

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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

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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 Smith Family!

Meet Travis and Megan Smith and their kids Allison (10) and Holly (8). Travis is from Salida, Colorado and Megan is from Nikiski, Alaska. They first came to Fairbanks in 2010. The family loves the community they have found here, with Travis and Allison enjoying the snow while Megan and Holly like the summers. Travis is a Maintenance Manager for the Borough and Megan is a mom. The girls are bookworms



who like baking, crafting and being outside. Travis likes to wood-work and hunt. They have been members of First Pres for 3 1/2 years. Megan serves on the Children's Ministry Team. They love children's ministry and value the wonderful people they have meet here at FPC. 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. This month we are featuring The Fortune family. 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 ~~

As a holiday, New Year can be a funny thing. For one thing, we have quite a few different "new year" celebrations depending on our own cultural origins, national observances, and religious practices. The first Sunday of Advent marks the new year for the Christian church, the lunar new year in January or February marks the holiday for most east Asian cultures, and the Jewish calendar includes a civil new year celebrated in autumn at Rosh Hashanah and a religious new year in the springtime at Passover.



All that is to say that we humans really seem to like the idea of fresh starts and new beginnings! That makes sense. All too often, we set goals and expectations for ourselves with high hopes, only to be beset with temptation, weakness, and circumstances outside our control that prevent us from reaching these new goals. We yearn for another shot at those goals: a second chance or a fresh start. "Put me back in, coach!" "Let that bell for Round 2 ring!"

God loves to give us second, third, and four hundred and ninety-eth chances! When Simon Peter asked Jesus if we, the followers of the Messiah, should forgive the sin of another seven times (which was the number prescribed in God's Word in the Old Testament), Jesus corrected him: "Not seven times, but seven multiplied by seventy times!" [Matthew 18:22].

This is what our sanctification looks like: 1 step forward and 3 steps back, 4 steps forward and 1 step back. It is why we confess our sins before God every Sunday and confess our sins and seek forgiveness every time we say the Lord's Prayer. We need new years and fresh starts. God knows us, loves us, and is happy to grant them. He asks that we also extend this same grace and mercy to those who hurt and disappoint us.

If you have a New Year's Resolution for 2025, that's great! May God walk with you on the journey of challenging yourself, remaining disciplined, and pursuing a distant goal. But don't get too discouraged when you hit bumps on the road, or fail a step along the way. Remember the abundant grace that God extends to you on a daily basis and show yourself a bit of that same grace. Accept the outstretched hand of Christ, and start along the path once again.

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

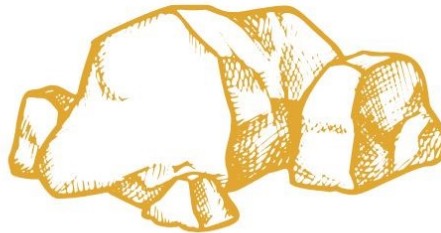
January marks a new calendar year. How fitting we will begin the new year with a new book of the Gospels - Luke. Luke is a rich gospel. The chapter begins with a visit from an angel, appearing to Zechariah. Gabriel says to Zechariah, "for your prayer has been heard."

As we begin this new year I want you to know - God hears your prayer. Some of those prayers will be answered soon and some of those are still cooking. As you wait on God for those deep prayers to be answered remember our theme, "O Come to the Altar". In the waiting we can meet God at the altar to remember Him because He answers in our time of distress.

Join us in for worship nights as you long to pursue those big things God has placed on your heart.

"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



JANUARY EVENTS

Worship Nights: January 5th, January 19th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Studio for all Young Adult Ministry

Career - Friday nights @ 7:00 p.m. at Nicole's House

College - Sundays @ 4:00 p.m. in the Studio

High School - Worship nights 2x p/ month in the Studio

**IN THIS NEW
YEAR, MAY
YOU ...**

CHILDREN'S *ministry*

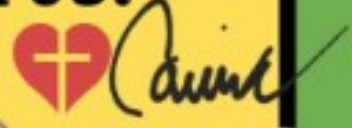


**GO WHERE GOD
LEADS YOU.**

**OFFER YOUR BEST
GIFTS TO GOD.**

**DO THE WORK OF
THE KINGDOM WITH
JOY.**

**KNOW THAT HE
AND HIS ARMIES
OF ANGELS ARE
WITH YOU!**



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, KID SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ROOTS
CLUB WILL RESUME **JANUARY 12.**
CLIMB CLUB WILL RESUME **JANUARY 8.****

Happy Birthday!

January

- 2 sarah curtis
- 5 Denise wartes
- 6 Beth Brummond
- 7 Benjamin Hull
- 10 Michael Repasky
- 12 Joan Riggs
- 14 sara cogley
- 16 Geoff Beyersdorf
- 16 Jack schnurr
- 25 shelia williams
- 26 Kari Nore
- 29 samuel Boylan
- 31 Karina Huffaker

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- 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

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				2 Rhonda Montgomery, Sailor, Sam, John. Rosie & Seidny Waddel	3 Jack, Ashley, Henry & Sarah Morris	4 Deanna Morris
			1 Ray & Trish Mikolajczyk	9 Peggy Nicholas	10 Keith, Barb, Kari & Kelsey Nore	11 Korey, Beverly & Indigo Neuhs
			8 Meridith Nava	16 TheIna Pierce	17 Autumn Prince	18 Melissa Prince
			The Well (every Wed)	23 Michael, Christina, George & Henry Repasky	24 Teddy, Sr. & Joan Riggs	25 Teddy, Jr., Shannon, Harrison, Jason & Karson
			15 Rachel, Bobby, Devin, Mya, Emily & Ethan Perkins	30 Ben, Katie, Anna & Noah Sanders	31 Bill & Brenda Satterberg	
			14 Josephine Papp	22 Paul & Terry Reichardt		
			13 Barbara Page	21 Vickie Plowman		
			6 Fred, Maria, Cassie & Jacob Morrison	20 Richard & Kathy Rahmänder-Halfhill		
			7 Linda Mullen	19 Nominating Committee		
			5 Pat & Sig Fink George Shoogukurk Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Prayers for Recovery from House Fire Ben & Lynn Hull Family	26 FPC		
			Pray First	27 Dennis & Fara Roe		
			12 Children's & Youth Ministries	28 Jonathan, Jessica, Adlai, Grace & Anna Romaneski		
			14 Josephine Papp	29 Brian, Stephanie, Jacob, Toby, Micah & Sarah Rozell		



Daily Preparation for Prayer

- Humble Yourself and Acknowledge God’s Presence
- Express Praise for Who God is (loving, faithful, etc.)
- Ask for Forgiveness
- Give Thanks to God
- Believe and Expect Answered Prayer!

Daily Prayer Focus

Sun.	1/5	Day 1	WORSHIP/PRAISE, HEAR GOD’S WORD & APPLY IT
Mon.	1/6	Day 2	Thank God for your salvation and welcome God’s plan for your life
Tues.	1/7	Day 3	FPC’s Vision: See the world transformed to love, worship & serve Christ
Wed.	1/8	Day 4	Salvation of lost: family, friends, people groups all over the world
Thurs.	1/9	Day 5	Government leaders: city, state, nation and world (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
Fri.	1/10	Day 6	Support for outreach ministries, mission & missionaries, local > world
Sat.	1/11	Day 7	Healing needed: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, relational, etc.
Sun.	1/12	Day 8	WORSHIP/PRAISE, HEAR GOD’S WORD & APPLY IT
Mon.	1/13	Day 9	Personal requests: finances, health, family members & others’ needs
Tues.	1/14	Day 10	FPC’s Mission: to welcome all, equip for deep faith & send into world
Wed.	1/15	Day 11	Provision for homeless, poor, mentally challenged, vulnerable, lonely
Thurs.	1/16	Day 12	Children, Youth and Young adult ministries, ours and other churches
Fri.	1/17	Day 13	Small Groups & Bible studies: to be life-changing for leaders/members
Sat.	1/18	Day 14	Strengthening of families and marriages
Sun.	1/19	Day 15	WORSHIP/PRAISE, HEAR GOD’S WORD & APPLY IT
Mon.	1/20	Day 16	Breakthroughs (debt, addictions, unhealthy habits & relationships)
Tues.	1/21	Day 17	FPC staff, elders, deacons and all other leaders and those serving
Wed.	1/22	Day 18	Growth of Christian churches & outreach here and to ends of the earth
Thurs.	1/23	Day 19	Decrease in hateful, cruel, immoral, unethicalall evil behavior
Fri.	1/24	Day 20	Increase in repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice & peace
Sat.	1/25	Day 21	Holy Spirit led spiritual renewal and revival here and worldwide
Sun.	1/26		SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF 21 DAYS OF PRAYER