

Independence Day

***** Thank God for our Freedoms *****

For you were called to freedom, brethren;
only do not turn your freedom into an
opportunity for the flesh, but through love
serve one another.

Galatians 5:13



First Light Newsletter

** OFFICE CLOSURE **

In accordance to Personnel Policy, holidays observed on a Saturday or Sunday will usually be observed on the following Monday. Therefore, in honor of Independence Day Holiday (Sunday, July 4), the front office will be closed *Monday, July 5*, resuming normal operations on *Tuesday, July 6*.

First Light Newsletter
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Nursery/Deacon	Peggy Nicholas

Newsletter articles may be dropped off at the church office, mail, faxed or emailed to Marta (marta.conner@fpcfairbanks.com)

CALLED TO MINISTRY

Elders

James Aldrich
Maggie Demers
Jenna Dreydoppel (**re-elected**)
Keith Nore
Barbara Page
Terry Reichardt
Stephanie Rozell
Brian Sunderland (*)
Jim Williams

Deacons

Sarah Curtis
Lindsey Dreydoppel
Nancy Dreydoppel (*)
Lillian Fortune
Daniel Griggs (*)
Jeanne Maddux (*)
Gayle Meurs
Peggy Nicholas (*)
Barbara Nore (*)
Kathi Stevens

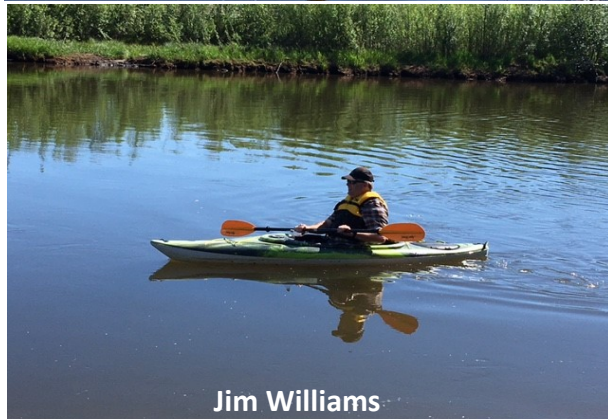
* Officers will join Session and Deacons in July



Campsite



Daniel Griggs



Jim Williams



Liam Moody



Lonny Marney



Jack Schnurr

Vern Canada



George Bowder and Jim Aldrich



The Sunderlands



Jacob Rozell



Vern Canada

Pastor Peter



Brian and Toby Rozell

FUN IN THE SUMMER TIME

FPC MEN

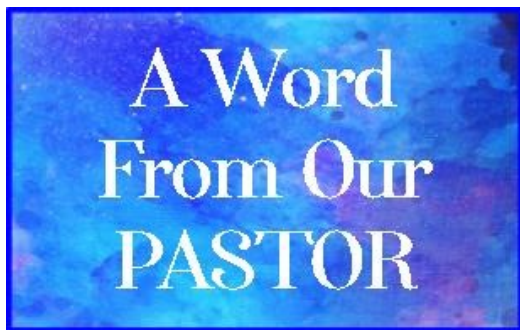
CHENA RIVER REGATTA

(JUNE 5)

On solstice (June 21), I was on a plane at 1 AM heading out to Memphis for our Evangelical Presbyterian Church General Assembly. I couldn't believe how light it was here in Fairbanks. I've never experienced this type of sunlight in my life. As you know, Anchorage doesn't have this type of phenomena. I believe Fairbanks is Alaska's best-kept secret. I have witnessed spring and summer, which revealed the beauty of Fairbanks and the surrounding area. It is a blessing to behold and to experience the beauty that comes from having so much sunshine.

Winter is an especially unique experience. I love snow and all the activities that go with it. The peace that comes from the falling flakes. The whiteness that covers all the brown and dirt. Swooshing down the ski slopes. Winter also provides us with an anticipation that a radical new season is just around the corner.

I truly do enjoy the seasons that God gives us – they each bring their special uniqueness that helps remind us to thank God for change, as well as for the beauty of His creation around us. The hope of spring and what it promises helps remind us that sometimes depressing moments future – a hope for all the trees to the brilliant colors of spring.



Churches also go through they might experience dark, Many times, we question God's goodness and timing. This can

His promise that He will provide us with new seasons in life in which we can experience His glory and promises. The Book of Psalm gives us many examples of how the author was struggling with the current season but reminded himself of the unfailing love of God for a future season.

in those difficult, dark and in winter we have a hope for the bud and blossom, and a hope for

something similar, times in which difficult and depressing seasons. promise of His care, presence, muddy or take away the hope of

I truly believe that God is providing First Presbyterian Church with a new season, a season that will bring renewal, great opportunities to glorify God, beautiful experiences of worship, continued opportunities for new friendship and fellowship, etc.

Personally, I'm very excited for First Presbyterian Church. You have amazing staff and leadership that has helped you to move into God's new season. God is preparing the heart of a pastor that will respond to the call to come to First Presbyterian Church. Remember it's a calling, and God is doing the calling. We don't have to worry about God's timing and His perfect plan because His love is unfailing and perfect.

I believe God is calling this church to new opportunities for outreach, new friendship and fellowship, joyful worship, opportunities to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, new visitors and members, new leadership, etc. All of this is to continue the vision of First Presbyterian Church, making disciples of all nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Just as we soak in the 24-hour sunshine, beautiful flowers, and leaves on the trees, so too can we also trust in God's unfailing love and His future for First Presbyterian Church - which gives us hope to move into God's new future.

Ps 33:20-22, We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. 21 In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. 22 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you. NIV

ELDERS

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the June 15, 2021 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church conference room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 15th.

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

Moderator Dembroski led a devotion based on Matthew 18:15-20, dealing with conflict.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the agenda as presented.

Vital Statistics from May 19, 2021 to June 15, 2021, as well as Minutes from the May 18, 2021 Stated Session Meeting were received. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve them as presented.

Correspondence was received from TE Andrew Ekblad, expressing thanks for inviting him to preach, and for FPC's financial support.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. The item was: Approval of the minutes of the March 23rd and April 27th Deacons Meetings.

A written financial report from Church Treasurer Christy Repasky was received.

Postponed Motion: At the May Session Meeting it was **moved**, and **seconded** to move forward with TE Dembroski's proposal for phase two and phase three of the Transitional Process. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to postpone the motion to proceed with phase two and three until the June Session Meeting. At the June Session Meeting it was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to continue to postpone action on the motion until Phase One of the Transitional Process is completed.

Motion on Children's Director Search: It was moved to approve a Search Committee to interview candidates for the Children's Ministry Director position. The committee will include members; Stephanie Rozell and Amber Sunderland from the Children's Committee, Geoff Beyersdorf from Personnel, and Pastor Peter Dembroski, Head of Staff. No action was taken on the motion, which was referred to the Personnel Committee for review and possibly another motion.

SWOT Analysis: The raw data obtained from interviews with members of FPC by TE Dembroski was presented and reviewed. TE Dembroski will continue the analysis of the data and present it to Session as soon as possible.

Agenda for Congregational Meeting: The agenda for the June 20, 2021 Congregational Meeting, including the Slate of Candidates for Office were reviewed.

Date for August Budget Planning Meeting: Tentative dates for the August Budget Planning meeting were discussed. The Clerk of Session will circulate a poll to members of Session to select a date. Session Ministry Teams presented written and verbal reports.

Motion: The Stewardship and Finance Committee moves that Session receive the Independent Auditor's Report and that the clerk record in the minutes that an audit of our 2020 finances was conducted and received by Session. The **motion** was **seconded** and **passed**.

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

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on July 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS!!!

2	Billy Brewer
4	Rebekah Vander Lugt
6	Janette Hanneman
7	Judy McNinch
9	Diane Miller
10	Scott Gilbert
11	Margaret Vander Lugt
13	Sarah Albert
14	Cindy Aldrich
14	Roxie Fink
16	Oliver Brewer
17	Jill Gates
18	Kathy Rahmander-Halfhill
19	Bob VanHatten
19	Ian VanHarper
20	Heidi VanHarper
23	Michele Marney
23	Amy Logan
23	Elsa Beene
26	Walter Lord
31	Allyson Benson