

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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

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What You Believe...

June 22: The Word of God [Romans 15:4]
June 29: One God in Trinity [2 Cor. 13:14]
July 6: Light From Light [2 Cor. 4:6]
July 20: The Lord, Giver of Life [Ezek. 37]
July 27: For Us [Colossians 1:13-14]
August 3: Life Together [Coloss. 2:1-7]
August 10: Even So... [Rev. 22:20]
August 24: Our Way of Life [Ephes. 2:10]

...Shapes Your Life

WE NEED YOUR HELP

EACH WEDNESDAY FPC IS A DISTRIBUTION SITE FOR THE FAIRBANKS FOODBANK. PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION RECIPIENTS CALL THE CHURCH TO REQUEST FOOD BOXES.


WE NEED YOUR HELP ANSWERING PHONES ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 10:00 A.M. - NOON.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEDNESDAY. THIS IS AN ONGOING MINISTRY WE WOULD LIKE TO STACK THE ROSTER WITH VOLUNTEERS.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS REACH OUT TO:
NOREEN - (907) 452-2406
NICOLE - (205) 914 - 6281
CINDY - (907) 388 - 6366

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FIRST PRES

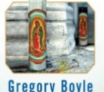
BOOK CLUB

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"An astonishing book... about suffering and dignity, death and resurrection, one of my favorite books in years. It is lovely and tough and tender beyond my ability to describe and left me in tears of both sorrow and laughter!" —Alan Lewis, author of Grace (Goodreads)

Tattoos on the Heart

THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION



Gregory Boyle
Founder of Homeboy Industries

Winner of the 2011 PBS Center USA Literary Award for Creative Nonfiction

Sundays | 9am
starting 22nd June

downstairs in the Studio
Childcare available

Questions?
david@fairbanksfirstpres.com

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.

~~ From the Pastor ~~

"In Essentials, Unity. In Non-Essentials, Liberty. In All Things, Charity"

This is a guiding statement for our denomination, The Evangelical Presbyterian Church. When First Pres joined the EPC 12 years ago, I encountered this statement on their website (epc.org) and on their official documents under the church logo. It was not wholly unfamiliar; I had encountered it here and there before in my theological and historical studies, but I couldn't quite pin it down.

As it turns out, I'm not the only one! The phrase has been commonly misattributed to the Wesley brothers, Augustine of Hippo (the theological powerhouse and bishop from 1600 years ago) and to Philip Melancthon (Martin Luther's protege and major leader of the Reformation after Luther's death), among many, many others. The most likely original authors of the quote are Rupertus Meldenius, another German reformer who wrote the phrase in a theological treatise in Latin in 1626, or Marco Antonio de Dominis (something of a reformer himself), who coined a very similar phrase in the Latin in a work published only 9 years prior in 1617.



In essentials, **unity**.
In non-essentials, **liberty**.
In all things, **charity**.

Historical attributions aside, the phrase is a guiding principle for other denominations and Christian organizations outside the EPC, including Ligonier Ministries, The United Methodist Church, and many, many pastors' blogs!

It makes sense; the phrase has its origins in a time of church history where people were being imprisoned and even killed for their beliefs, when new factions of Christianity were regularly springing up around continental Europe, and church groups were defining themselves as much by how they didn't agree with their enemies than in what they actually believed.

This phrase is a clarion call to reset our minds and hearts: to ensure that the fundamental truths of God's love for us and for the world are at the core of our organization, to remember that we have liberty outside that fundamental core within our own fellowship, and to always, always treat people both inside and outside of our fellowship with the foundational Christian practice of Charity.

Charity, in this case, is not the occasional pity-motivated "coins in the beggar's cup" that we tend to associate with the word "charity" today. Charity, in the Biblical sense, comes from the Latin word 'Caritas' and was the most common translation of 'ἀγάπη' or 'agape' in the original Greek of the New Testament. For us, charity is not small acts of pity, but great acts of love. To demonstrate Charity is to demonstrate the same love that God has for us in Jesus Christ to the people around us, even and especially to those with whom we have conflict.

To brand the words "In All Things, Charity" on our foundational documents and to plaster them on our website and walls, is not some charming nicety. It is committing ourselves to follow the example and Way of our Lord and Savior, not just when it is easy, but when it is the absolute, most difficult thing to do. Jesus commands His followers to love their enemies, to pray not just for friends and family, but for the people who say they hate you, and for the people who do things we know to be evil. "In All Things Charity" is a constant reminder that we are to reject the ways of the world, and the ways of our own flesh. It is a signal that we are to drop our own agenda, stand with Christ, and treat everyone we encounter (friends and enemies, insiders and outsiders, us and them) with kindness, gentleness, and love.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

~~Pastor David

Covenant

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

NextGen summer is in full swing!!! We had a great kick-off with upcoming freshman at the Midnight Sun Run! Over 400 bottles of water were given, selfies were taken, and MANY runners enjoyed being hit with a water gun.

COVENANT is officially underway with a focus in Luke and John where we'll camp out until October.

Our church is growing and it's good to see. There are some opportunities this summer for you participate in additional larger community with the bookclubs reading, "Tattoos on the Heart." College and Career are invited to participate on Monday nights at 5:30 p.m. High School and the rest of the church are invited Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

The next outreach event is Saturday, July 19th for the Golden Days parade. We need members to join us on the trailer with Pastor David's sled dogs and to walk the route and pass out animal treats.

High School meets at 4:00, College and Career meet at 6:00 on Sundays. Sunday mornings NextGen will prepare coffee for the church each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Moving forward the 3rd Sunday of the month will be worship night where all of NextGen meets together for a meal and worship.

God loves you so much. As we grow in COVENANT take time to memorize our verse for the next two years:

Exodus 19:5

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

For the good and God,
-Nicole

Summer Events

- July 19th - Golden Days Parade, Float + Walkers
- July 20th - 25th, Summer Mission Trip: Nome Alaska





CHILDREN'S ministry



Kids demonstrate mini Auroras in the "Imagination Station" during Vacation Bible School 2025.

Dear Friends,

Our community brought wonder and delight into the lives of 55 children this summer. Our VBS team was made up of: 20 adult volunteers plus 16 Middle Schoolers plus 20 families who donated food, plus 3 families who donated fence-posts, plus all of you who prayed. Together, we reminded kids (or told them for the first time) that: "God is at work in your world and He is in love with You. He would do anything to see you thriving in love and relationship to Him". Thank you for your generous help, your prayers and your encouragement.

As always, God did "more than we could have asked or imagined."



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
23 Michele Marney
23 Amy Logan
23 Elsa Beene
26 Nicole Matthews
26 Walter Lord
30 August Schaefer
31 Allyson Benson

We Celebrate YOU!



Anniversaries

3 Beth & Glenn Brummond
3 Steve & Elsa Beene
3 Jerry & Susan Freel
6 Thaddeus & Debra Lynn Bush
9 Dave & Nancy Dreydoppel
12 William & Brenda Satterberg
15 Michael & Christy Repasky
17 Leah & Issac Mackey
18 Sarah & Brian Albert
24 Dan & Linda Wells

Session Report

June 2025

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the June 10, 2025 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.

- The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer.
- Several of the Candidates for church office were examined and approved to be forwarded to the congregation for election. These included Charles Beaudreault, for the office of Ruling Elder, and Kathy Libby for the office of Deacon.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The minutes from the May 20th Stated Session meeting were reviewed and several errors identified. The May Session Minutes will be corrected and brought back at the July Meeting. The vital statistics from the previous month, were reviewed and approved.
- There were no email votes over the last month to ratify.
- There was no correspondence received.
- Church membership remains the same as last month, at 156 as of, May 21, 2025. The average church attendance for the last month was down slightly to 146. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date is 152, also down slightly.
- Ruling Elders Dave Henry and Keith Nore volunteered to assist with communion on July 6, 2025.
- Because of the timing of the June Meeting, the Treasurers Report and Financial Reports were delayed and will be presented at the July Meeting.
- The Agenda for the Spring Congregational Meeting on June 22nd was discussed and was finalized.
- Several motions related to policy for the use of the entry area / Narthex during the week and on Sunday mornings have been tabled for further discussion at the July Session Meeting.

- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams. These reports included such topics and information as;
 - * On a motion from the Facilities Team, it was, seconded and passed to place all of the 52 solar panels planned for the solar power project on the flat portion of the roof.
 - * On a motion from the Facilities Team, it was, seconded and passed funding of up to \$20,000 to contract with King Fire Protection to install a double back-flow check valve on the fire suppression system. The funding will come from the Capital Building Fund.
 - * On a motion from the Worship Team, it was, seconded and passed to conduct a survey of the congregation on the topic of installing new pews or new chairs.
 - * It was moved, seconded and passed to introduce the topic of new pews or chairs at the upcoming congregational meeting on June 22, 2025.
 - * It was moved, seconded and passed to amend the agenda for the Congregational Meeting to include the topic of new pews or chairs, and an upcoming survey.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator and the closing prayer was led by RE Brian Rozell
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on July 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

Ist Pres Staff

David McConnell-Booher
 Nicole Matthews
 Carina Menaker
 Noreen Harwood
 Peggy Nicholas
 Paul Bonnell
Deacons
 Marta Beaudreault
 Aaron Evans
 Bethany Evans
 Debby Foster
 Daniel Griggs
 Emily Kohl
 Kathy Libby
 Shannon Riggs
 Christy Repasky
 Sarah Rozell
 Joanna Weber


Elders

Sarah Albert
 Charles Beaudreault
 David Dreydoppel
 David Henry
 David McConnell-Booher
 Keith Nore
 Paul Reichardt
 Brian Rozell
 Emma Snell
 Brian Sunderland



July 2025

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | 1 Family of Sig Fink | 2 Walter Lord | 3 Isaac, Leah, Aero, Adalie & Ezra Mackey | 4 USA  | 5 Karla MacKinney |
| 6 Music Ministry | 7 Jeanne Maddux | 8 Patsy Marenko | 9 Lonny & Michele Marney | 10 Scott, Rackell & Caxton Marney | 11 Don Marsh | 12 Nicole, Theodore & Constance Matthews |
| 13 Women's Ministry | 14 Rick, Heidi, Twila, Kiana & Avery May | 15 David & Brenna McConnell- Booher | 16 Heather, Jason & Coby McFarland | 17 Leslie & Debra McFarlane | 18 Sandy & Bill McKee | 19 Judy McNinch |
| 20 Life Groups | 21 James, Carina, Diego, Essie & Lucy Menaker | 22 Gayle Meurs | 23 Diane Miller | 24 Robin & Connie Miller | 25 Ray & Trish Mikolajczyk | 26 Rhonda Montgomery & Sailor, Sam, John, Rosie & Seidny Waddell |
| 27 FPC Church Staff | 28 Dave & Barbara Moody | 29 Deanna Morris | 30 Jack, Ashley, Henry & Sarah Morris | 31 Fred, Maria, Cassie & Jacob Morrisson | Healing Prayers for Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan George Shoogukuwrk Joan Riggs Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris | |