

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, July 2026

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Music and More Concert Series

Saturday, July 18th @ 7pm
at the Methodist Church (915 2nd Ave)

With: Kathleen Fagre and both of her sons
along with: Julie, Stephanie, Nancy and Jenna, Lynn Hull,
Teresa Lantz, & Paul Krejci

Presenting a wide variety of music, built
around telling my story of music and flying.

Featuring: Jazz, boogie, Gospel, ragtime, classical choral piece, lots of
Kathleen original compositions; cello, hand-percussion, hammered
dulcimer, piano, sing-alongs, and early 1900's music.

The Hope That Is In You

Studying The Epistles of Peter

- "The Word Is ____" [1 Peter 1] ~ July 5
- "Mercy House" [1 Peter 2:1-10] ~ July 12
- "A Free People" [1 Peter 2:11-25] ~ July 19
- "How to Defeat Evil" [1 Peter 3:1-12] ~ July 26
- "The Best Defense" [1 Peter 3:13-22] ~ August 2
- "A Different Life" [1 Peter 4:1-11] ~ August 9
- "Suffering & Hope" [1 Peter 4:12-19] ~ August 16
- "Cast Your Burdens" [1 Peter 5] ~ August 23
- "Blessed Assurance" [2 Peter 1] ~ August 30
- "Bad to Worse" [2 Peter 2] ~ TBD
- "The Patience of God" [2 Peter 3] ~ TBD

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

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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~~

Despite cooler-than-usual temperatures, we have already enjoyed quite a bit of this summer in Fairbanks and we are now in the thick of it. Early July finds church members "passing like ships in the night" as we travel in and out of town, get the family to the park or the lake, squeeze in a fishing trip, water the garden, mow the grass, and try to tackle at least one fresh summer adventure before the snow flies. We do all of this on top of our normal routines of work and home life!



Before any more time races past, I want to celebrate Gospel Lab and say "THANK YOU!" to everyone who came, took part, and volunteered to make it the massive success that it was! We wanted to flip the script on VBS and do something that would be engaging and impactful. We dreamed up Gospel Lab with the hope that it would encourage all of us Jesus-Followers at First Pres to consider the wonder, power, and love of God as revealed in Christ Jesus and to then consider how God is calling us to share that wonder, power, and love of God with the world just outside our walls. Carina did an excellent job envisioning Gospel Lab, sharing that vision with her Children's Ministry Team, and empowering leaders to share how their knowledge and gifts intersect with God's loving purpose for the world.

As we look forward to the rest of summer and the seasons beyond, I am excited to see what God will do in us, among us, and through us for the sake of our community, His Kingdom, and the life of the world! This is an exciting time: we have more Ruling Elders on Session and Deacons serving than we have had in several years, we are beginning a new sermon series on the first and second epistles of Peter, we are saying thank you to Nicole for serving faithfully as our Next Gen Ministry Director for over two and a half years, and we see the growth in discipleship across our church as people of all ages and from all backgrounds hear the life-giving words of our Lord and Savior spoken to them and for them.

The first chapter of 1 Peter ends with the apostle quoting the prophet Isaiah: "The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

In a few months, the fireweed will be naught but brown stems and the grass will begin to turn yellow under the first blankets of snow.

Summer will be over, but God will continue to bless, inspire, and lovingly keep us through His Word and by the Holy Spirit at work in us. Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Covenant



Notes from Nicole

First Pres Families,

What a surprising thing to be writing my last newsletter to you. For some of you this is a relief for others it is another change you don't want to have to deal with and both sets of feelings are appropriate.

Coming to Alaska was a gift I had no business asking God for yet in His sovereignty He made a way to fulfill a dream I asked Him for when I was 14. 20 years later you guys extended the invitation for me to join you. Joining you at First Pres Fairbanks has been the adventure of a lifetime. This land, this dirt, these mountains - this is where we see the majesty of God that alters your brain. Everything after this feels small.

Alaska has a way of breaking you into the core foundations of your identity and giving you space to become strong in your convictions. You think you know or believe something until you come to Alaska then it makes you decide who you really are because survival is the priority leaving space for just a few tenets that matter. Alaska gives you permission to decide that those tenets are.

First Pres is special. This body exists downtown to alleviate the suffering of others while maintaining a familial identity as it serves Fairbanks. When I tell people about our church and they offer suggestions of ministries it is a joy to share, "oh - we're already doing it." First Pres has much to be proud of; I am hopeful for the coming season.

Sunday mornings are like a big extended family reunion we get to have each week. My prayer for you in the coming season is for you to become closer to each other as you seek the will of God in your life.

Thank you First Pres. For taking a risk. For allowing us to move here and serve you. Your future is BRIGHT.

For the good and God,

-Nicole

Exodus 19:5

July Calendar

- Yard Sale @ the church, 10th & 11th (We'll need help that week/days sorting + tagging)
- NextGen Worship & Serve, July 12th
- High School Bible Study: July 12th & 19th
- College and Career, July 10th and 17th @ Nicole's



CHILDREN'S ministry

*Thank
you*

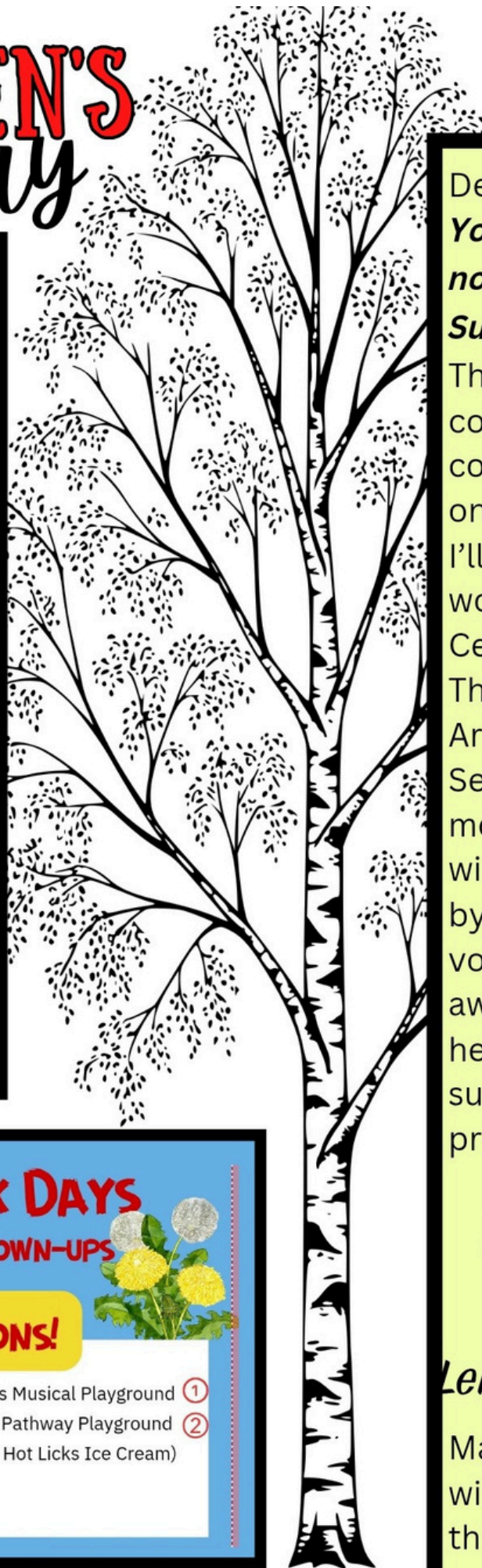
TO ALL WHO
ATTENDED GOSPEL
LAB; NUMBERS WERE
EXTRAORDINARY!

AS WE CONSIDER
NEXT SUMMER'S
PROGRAMS, PLEASE
LET STAFF KNOW
WHAT YOU
THOUGHT OF IT!

SUMMER PARK DAYS FOR KIDS AND THEIR GROWN-UPS

NEW JULY LOCATIONS!

- July 1Tanana Lakes, Kiwanis Musical Playground ①
- July 8Tanana Lakes Rotary Pathway Playground ②
- July 15Funtime Park (Next to Hot Licks Ice Cream)
- July 22Growden Park
- July 29South Davis Park

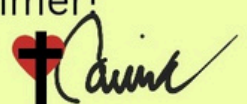


Dear First Pres Folks,
*You may notice I'm
not around on
Sundays . . .*

Thanks to the our
congregation's
committment to
ongoing education,
I'll be off-campus,
working on a
Certificate of
Theology and the
Arts through Fuller
Seminary! Sunday
morning programs
will be ably covered
by some awesome
volunteers. While I'm
away, stay tuned to
hear about a new
summer kids
program:

*The
Friendship
&
Curiosity
Lending Library*

May God Bless you
with rest and renewal
this summer!



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

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

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the June 30, 2026 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:05 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.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The vital statistics from May 20th to June 30th and the minutes of the May 19th Stated Session Meeting, June 21st Special Session Meeting, June 28th Special Session Meeting, and June 28th Congregational Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no email votes conducted over the last month.
- Church membership increased from 166 as of May 20th to 169 as of June 30th with the reception of 3 new members. The average weekly church attendance over the last month was 127 per service. Average weekly attendance for 2026 year-to-date is 125.
- Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Deacons meeting were reviewed.
- No Correspondence was received.
- Elders were informed that the next Presbytery Meeting will be held on October 1st to 3rd in Corvallis Oregon.
- The date for ordination and installation of new officers was set for Sunday, July 26th at morning worship.
- The basics of the Session's email voting policy were reviewed. It was suggested to send out a text message to all elders that an email vote is in progress. Then suggestion will be implemented.
- Ruling Elders Keith Nore and Paul Reichardt volunteered to assist with communion on Sunday July 5, 2026.
- RE Charles Beaudreault volunteered to provide snacks for the August Meeting.
- Due to a scheduling conflict, the September Session Meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 22nd.
- Session received initial, raw data from the recently conducted Narthex Security Survey. After the initial review, Session received a link to the data to enable a more in depth study of the comments. A total of 59 responses were received. Session discussed the time table and methods for relaying the data to the congregation.
- Financial information was received from the Finance & Stewardship Committee. As of the end of May 2026, Year to Date receipts have been \$328,183 and Year to Date expenses paid are \$244,572, resulting in an approximately \$83,611 surplus.
- Session reviewed recommendations from the Finance & Stewardship Committee for Mid-Year Adjustments to the 2026 Budget. With a recent increase in pledge income and gifts, FPC has a surplus of funds, which can be used to re-fund areas that were cut to balance the 2026 Budget. Further adjustments to the 2026 will be discussed in the next months. Items that have been adjusted at this time include:
 - It was passed to refund \$35,000 to the Mission, Outreach and Evangelism budget, which had been cut during the budget process.
 - It was passed to provide a mid-summer bonus, in July, to all staff members in the amount of 2% of the employee's yearly budgeted salary. Prior to the end of the year, the budget will be reviewed again, in order to possibly provide another, equal bonus. The purpose of the bonuses is to offset the lack of compensation increases since 2024.
- Written reports were received from the Ministry Teams.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 9:31 pm and Elder-Elect Marta Beaudreault led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on August 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

