



CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Greetings from the land of Children's ministry! The month of July will be dominated by our biggest outreach program of the year: Vacation Bible School. Please join us in reaching the hearts of children with the love of Christ; there are many ways to be part of this special time!

(Signature)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 18-22
9 AM-12PM

During this week, 100 children will enter FPC and hear the story of Joseph (Genesis 39-45). They'll be taught that God loves his children and is able to redeem us.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN STILL REGISTER:

1

Go to vbspro.events/p/firstpreskids2022

Scan this code to go directly to our Online Registration page.

2



3

Contact Carina for more information at
(907)987-7126

YOU CAN HELP!

- **Invite** friends and neighbors
- **Volunteer as a Crew Leader**
- **Make decorations**
- **Staff the Registration Table** one day only: July 18
- **Donate** items posted on our bulletin board at FPC
- **Get your copy of our prayer calendar** (available 7/2)

A Word From The Pastor

“Holiday” is a special word to me. Matter of fact, the word “holy” is a very special word for Christians. The definition for “holy” is something or someone that is set apart for God’s use. “Holiday” means that a special day is set apart for God’s use.

We do have some obvious holidays that we recognize: Christmas and Easter. These holidays truly center on God’s great presence and His work in this world.

But in a secular society, the word “holiday” can take on a different meaning. A meaning in which it is not a day set aside for God but for some other type of activity.

But I do believe that there is a day that we use in the USA that some people would consider it being a secular holiday. We call it Independence Day or Fourth of July. A time in which we remember the day that USA became a reality.

To me, it is a holiday because it is a reminder that God was a part of us becoming separated from the British tyranny. But it also a day which reminds us that God is still active within this country as Christians strive together to live for God in the USA.

There is one song that I believe wonderfully describes the activity of God with our country, “America the Beautiful”. The lyrics of “America the Beautiful” does focus on God’s grace and goodness that God shed upon this country. We will be singing it Sunday, July 3 as we ready ourselves for 4 July.

Here’s a reminder of some the powerful words within that hymn.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

I pray that when we eat our delicious barbeque meals, watch the fireworks, travel to visit friends and family, etc., that we take the time to thank God for this special “holiday.”

Ps 118:24

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. ESV*

IN LOVING
Memories

*You are invited to attend
a Celebration of Life for*

James Thurman

*on Thursday, July 7 at 1pm
First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue*

*You are invited to attend
a Celebration of Life for*

Vern Canada

*on Wednesday July 20 at
4pm
First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue*



Evelyn Candy Setzer

May 3, 1934 - February 4, 2022

*Our family invites you to join us for
the celebration of Candy's life*

*Sunday, July 24, 2022
2:30 pm*

*Fairbanks Pioneer Home
2221 Eagan Ave on the patio
Masks are required*



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter July 2022
Meet the New Deacons

Happy July First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful "Sneakin' Deacons!" I would like to introduce you to our newest awesome group of adults that are honored to serve you, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.



Janice Cleworth became a member of FPC in 1971. She married Jerry Cleworth in 1972, raised two daughters and now have five grandchildren. Janice is now retired from her job as a Speech/Language Pathologist. She has been involved in many aspects of church life serving as a Deacon in the mid-1970's, as an Elder and Clerk of Session many years, and involved with the women's group and the Silver Tea. Janice loves singing with the choir, and she is happy to see our church growing again.

Melissa Prince grew up in the Midwest, attending Christian Reformed Churches with her parents and sister. She served on the board of her previous church, felt called to serve again, and she is grateful to be so warmly received as a member and deacon at FPC. Melissa loves this time in her life, as she looks back to see God's faithfulness over time: working well and discipling her through big moves, raising a child, career starts and changes, travel, divorce, and many blessings of accountability and friendship. She is thrilled, proud, and slightly teary that her daughter will be starting at Calvin University in August!



Joe LaMagna moved to Fairbanks in July of 2020 and has attended First Presbyterian Church ever since. He currently serves in the Army as a Chinook helicopter pilot. In his free time, Joe enjoys dog mushing, backpacking, drawing, and playing music. He loves Alaska dearly and plans to make Fairbanks his permanent home after he retires from the Army.



Michele Marney has been married to Lonny for 40+ years and a member of FPC for 30 years. She is mom of two sons and a grandma of four. Michele grew up in Michigan and came to Alaska in 1974. Michele has served as a deacon before, and she really felt called to serve again.





Kathy Rahmandar Halfhill moved to Fairbanks in 2011. She is married to Rick Halfhill. Kathy has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and a foster granddaughter. Kathy loves teaching Sunday school and helping with the children in any way. Kathy recently retired and she is looking forward to serving our members with anything that is needed. Kathy says, "being a deacon is something I enjoy being a part of here at FPC."

Our new deacons are completing their training and they will be ordained and installed later this month. Welcome and thank you for your commitment to serving our congregation.



Recently we bid farewell to these dedicated deacons because their terms of office have ended: **Kathi Stevens, Lillian Fortune and Sarah Curtis** (picture unavailable).

"ONCE A DEACON ALWAYS A DEACON."



The other active serving deacons are **Lindsey Dreydoppel, Nancy Dreydoppel, Daniel Griggs, Jeanne Maddux, Gayle Meurs** (picture unavailable), and **Barbara Nore**.



Your deacons are here to serve you and receive requests for services through the pastor, session, and the church office. We meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Each of us has a name badge and we try to greet new members and visitors at services each Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support to First Presbyterian Church and the deacons in our requests for food at memorial services, new baby arrivals, family hardships, and the angel gifts program. We are blessed and honored to serve in His great name.

Barbara Nore, Moderator
First Presbyterian Church Deacons

THE FRONT OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JULY 4TH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 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 |
| 23 | Michele Marney |
| 23 | Amy Logan |
| 23 | Elsa Beene |
| 26 | Walter Lord |
| 31 | Allyson Benson |

The
**FAIRBANKS
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL**
Since 1980

Registration for ALL Workshops now

OPEN

<https://fsaf.org>

HIGHLIGHTS

View the church calendar on our webpage:

[https://fairbanksfirstpres.com/events/
calendar](https://fairbanksfirstpres.com/events/calendar)



YOUTH MISSION

**Malvern, PA
June 2022**

ELDERS

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the June 14, 2022 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Conference Room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14th.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dembroski.

Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on 2 Timothy 4:9-18, dealing with relationships with others.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs. Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting, two Special Session Meetings and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.

The Consent Calendar items were approved, which included the review and approval of the Deacons April 2022 Meeting, and forwarding a letter from a member to the Facilities Committee for action.

A written and verbal report on the May Presbytery Meeting was presented by Ruling Elder Maggie Demers.

An update on the upcoming GO Center training, in August, was presented by RE Stephanie Rozell.

- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that Stephanie Rozell will give a sermon on July 31, 2022 introducing the congregation to the Church Revitalization project through the GO Center and encouraging them, as a fellow congregant to be praying for the process and to participate fully in the training and implementation.
- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to accept the changes to the Schlofeldt Education Scholarship policy and application process.
- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to have a meeting in the month of July with the Chair of the Presbytery Ministerial Committee to clarify some questions on the Pastor Search Process.
- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that the Clerk of Session will make notification of Presbytery and General Assembly meetings three month prior to the date of occurrence, in order to arrange cost effective travel.
- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve a new contract with Pastor Peter.
- . It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to migrate the church's current IT setup to a cloud based system, and away from the onsite server.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on July 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.