

# FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, February 2025

## In This Issue:

Getting to Know You  
From the Pastor  
Young Adult Ministry  
Children's Ministry  
Birthdays  
Prayer Calendar



## Hygge and Yap!



Women's Retreat  
February 22, 10-4  
Registration opens 2/2

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." -Galatians 6:2

# February

## how to: Church

**A brief class on the essentials of our faith**

**Sundays after church,  
February 2nd and 9th**

Whether you are considering joining the church as a member, discerning a call to serve as a Deacon or Elder, or just want to learn more about what we believe and how we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ in a presbyterian context, this class is a chance to learn and grow together as the church!

*Please note:*

*The office will be closed on  
Monday, February 17th.*

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

547 7th Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Office: 907-452-2406

Fax: 907-452-7205

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.

## Meet the Dreydoppel Family!

Meet Dave and Nancy Dreydoppel. All three of their adult daughters also attend FPC: Emily (with husband Adam Kohl and children Nora, Holden and baby #3 due in May), Lindsey, and Jenna. Dave was a 911 dispatcher for UAF and Nancy worked as a music teacher for the school district - both are now retired. Dave likes



watching movies and reading while Nancy enjoys gardening in the summer and they both enjoy spending time with the grandchildren. They each moved to Alaska as children - Dave's dad was a pastor in Bethel, AK and Nancy's dad was in the military. One thing you may not know about them is that they met at Camp Bingle where Nancy was a counselor. Dave came out to camp to hang out with a couple of friends who were also counselors and

the rest is history! They have been members of FPC since the early 80's (Nancy 1980, Dave 1984). The dates are certain because Dave is currently serving as Clerk of Session, and he looked it up! Nancy serves in Music Ministry, on the Worship Committee and helps with the Children's Christmas program and VBS. One thing they both love about FPC are the dear friends they've made over the years. Be sure to say hi when you see them!

## Meet the Kohl Family!

Meet Emily and Adam Kohl, and their kids Norah (5 yrs.), Holden (3 yrs.), and Baby Boy Kohl (due May 2025). Emily is a born and raised North Pole/Fairbanks resident. Adam first came to Fairbanks with the Army Band in 2009 from Rhode Island. Emily works as an elementary teacher in the FNSBSD where she has been for 9 years now, taking a few years off to stay home with kiddos. Adam is a territory representative for Ecolab, where he has worked for 10 years. In their free time, Emily and Adam love spending time with their kids, soaking up as much summer as they can, and staying busy in the winter. Something you may not know about them is, Adam and Emily met during auditions for FLOT's *The Music Man*. *Emily auditioned, and Adam was the music director. Their wedding song was "Till There Was You" from The Music Man.* Emily has been a member of First Pres since she was a baby. One thing they really value about our FPC family is the community and family that FPC really is. Be sure to reach out and say hi when you see them!



**Getting to Know You**—Part of the role of the Deacons is to help new members get connected, and to encourage all members to get to know each other better. In order to do that, your Deacons have decided to feature different households in our church family by sharing a little bit of information about them, so we can all learn a little more about each other. If you and your family are interested in being featured now, or on a particular month, please let one of our Deacons know. We are looking forward to getting to know you all a little bit better!

# ~~ From the Pastor ~~

February is typically the month that contains some of the church season of Lent. This year, we will not begin Lent until Ash Wednesday on March 5th. But that just means that we have a little more time to talk about, pray about, and prepare for Lent!

Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Since the early days of the Church, it has been a time to prepare new followers of Jesus Christ for the sacrament of Baptism and full participation in the Church. It has also been a time for all Christians to grow deeper in their faith through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, charity, and study of God's Word in scripture.

What a blessed opportunity! What a wonderful invitation to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus better and to hear His voice more clearly!

With all of that in mind, we are planning something special for Lent at FPC this year, and we invite you to join us!

These last couple years have been a season of celebrating all the ways God has built and rebuilt FPC. We have given thanks for our transitional pastors' work, and for all the new growth we have seen under the leadership of our staff (new and old) and our Session. I believe that God is now inviting us into a season of

fasting and prayer as we discern the new vision to which The Lord is calling us. This new vision may be a focus on small groups, neighborhood outreach, advocacy and partnership with a component of our community in great need, or something else God has yet to reveal.

Your pastor, elders, and staff have been praying about this, and while we do not know precisely what this new vision is yet, we do know that Jesus is prompting us to go deeper with Him in anticipation of how God will lead us in the coming season in our congregation.

The Holy Spirit, speaking through Moses and many other Hebrew prophets, called His covenant people to solemn assemblies and declared fasts to discern God's will for them and to grow deeper in relationship with Him [Exodus 12:16, Joel 1:14]. The early church fasted and prayed before identifying their next mission and the Apostles who would pursue that mission [Acts 13:1-3], and as the Apostles identified elders for new churches and how God was calling them to lead [Acts 14:21-23].

Our plan for Lent 2025 at First Presbyterian Church is Prayer, Fasting, and Holy Communion. For the first time in a long time (maybe ever?), we will be celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper every Sunday during Lent. We are not increasing the frequency of Communion as a way to increase our piety, rather, we are doing this to gather together around Christ's table every Sunday and to answer His invitation to know Him better and experience the love and grace of God poured out in a most tangible way.

In addition to this new weekly practice, we will also be publishing a calendar for the season of Lent that includes daily prompts for prayer or fasting. These will include specific passages of scripture and options that allow for modifications for those who are unable to fast in specific ways for whatever reason.

As Presbyterians, we value our freedom in Christ, including the freedom from undue burdens that originate from mere church tradition or human teaching. We look to the primacy of God's Word in scripture when it comes to discerning what is required and essential for salvation and discipleship, as opposed to what might simply be helpful and optional. These Biblical practices that we are taking on for Lent are meant to be an invitation from God for our collective good. Not a new, heavy burden. With that in mind, I encourage you to pray and discern how God is calling you to a Lenten discipline beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th.

Lent is not a time for us Christians to feel guilty and sorry for ourselves. Lent is not a time to take on suffering as a grisly pantomime of Christ's suffering on the cross or the suffering of those who struggle with illness, poverty, and disaster around the world today. Lent is an invitation to "Taste and See that The Lord is Good!" [Psalm 34:8]. It is an opportunity to examine our lives and the life of our church, and to plant our roots more deeply in the Living Water which flows from the heart of our God and King.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus!



## NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

February is here after the eternity that was January. Young Adult ministry is cool because this is a place where we pair zeal with discernment and grow according to how God is leading us as well as being firm with the vision: worship, healing, salvation.

In February we are pausing all 'extra' events and truly doubling down on what God is doing in our midst in the Studio. December pushed us into a desire for holiness and now we're pursuing the presence of God in our worship. In February and at least through March we aren't leaving the Studio. It's us, the Bible, worship, and prayer. We're going to see what God does with our zealous hearts.

"But he would withdraw to a desolate place and pray." Luke 5:16. We see this often in the gospels, Jesus would take time aside from doing active ministry to focus on what God was speaking in His life. We are doing the same thing. This month we aren't doing any extra special events, not doing partnerships with anything - we're just going to withdraw, every Sunday, with each other and focus.

To increase the fellowship we have with one another a Fellowship Dinner is offered at 5:30 every Sunday for all members of Young Adult ministry. It's Mardi Gras so we're serving up cajun dishes.

Worship Nights and Fellowship Dinners are for all groups of Young Adult ministry: High School, College, and Career. As we tuck ourselves away for a minute let us remember at the cross we can share anything:

"Then come, let us go up to Bethel,  
where I will build an altar to God,  
who answered me in the day of my distress and  
who has been with me wherever I have gone." Genesis 35:3

For the good and God,  
-Nicole



## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Bible Study:** College and Career, Sundays @ 4:00 p.m.

**Fellowship Dinner:** High School, College, and Career, Sundays @ 5:30 p.m.

**Worship:** High School, College, and Career, Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Women's Ministry Retreat**

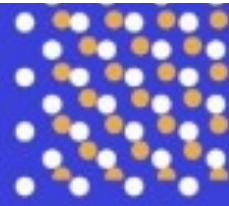
Hygge and Yap, February 22nd

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

College and Career are invited to attend.



# CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres Folks,

During January, we resumed our regular schedule and started up some brand new things! Climb Middle schoolers continue to study 1 Samuel, Sunday school kids study being "light-bringers" and imitators of Christ by praying for healing, sharing their gifts and following Him carefully through dark places. Roots kids are delving deeper into the life of Christ, tackling the context of his ministry and the risks that come with discipleship.

We began some fun by starting a monthly middle school girls group. On our first adventure we went for Thai food and some ice skating. During our table conversation, we shared why we wanted this time set aside for just girls-- turns out, girls are no quieter and no less energetic, but they want a space to be understood by their sisters in Christ, and encouraged in their own ways. We had a blast skating and everybody got a chance to be heard. The new skaters had a grand start and those who were more advanced practiced cheering the rest of us on. We had an informal vote and decided to meet monthly. What fun!

*Carina*

## ROOTS CLUB

3-5TH GRADE  
SUNDAYS 4-6

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRE-K THROUGH 8TH  
SUNDAYS @ 9 AM

## CLIMB CLUB

WEDNESDAYS 3-5

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

THIS MONTH'S  
MEET-UP FEB 8

Middle School Girls event:

# Valentine's Day

February 8  
2:30-5  
@FPC

Please  
bring \$5  
for food  
and  
supplies

RSVP  
with Ms.  
Carina  
907-987-  
7126

Celebrate the love God grows  
between friends!  
Eat some pizza,  
Make a gift for yourself and one to  
share!





When we think about holidays in February, we usually think of Valentine's day (14th), President's day (17th), or maybe Groundhog day (2nd).

But did you know that February 27th is International Polar Bear day? or that February is National Bird-feeding Month?



February is also home to the week of Random Acts of Kindness (February 9-15) and a day of Random Acts of Kindness on the 17th. So, even if you're not into all the hearts and chocolate, you still have an excuse to make someone smile this month with a random act of kindness!



# Happy Birthday!

# February

- |    |                  |    |                    |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | sarah Morris     | 13 | David Jones        |
| 2  | Danny sheets     | 13 | Molly DeLeon       |
| 4  | Chloe Albert     | 15 | Autumn vander Lugt |
| 7  | Russ vander Lugt | 15 | Lily sunderland    |
| 7  | Hayden Masterson | 17 | Christina Repasky  |
| 7  | Esmeralda sheets | 19 | Ellucia Boswell    |
| 8  | Henry Hull       | 20 | Lonny Marney       |
| 8  | Diane Henry      | 24 | Dale Feist         |
| 9  | Austin Foster    | 26 | Merle Fortune II   |
| 12 | samuel craft     |    |                    |

# February 2025

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

**1st Pres Staff**  
 David McConnell-Booher  
 Nicole Matthews  
 Carina Menaker  
 Noreen Harwood  
 Peggy Nicholas  
 Paul Bonnell

**Deacons**  
 Marta Beaudrault  
 Debby Foster  
 Daniel Griggs  
 Kathy Halfhill  
 Diane Henry  
 Emily Kohl  
 Melissa Prince  
 Karson Riggs  
 Shannon Riggs  
 Christy Repasky

**Elders**  
 Sarah Albert  
 David Dreydoppel  
 David Henry  
 David McConnell-Booher  
 Keith Nore  
 Paul Reichardt  
 Ted Riggs, Sr.  
 Brian Rozell  
 Bill Satterberg  
 Emma Snell  
 Brian Sunderland

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Healing Prayers for</b> Pat & Sig Fink    Joy-el Culligan    Joyce Tapper George Shoogukuvrk    Deanna Morris						1 August, Savanna & Alaska Schaefer
<b>Prayers for Recovery from House Fire</b> Ben & Lynn Hull Family						8 Dave & Linda Stephenson
2 How to: Church	3 Jack Schnurr	4 George Shoogukuvrk	5 Evelyn Sites	6 Travis, Megan, Holly & Allison Smith	7 Emma Snell	15 Richard, Andree, Sean & Toby Thies
9 Young Adult Ministry	10 Kathi Stevens	11 Rick & Peggy Stovarsky	12 Brian, Amber, Kyle, Caleb, Lily & Luke Sunderland	13 Sarah Susook	14 Joyce Tapper	22 Victor & Denise Wallace
16 Our Pastor	17 Kevin & Cindy Turnbough	18 Jacob, Christina, Sawyer & Juniper Turman	19 Russ, Rebekah, Ben, Autumn, Nathan & Margaret Vanderlugt	20 Ian, Heidi, Savannah & William VanHarper	21 Carol Vondra	28 Dan & Linda Wells
23 FPC	24 Paula Ward	25 Denise Wartes	26 Ed Washburn	27 Joe, Joanna & Alice Weber		