



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

# 2020

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*  
*Isaiah 43:19*

## First Light

*First Light*  
is a monthly  
newsletter  
publication  
of the First  
Presbyterian  
Church



### **PERSPECTIVES CLASS** **Four Scholarships Are Available!**

*Perspectives* is a 15 week college level course that will take you on a journey to explore four perspectives of the World Christian Movement: scripture, history, culture, and strategy. *Perspectives* helps believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus to the early church,

and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

**Location:** Friends Church  
1485 30th Ave.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, January  
14-May 12

**Time:** 6-9pm

**Cost:** New Students \$300

For additional information regarding a scholarship, please contact Jim Williams at [jimw101591@gmail.com](mailto:jimw101591@gmail.com). For course information and registration, please go to the following web site: <https://bit.ly/2M1c3Mr>.

### **FRONT OFFICE CLOSURE DATES**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (Happy New Year!)**

**Monday, January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)**

## **A Message From the Pastor**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I love the look of 2020, don't you? It looks so much better than 2019. I always thought that 2019 was just one short of a full number. Have you ever wondered where the numbering of our years came from? The Anno Domini (Year of the Lord) and BC (Before Christ) dating system was devised in 525 AD by Dionysius Exiguus (a highly educated Roman monk from Sythia) to enumerate the years in his Easter table. His system was to replace the Diocletian Era that had been used in an old Easter table because he did not wish to continue the memory of a tyrant who persecuted Christians. The Roman emperors liked to rewrite their calendars to begin—year #1—with their own birth. Dionysius set our world's calendars by beginning the numbering with our Savior's birth, and so all nations today number their calendars based on the birth of Jesus, Anno Domini.

I believe this is a good way to Domini, the year of the Lord. year. The year belongs to are going to use the Lord's belongs to the Lord, maybe use His year. One thing we only question is how will it be think about your plans or begin to make plans for 2020. These are not "New Year Resolutions." Those are just "best wishes." No. Instead of "New Year Resolution", I suggest that you make "New Year Plans." These are the plans, the blueprints, of how you are going to make 2020 truly the Year of the Lord, Anno Domini.



think about time. Each year is Anno It belongs to the Lord....the whole the Lord. Have you thought how you 2020 year? If we really believe that it we should ask Him how we should know for use, 2020 will be used. The used? I'd encourage you to begin to

Happy New Year,  
Dr. Donald Baird

*So teach us to number our days,  
That we may get a heart of wisdom.  
Return, O Lord, How long?  
Have pity on your servants!  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
That we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
And for as many years as we have seen evil.  
Let your work be shown to your servants  
And your glorious power to their children.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
And establish the work of our hands upon us  
Yes, establish the work of our hands!  
Psalm 90:12-17*

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Youth Ministry has been an exciting journey this year and we cannot wait to see what God will do in us and through us in 2020!

We will be starting a new Confirmation Class this spring semester, so if you have a child ready to study the fundamentals of the Christian faith and prepare for Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism, please be sure to communicate with me and stay tuned for updates.

We are going to Portland, Oregon in July 2020 for our Youth Group Mission Trip and we will be doing all kinds of fundraisers to prepare for the trip. If you need snow shoveled or other projects done, please contact me!

We will also be reviving the classic FPC Talent Show in February, so start brushing off your talent act and stay tuned!

In more personal news, I will begin seminary classes at Fuller Online January 5th. I am excited to begin and again, I am so very grateful for this opportunity and for all your support!

David McConnell-Booher  
Youth Ministry Director





## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Contribution Statements  
will be mailed during the  
month of January!**

**Year End Reports  
are due by  
January 17, 2020**

**Loving Families' next host week is January 26-February 2, 2020.** We have three service needs: 1. Couples to stay the night in the church; 2. Prepare an evening meal; and, 3. An FPC program coordinator. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** If you are interested in an easy way to share God's love in service to others, please contact Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 (phone or text) or by e-mail at [jimw101591@gmail.com](mailto:jimw101591@gmail.com).

**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**February 9, 2020**

*You crown the year with  
Your goodness, and Your  
paths drip with abundance.*

*Psalms 65:11*

**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.**



## News From the Elders

**What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the December 17, 2019 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.**

The meeting was opened by Ruling Elder (RE) June Champlin with prayer and a devotion based on Matthew 2:1-12.

Pastor Don presented a “Pastor’s Study” on the appearance of Angels to the Shepherds, based on Luke 2:8-18. The Angels spoke and then the shepherds went to find the baby Jesus. “Knowing” leads to “Going” and “Going leads to “Sharing” the Good News. At the January Stated Meeting, the elders present will practice the sharing of their story, and the Good News of the Gospel.

Consent Calendar items were passed after pulling one item from the list, and included: Approval of Deacons Minutes for October 2019; Rescheduling the February Stated Session Meeting to February 11, 2020; and Approval of a Membership Transfer Request for Darlene Lundberg to Trinity Presbyterian, Wall Lake Iowa. The item pulled from the Consent Calendar was a motion from the Personnel Committee that **the version of Personnel Policies submitted to Session be approved.**

It was **moved, seconded and passed to Postpone until the January Stated Session Meeting, consideration of the Personnel Committee motion** that the version of Personnel Policies submitted to Session be approved.

Treasurer Dave Stephenson presented a Financial Report.

Reports from the Ministry Teams were received.

RE Jim Williams **moved to Amend the 2019 Budget to include \$1,200 for scholarships for the upcoming Perspectives course.** The motion was **seconded and passed.**

Session worked on scheduling elders to assist with communion each month, for the coming year.

The Senior High Youth will be meeting with Session for lunch on Sunday January 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

A Strategic Plan Review of FPC’s ministry focus will be held at the January 2020 Stated Meeting.

On January 14, 2020 the Session will have a Special Session Meeting to address the 2020 Budget. It was **moved, seconded and passed to amend the purpose of the January 14, 2020 Special Session Meeting to include work on the Ministry Program Inventory.**

It was **moved, seconded and passed to elect RE’s Barb Page and Mike Repasky as Commissioners to the Seventh Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, in Kent Washington, from January 31 to February 1, 2020.**

A proposed set of by-laws for the congregation was distributed to Session. This set of by-laws will supplement the existing FPC Corporate by-laws.

Pastor Don presented an outline of the first sermon series for 2020, based on the Gospel of Luke, entitled “Jesus: The Life-Changing Life”. The sermon series begins on January 12, 2020 and lasts until June 28, 2020.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian.

**The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on January 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room.**



# BIBLE STUDIES



## Thursday Nights

### Downtown

All ages  
Supper/Fellowship/Bible Study  
6 – 8 p.m.  
Children Welcome  
(907) 699-3733  
[mikerepasky@gmail.com](mailto:mikerepasky@gmail.com)

### North Side of Birch Hill

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Young Families  
Supper / Fellowship / Prayer  
(970) 457-4050  
[amberbug@spu.edu](mailto:amberbug@spu.edu)

### College Road, Near University

Adults  
Supper / Fellowship / Bible Study  
(907) 374-9394  
[tedjaon@ak.net](mailto:tedjaon@ak.net)

## Friday Nights

### Goldstream Valley

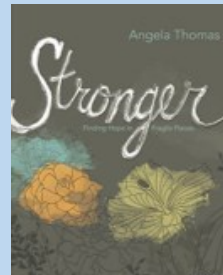
Mostly Adults  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Supper / Fellowship / Bible Study  
(907) 455-6703  
[reich@alaska.net](mailto:reich@alaska.net)

**Call or email us.**

**We want you to come.**

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Would you like to break life-long patterns of defeat and despair and learn how to focus on the glorious hope promised to us in Christ?
- Do you desire to remove paralyzing inner anxiousness and truly live in the peace that surpasses all understanding?
- Instead of being self-focused and distracted by striving, comparing and performing, would you prefer a life that accomplishes more for God's glory?



If you are seeking answers to any of these questions, then plan to attend the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study as we begin a new study by Angela Thomas-Pharr, called "Stronger." This study

begins on Tuesday, January 7th and will end approximately early April. We will meet from 10-11:30am in the FPC Conference Room. Childcare is provided. If you want to sign up or have questions, please contact Donna Brewer at ([billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com](mailto:billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com)) or at 907-378-3351.

## The Gospel According to Matthew

Please join us every Sunday at 10am as we study the Gospel of Matthew. Classes are held in the Conference Room (upstairs) and led by Brian Rozell. For additional information, please call Brian at 907-687-9792.



2	Sarah Curtis
4	Dwight Morris
5	Denise Wartes
6	Beth Brummond
7	Benjamin Hull
8	Dave Stephenson
10	Michael Repasky
11	Dale Shelley
12	Joan Riggs
13	Jake Sirevaag
14	Sara Cogley
16	Jack Schnurr
	Geoff Beyersdorf
25	Sheila Williams
26	Kari Nore
31	Karina Huffaker