



True Obedience

By Pastor David McConnell-Booher

As we have been exploring the early books of the Hebrew Scriptures in the Old Testament in our summer sermon series that walks through all of the Bible, I keep coming back to obedience. Obedience is one of those virtues that has taken quite a hit in our culture today. As Americans in 2023, we value



freedom, independence, and rugged individualism. We look to icons of these values like the American Cowboy, the police detective who doggedly pursues the case even after the sergeant has put them on administrative leave, and the brave hero who stands up against the tyrant when no one else will. These can be inspiring heroes, but they can also obscure a deeper truth: there is really no such thing as a rugged individual or self-made millionaire.

We all have people who rely on us, and we all have people on whom we rely. Most of all, we depend on the God who creates us, redeems us, equips us, and sends us daily into a world

desperately needing people who listen, love, and act on behalf of others.

When God gave the ancient people of Israel the Ten Commandments and gathered them together to hear that the Lord is to forever be their God and they are to forever be His people, our cultural (and often

selfish) desire for freedom and

independence bristles against the command to be humble and obedient, even to the God who creates and saves and works miracles. As we continue our journey through the Bible, we will see how the Hebrew people also throw off the yoke of obedience, but inevitably take on the far heavier and worse yoke of sin in its place.

Frederick Buechner writes "It is generally supposed that to obey somebody is necessarily to do something for somebody else's sake.

However, when Jesus asks people to obey above everything the law of love, it is above everything for their own sakes that He is asking them to obey it.

(continued on next page)

True Obedience

(continued from previous page)

Obedience does not mean blindly following orders or falling in line under authority figures merely for obedience's sake. True Obedience looks like recognizing who God is, recognizing who we are in light of God's word, and seeking to allow God's word to guide and direct us. We do not obey because we fear punishment for disobeying. We do not obey because we are reluctant to trust our own wisdom and strength. We obey because we know that God is love, and that our loving God has abundantly poured out wisdom, peace, and grace for all of us, and the best way to remain in a place where we can receive such blessings is in a posture of trust and obedience.

~Pastor David McConnell-Booher



Happy Birthday Wishes!

- 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
- 30 August Schaefer
- 31 Allyson Benson

Marta's 5th Anniversary at FPC

On July 1, 2018, Marta Conner joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church. What a huge blessing it has been to have her as our Office Manager for these past five years!

Please join us in expressing our gratitude to her.

Our plan is that during the first couple weeks of July 2023 (7/1-7/14), each of us will find our own special way of letting Marta know how much we love and appreciate her.

Here are some suggestions:

- Pray for her,
- Call or stop by to personally thank her,
- Send her a card,
- Bring her a treat,
- Share a bouquet of flowers,
- Give her a little gift,
- Offer to help her,
- Take her to lunch, etc.



Let's each thank God for Marta and ask Him how he wants us to bless her.

Personnel Team

First Presbyterian Church

FREE music camp

for FNSBSD students
entering 6th grade
for the 2023-24 academic year

Jump Start your understanding of the basics of playing an instrument before you join band or orchestra!

Students will learn how to assemble and hold the instrument as well as how to play their first notes from certified music instructors. Students and faculty will perform on the last day of camp!



Get a *Jump Start* on playing the:

FLUTE • CLARINET • SAXOPHONE • TRUMPET • TROMBONE
PERCUSSION • VIOLIN • VIOLA • CELLO • BASS

July 31- August 4
9 a.m. to noon at Ryan Middle School

*Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis;
REGISTER TODAY!*

**INSTRUMENTS
PROVIDED!**

Register by July 17, 2023



Register by accessing the QR code at left with your phone camera, or the form url below!

<https://forms.gle/qgyrPiabGqcH79FW7>



This event is supported through generous donations from Design Alaska, Phyllis Pendergrast DMD PC, Fairbanks Nissan, and Fairbanks Arts Association

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
LIESL WIETGREFE AT
LIESL.WIETGREFE@K12NORTHSTAR.ORG**



CHILDREN'S ministry

Dear First Pres Folks,

This month our ministry

*held a week-long children's outreach and discipleship training for 70+ kids. (VBS)

* held a week long middle school training on servant leadership.

* sponsored a booth at the Midnight Sun Festival to serve parents of young kids.

2 of these were pilot programs and we jumped in and gave it our best shot . . .we hoped they would go but we didn't know how they would go. God answered our willingness to try with riches. The middle schoolers thrived and went on to lead younger kids. The booth was deeply appreciated by parents and ministered to a need that wasn't being met. VBS was a blessing to the kids and to our church and was a wonderful way to welcome new volunteers into service with us.

Thank you for your donations and your prayers-- and for those of you who volunteered your time:

thank you thank you thank you.

God has been at work and we are privileged to be a part of it.



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the June 26, 2023 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

- Moderator McConnell-Booher presented a devotion based on John 15, The Vine and the Vine Dresser. Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland then opened the meeting with prayer.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- Elder and Deacon candidates were examined and it was moved, seconded and passed that they be approved for ordination and / or installation.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to ordain and install new officers on July 16, 2023 during worship.
- The agenda was approved as presented.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting, the recent Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved as presented.
- There were no correspondence received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Consent Calendar items, which included the approval of the Deacons April 25, 2023 Meeting, approving the transfer of membership of Dan and Linda Wells to Faith Anchorage PCA and approval of vacation days for Pastor David from July 21st to August 1st.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer.
- Training for new officers is in-progress.
- A verbal report on the recent General Assembly meeting was received from RE Keith Nore.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that session authorize the 2023 annual transfer of \$1,800 to restricted funds- Sabbatical Reserve.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by RE Jim Williams

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on July 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

First Presbyterian Church
12 Biblical Truths You Can Use

(Plus 12 Biblical Things You Might Not Know and 12 More Things You Should Know)

- Creation** **1** JUNE 4
 What does the beginning of the universe tell us about God? About us?
- JUNE 11 **2** **The Fall & Sin**
 What do Fruit, Murder, and Floods tell us about life today?
- Abraham and Us** **3** JUNE 18
 How do God's promises to Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar teach us about faith?
- JUNE 25 **4** **Slavery and Wilderness**
 How did God call out to and save His people in Egypt? How does God do it now?
- Judges and Kings** **5** JULY 2
 How do sin, faith, and leadership shape our communities?
- JULY 9 **6** **Prophets**
 What was the most important message that God gave to Israel?
- On A Mission From God** **7** JULY 16
 From Jonah to John the Baptist, what does it mean to be on a mission from God?
- JULY 23 **8** **Jesus and Miracles**
 Why did Jesus perform so many miracles? Are miracles still a thing?
- Jesus and Parables** **9** JULY 30
 Why did Jesus tell so many parables? Have we learned all we can from these stories?
- AUGUST 6 **10** **The Cross and the Tomb**
 How did Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection change history and creation itself?
- Peter, Paul, and John** **11** AUGUST 13
 What do Pentecost, Persecution, and Potlucks all have in common?
- AUGUST 20 **12** **Revelation**
 What does the most debated book in the Bible really say about God, us, and the future?



The Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival is hosting a Chorus & Vocal Coaching Workshop at the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church from July 2-14. Workshops are available to register at www.fsaf.org.

Seating is limited .



Happy 4th of July to You
 Please note, the front office will be closed Tuesday July 4



WEDNESDAY PARK DAY!
Weekly 11-1

- May 31 Tanana Lakes, Kiwanis Playground
- June 7 Funtime Park
- June 14 Growden Park
- June 21 Sneddon Park
- June 28 Vacation Bible School @ 1st Pres. No meet up.
- July 5 Pearl Creek School
- July 12 Tanana Lakes, Kiwanis Playground
- July 19 Funtime Park
- July 26 Growden Park
- August 2 Sneddon Park
- August 9 Pearl Creek School
- August 16 Ester Park



Bring a sack lunch, meet up for Fun and Friendship
 Everyone welcome.
 Call Carina @ 987-7126 with any questions