



First Light

Volume 27, Issue 1

January 2017

547 Seventh Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99701 • www.fairbanksfirstpres.com

TUESDAY 10 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 10TH:

Invite a friend and plan to join us as we begin a study of one of the most popular books of the Bible, the **Gospel of John**. As we prayerfully read and explore the 21 chapters in John, we will come to know JESUS better.....through His miracles, what He said about Himself and what others had to say about Him. It is our hope that as we participate in this study we will desire a more intimate relationship with JESUS, becoming more aware of His love for us and eager for our love for Him to grow much deeper, too.

This study begins on **Tuesday Jan. 10**. We will meet each Tuesday 10-11:30 am in the FPC conference room. Child-care is provided. For further information or to sign up for the class please contact Donna by phone (ph. 479-4426) or email (billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com).



News from the Elders

The elders met twice in December and conducted the following business:

- * Prayed for our congregation and the world.
- * Approved a motion to allow Pastor Andy to utilize his two weeks of annual study leave to travel to Zimbabwe and Kenya January 14 thru January 31 to help train pastors. Budgeted study leave allowance and mission dollars will be used to cover his travel expenses.
- * Approved a motion to pay all benevolences at the end of each quarter.
- * Called a **special meeting** of the congregation for **Sunday, January 8th at 9:50 a.m.** to change our bylaws allowing us to hold our winter congregational meeting within the first two months of the year.
- * Pending congregational by-law changes, the winter congregational meeting will be held on February 12, 2017.
- * Approved our 2017 annual operating budget of \$648,579.

Believing, Being and Belonging: A new Adult Formation Class will begin February 5!

This 9 week course centers around three themes:

- 1) Following Jesus the Truth, which involves learning and reflection, resulting in growing faith.
- 2) Following Jesus the Life, which involves worship and prayer, resulting in growing hope.
- 3) Following Jesus the Way, which involves fellowship and service, resulting in growing love.

This class is for anyone, however it is also our New Members class so if you wish to join FPC you need to attend this class. We'll meet from 10 to 10:55 Sunday mornings, in the Fireside Room. Hope to see you there! If you have questions, please call the church office.

FLOWERS

There are plenty of spots available throughout 2017 if you would like to donate flowers in memory of someone or in honor of one of your loved ones, a birthday, anniversary or any special occasion! Please see the bulletin board in the atrium to sign up. Flowers cost \$35 per week.



REMINDER: As we are enjoying our revitalized basement, keep in mind that our campaign is still going on through April 2017! We still need to fulfill our pledges to pay off the renovation and renewed areas of the church! Thank you!

New Year, New Beginnings!

Welcome into 2017 and may you find this to be a happy New Year for you and your loved ones!!

Beginning the first Sunday of January we'll be kicking off our second segment in our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. This rich segment of scripture will cover Romans 5-8. If you can, read now to review chapters 1-4, and then read chapters 5-8.

I am excited about an adventure I have coming up beginning January 14. I will be helping to train about 250 pastors and ministry leaders in Zimbabwe and Kenya during the last half of January. I would greatly appreciate your ongoing prayers in preparation and during this teaching and ministry time. Pray for safety and for God's encouragement and equipping to flow from me and the team to the students.



If you haven't yet met our new Office Manager, Claire Cherniawski (pronounced: Cher-now-skee) I want to invite you to drop by and introduce yourself. She's a great addition.

Let me tell you a few things about Claire. First, Claire comes to us from Lansing, Michigan and is the middle child in a family of seven—a family made up of five boys and two girls. Claire, like me, loves coffee, music (she plays guitar and sings), reading, hiking, playing board games, and getting to know people. She also loves a good adventure and that's what brought her and her friend, Mary, all the way to Fairbanks. Claire was raised Roman Catholic and loves the church.

She would describe herself as a Catholic charismatic. She loves ecumenism and was involved in University Christian Outreach at several colleges in Michigan. Claire has been working in the field of human resources and business management for the past five years.

Since coming to Fairbanks on November 5, she has settled in at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in North Pole where she hopes to be involved in worship ministry. Some of her goals in coming to Alaska are to explore this beautiful state, go king salmon fishing, hike Denali Park, learn how to snowshoe and downhill ski, encounter a friendly moose, meet great people and enjoy at least three years here (which means she may be here forever).

One of Claire's goals here at FPC, as we begin the year, is to help us to develop effective and efficient organizational systems in the office. One specific way she wants to help is by gathering up-to-date information from every regular attendee and member so that it can be entered electronically into a data base making it possible for us to create a user friendly directory, and more efficient communication. For example, we would like to save money and paper this coming year by sending out the First Light Newsletter, and other mailings, such as quarterly giving statements, electronically. She would also like to help us in sending out announcements via texting and/or email. Further, Claire will be helping with website and phone app development.

By way of gathering this information you can expect to see on several Sundays in January, information cards in your bulletin. Please take the time to fill one out and drop it by the church.

May God richly bless you, our congregation, and all whom we encounter in the New-Year with a deeper sense of his grace, love and peace.

Pastor Andy

From
the
Pastor's
Desk...

2016—It's a Wrap!

Thank you for a great 2016 in Youth Ministry! We met over one hundred times to worship, study the Bible, pray, serve our neighbors, learn about our Christian walk of faith, and grow together as young members in the Body of Christ! In addition, we saw a dozen students go through confirmation class and affirm their Baptisms or be Baptized for the first time! We traveled to Idaho and Washington to serve the Nez Perce community and learn and worship with them.

Imagine what God will do with us in 2017! Please continue to pray for us and when you see them on Sunday morning or bump into them at Fred Meyer, ask them what they're excited to see God do in our lives next!

We send out weekly email updates for youth ministry. If you have questions, are interested in volunteering, or would like to receive weekly updates, please email me at david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com

The young students at First Presbyterian are taking on this task of pursuing Christ and serving our neighbors every week!

Join us every Sunday at 10am for Sunday School.

Every Sunday at 1pm for Youth Group.

Every Wednesday at 4pm for Eat. Pray. Serve.

We will also have a special activity this month:

Youth Serve at the Well on January 11, 2017.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Sarah Curtis	10	Linda Mullen
2	James Curtis	10	Michael Repasky
2	Carol Hoefler	11	Dale Shelley
4	Ronda Boswell	11	Alton Denton
4	Dwight Morris	11	Matt Johnson
5	Denise Wartes	12	Kasandra Pendley
6	Beth Brummond	12	Joan Riggs
7	Benjamin Hull	13	Jake Sirevaag
7	Olivia Schuler	14	Sara Cogley
8	Dave Stephenson	16	Jack Schnurr
		25	Sheila Williams
		26	Kari Nore
		31	Karina Huffaker

We wish all those having January birthdays a happy day! Please let the Deacons know right away if we have overlooked a birthday, or have the wrong date. Contact the church office or leave a note in their box in the church office.

First Light

A Monthly Newsletter Publication
of First Presbyterian Church

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th day of each month. Submissions may be dropped off at the church office, mailed, faxed or emailed to: Claire.Cherniawski@fpcfairbanks.com

Four

Dear Saints,

I'm writing this on the shortest day of the year, tomorrow (or is it today?), we have an additional 19 seconds of sunlight. By the time you read this in January, heck- we'll be well on our way to again being able to call this the land of the midnight sun!

The change in light is at first imperceptible but it is real. With the advancing days, we begin to notice a difference, not only astronomically but emotionally- everyone has a bit of a skip in their step, people aren't as grumpy, everything seems just a little bit... better.

A similar thing is happening at First Presbyterian. The Spiritual Formation team (Ted Riggs Sr., Michelle Harpole, Barb Page) is making some behind the scenes changes, imperceptible to most at first, but which we hope will help better equip us to minister to each other, our community and the world.

Being, Believing, Belonging: This is our new membership class- we're holding it during the 10am Adult Formation hour. In it we're covering the fundamentals- what is the gospel of Jesus Christ, What does it mean to be a disciple, what does it mean to belong to Christ and be apart of his body? This is the new membership class, but it is open to everyone. This will run 9 weeks, beginning February 5.

Training manual for Life Group leaders: We're praying and planning towards developing a more robust Life Group ministry at FPC. To facilitate this we'll be developing and better equipping more leaders. A leadership training manual is a key part of this endeavor.

This year we've experienced some significant losses. In preparing for the Christmas Eve service, I ran across some of Ro Bailey's notes from last year and was struck, viscerally, by how fleeting life is. There will be a memorial service for Ro early in 2017, as soon as we've got the date we'll get the news out.

Another loss we've experienced this year is Joan. Now Joan isn't dead, she just moved to Anchorage, but we still lost her. For fourteen years Joan was a warm, welcoming presence at the front desk, speaking kindly with everyone who came through the doors- high or low, didn't matter. She treated folks with dignity and extended grace, without being run over. She kept the wheels turning in the office, and was servant to all, and a friend to many. We'll miss her.

But, like the light coming back after today, we gained Claire. Claire brings a great new skill set and sunny disposition to the office. Her business background is already helping us. If you've not met Claire, come on in and introduce yourself. She came to Fairbanks for adventure. So, I'm sure any sourdough tips on adventurous things to do would be much appreciated!

Thanks for another year. I look forward to walking together with you in 2017, in whatever the Lord brings to us.

God's continued blessings in 2017!

Pastor Dave

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2016

TOTAL RECEIPTS	566,424
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>573,720</u>
NET	<u>(7,296)</u>





How many times have you finished a prayer with the words, “in the name of Jesus, amen?” The Bible says that one day every knee will bow to ground at the mention of the name Jesus. What is it about that name?

Certainly there is no other name that is so powerful. When the name of Jesus is mentioned it can heal, chase away evil, and bring incredible peace and happiness. Is the name of Jesus just a magic word like hocus-pocus? Or do we need to get his attention back because He has been distracted and His attention is away from us. Absolutely not! It’s a name that speaks of the King of Kings, the ruler of the universe, and the Prince of Peace. **It is perspective.** When we say His name WE are reminded that He is our heavenly father. That He is for us, waiting to do something good through and for us. (Jerimiah 29:11) We are reminded that He will never abandon us- EVER! (Deuteronomy 31:6). We are reminded that through Him we can do anything. Jesus! Most of all we are instantly aware of His presence. Think about how awesome that is. Wherever you are, you can call on the name of Jesus and know that he hears you- He’s next to you waiting to let you lean on him and you can trust him whatever your situation.

Jesus

You don’t have to be an adult, a minister, or anybody special. Anyone who is a child of God can call out the name of Jesus. Calling upon His name makes US aware of His presence. Now you have to remember that He is God, and that makes Him smarter than you and I. So sometimes He may answer your prayers a little differently than you thought He should. However, He will always answer in a way that will bring glory to God and what is BEST for you. So when you are around others, don’t be afraid to say His name. Realize that He is ever involved

with you and what concerns you. Whether you are Happy or sad, beaten down or victorious. He is there for you. Ask Him to help your family, friends, teachers, neighbors, and anyone else that has blood pumping through their body. It’s a powerful name, so don’t leave home without it!



Kids today spend a lot of time worrying. The Bible makes it very clear that God does not want us worrying, but instead, trusting in Him. Here is a simple, but very meaningful activity that can help your children learn to cast their worries on Jesus. Find a fair size jar and label it “The Worry Jar.” When you or one of your children have a worry, write it down and put it in the jar. That night, before you go to sleep, pray with your child about the concern. Ask God for peace and for help. After a couple of months, empty the jar together, and see how many prayers God answered. Don’t forget to give Him thanks and praise! As your child grows older, they will really be able to trust in God and not worry, but be happy! Hmm! That sounds like a good song! *(Borrowed from kidnewsdigital)*

Connie Arp

Here at First Pres. we are gifted with an abundance of blessings in our music and worship! With so many wonderful musicians, leaders, technicians, prayer ministers, scripture readers, ushers, greeters, and other resource people, we are stepping into a process of organizing, recruiting, training, and renewing all the aspects of our worship ministries.

WORSHIP ARTS

With being a lapsed trombonist as my only musical expertise, I am (very) humbly stepping into a new role as Worship Arts Director (in addition to Youth Minister). This will not mean any huge changes, but rather an opportunity for our worship ministries to have more direct coordination with the rest of our work as a church. I am looking forward to working more closely with all of our fantastic brothers and sisters in Christ who make beautiful and holy worship the work of our congregation every Sunday!



If you have ideas, questions, or would like to talk with me about how you can (like me) jump into a new role in our worship, please let me know!

David McConnell-Booher

Daily Lectionary Readings for January 2017



Sunday, January 1

First Sunday after Christmas

Morning: Pss. 98; 150
Evening: Pss. 99; 8
Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12
Heb. 2:10–18
Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 145
Evening: Pss. 9; 29
Gen. 12:1–7
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:35–42, 48–51

Tuesday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 146
Evening: Pss. 107; 15
Gen. 28:10–22
Heb. 11:13–22
John 10:7–17

Wednesday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 93; 97
Exod. 3:1–5
Heb. 11:23–31
John 14:6–14

Thursday, January 5

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 96; 110
Josh. 1:1–9
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 15:1–16

Friday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 148
Evening: Pss. 100; 67
Isa. 52:7–10
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

Saturday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 149
Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 52:3–6
Rev. 2:1–7
John 2:1–11

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29
Isa. 40:1–11
Heb. 1:1–12
John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

Monday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Isa. 40:12–24
Eph. 1:1–14
Mark 1:1–13

Tuesday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Isa. 40:25–31
Eph. 1:15–23
Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 47:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Isa. 41:1–16
Eph. 2:1–10
Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, January 12

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Isa. 41:17–29
Eph. 2:11–22
Mark 2:1–12

Friday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17
Eph. 3:1–13
Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13
Eph. 3:14–21
Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday, January 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Isa. 43:14–44:5
Heb. 6:17–7:10
John 4:27–42

Monday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19a

The lectionary readings can be found at
www.pcusa.org/devotions/lectionary/lectionarylist.htm.
They can also be emailed to you daily.

Tuesday, January 17
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Isa. 44:9–20
Eph. 4:17–32
Mark 3:19b–35

Wednesday, January 18
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Isa. 44:24–45:7
Eph. 5:1–14
Mark 4:1–20

Thursday, January 19
Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Isa. 45:5–17
Eph. 5:15–33
Mark 4:21–34

Friday, January 20
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Isa. 45:18–25
Eph. 6:1–9
Mark 4:35–41

Saturday, January 21
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Isa. 46:1–13
Eph. 6:10–24
Mark 5:1–20

Sunday, January 22
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Isa. 47:1–15
Heb. 10:19–31
John 5:2–18

Monday, January 23
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Isa. 48:1–11
Gal. 1:1–17
Mark 5:21–43

Tuesday, January 24
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Isa. 48:12–21 (22)
Gal. 1:18–2:10
Mark 6:1–13

Wednesday, January 25
Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Isa. 49:1–12
Gal. 2:11–21
Mark 6:13–29

Thursday, January 26
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26)
Gal. 3:1–14
Mark 6:30–46

Friday, January 27
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Isa. 50:1–11
Gal. 3:15–22
Mark 6:47–56

Saturday, January 28
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Isa. 51:1–8
Gal. 3:23–29
Mark 7:1–23

Sunday, January 29
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Isa. 51:9–16
Heb. 11:8–16
John 7:14–31

Monday, January 30
Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Isa. 51:17–23
Gal. 4:1–11
Mark 7:24–37

Tuesday, January 31
Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Isa. 52:1–12
Gal. 4:12–20
Mark 8:1–10



To Susan Coltellaro & Kathy Libby for their assistance in the office in the month of November and early December prior to Claire's arrival.



To the congregants who participated in blessing the staff with gifts of appreciation as well as candy, baked goods and other items. These all brought us a lot of joy!



To all the musicians who blessed our congregation with music for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, we thank you for sharing your talents & gifts with us!



First Presbyterian Church
547 Seventh Ave. at Cushman St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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