian Sunderland
11	Brooks Gilbert
12	Michelle VanHatten
12	Trevor Bunch
12	David Denton
12	Elizabeth Jones
13	Bobby Perkins
14	Brian Rozell
15	Janie Feist
17	Caleb Sunderland
17	Christopher Cogley
17	River Gates
18	John Fink
19	Thelma Pierce
20	Lindsey Dreydoppel
20	Cade Albert
21	Joanne Klaver
22	Glenn Hackney
22	John Anderson
23	Teddy Jerald Riggs Jr.
24	JoAnn Mills
24	Chris Kilgore
25	Joyce Tapper
27	Gayle Meurs
29	Shirley Albert
30	Brenna McConnell-Booher
31	Daniel Armstrong
31	Kristina Anderson