



First Light *Newsletter*

July 2024

What a blessed return this Sunday (July 7th) was! It was a great joy to see so many faces (both familiar and many brand new) as we celebrated and worshipped God together! It was a double blessing to celebrate Holy Communion as the Body of Christ and to baptize Jessie Ogechi Walker and welcome her (and her wonderful parents: Ndidia-maka and Dominic) into our church family.

When planning for vacation and trips, I try my best to not miss Sundays. There are many reasons for this: 1) Sundays are usually the only time the whole church gathers together. 2) Sundays are truly set apart as holy and special for us by Christ's Resurrection. 3) Sundays are typically the best opportunity for me to welcome guests and meet new families and individuals who are visiting the church. 4) As the Pastor, Sunday Worship is a privileged place to preach the Word of God and for the whole church to grow closer to the Holy Spirit and closer to each other through worship and liturgy (which literally translates to "the work of the people"). This list of blessed reasons go on. Suffice to say: Sundays are special.

Occasionally, it's good for the pastor to take a Sunday off for the purpose of rest or other life matters, but today fully affirmed the value I place on trying to be with you on Sunday mornings. We had beautiful music as the congregation filled the sanctuary with song and voice. We prayed with faith and power for the healing of individuals and the healing of our world. We shared the meaning and importance of Baptism with all the children as we reminded them of God's saving promises made real and perfect in Jesus Christ. We welcomed Jessie into the covenant life of the church. We heard God's word in Scripture; read and preached. We gathered at Christ's table to receive the bread and the cup as sure signs of the Father's grace freely given to us.

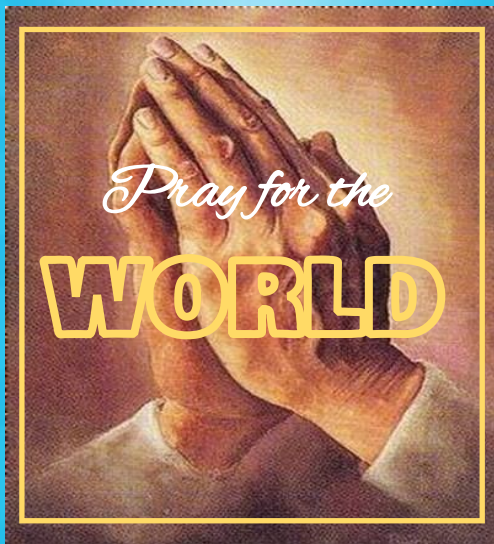
What a beautiful day it was! Thank you for making it so. Thank you for granting me the privilege of being your pastor for over one year now. Thank you for granting me the vacation time to bike-pack from Anchorage to Homer. Thank you for welcoming me back in the best way possible: as the united Body of Christ, worshipping God and loving one another.

Pastor David McConnell-Booher ~~~



Come Worship with us!!

Each Sunday
WORSHIP SERVICE
10am



You Are All One
In Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Please join us for the return of the
FPC Ice Cream Social!

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 6:30 PM

AT THE KOHL FAMILY HOME
2725 GARNET DRIVE, NORTH POLE, AK 99705

Come in your best Hawaiian
attire and bring a lawn chair!



There will be a homemade ice
cream contest for those who
would like to enter!
Entries should be titled with a list
of ingredients.



Opportunities for Service

**Ushers
Greeters

*Sign up at this link
<https://signup.com/go/Pydppqos>*

or

*Contact Sarah Albert
bsalbert@hotmail.com.
We are excited to have you!*

Getting To Know You

MEET CHARLES (CHUCK) GRAY



Chuck was married to his beloved Margaret, who was a bush nurse, and they raised three sons: John, Allen, and Steven. Chuck is a retired publisher with the Fairbanks *Daily News-Miner*, working from March of 1944 to September of 1993.

You might not know that Chuck was raised in Illinois for 15 years before his family came to Fairbanks during WWII in 1943. The first weekend they were here they attended First Presbyterian Church, and, at the time, it was only one of two or three churches in Fairbanks. Chuck and Margaret's kids grew up raising turkeys, geese, pheasants, and a skunk. He loves the outdoor

activities of Fairbanks which leads to his favorite activities of gardening, bee-keeping, and flying and Game guiding for 45 years. Chuck received his Territorial Guiding License in 1953. In 1967 he built his current home with his dad. Chuck Gray served in the Army during the Korean conflict from 1950-1951 and joined FPC in 1961. He has faithfully served as an elder and a deacon. Chuck loves First Presbyterian Church and says that "it is my only church family in Fairbanks." He loves the size and the pioneer people who attend. At 96 years young, Chuck attributes his health to good genes and Vitamin D.

We are blessed to continue learning from Chuck's life experiences and his love of our community.

Getting To Know You

MEET EVELYN SITES



Meet Evelyn Sites and her grown children: daughter Sheila & husband, Jim Williams, grandchildren Sara and Sean, and her son Sheldon (Sheldon lives in Florida). Evelyn used to have a loving cat, Boots, as seen in this picture with Evelyn. Evelyn's hometown was Everett, WA. She was married to Kenneth Sites in Snohomish, WA in 1948. Kenneth was offered a job here and that brought them north to Fairbanks in 1952. Evelyn loves the people in Fairbanks, and she worked in advertising at the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner for 27 years. You might not know that Evelyn loved to water ski at Harding Lake, a pastime she started early in her married life. In her free time, she loves reading, knitting, crocheting, and jigsaw puzzles. Evelyn has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for almost 56 years, and she has served as a deacon (several times) and as an elder. One thing that she especially loved about FPC was the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study led by Donna Brewer. We will miss Evelyn and her family as they transition to living in the second largest state, Texas, at the end of July.

Family Picture left to right: Sheila Williams, Evelyn Sites, Sean, Sara, and Jim Williams, Evelyn Sites and cat "Boots"

Getting To Know You

MEET THE NORE FAMILY



Keith was born and raised in Skagway, Alaska, and met Barbara at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in choir class.

Barbara was born in Nebraska and traveled with her family all over the lower 48 states while her father served in the United States Air Force. Barbara's family moved to Alaska in 1969

from Prattville, Alabama, and her father retired to North Pole after his long military service. Keith and Barbara Nore were married at FPC in 1984. They have three grown children, Katrina (Scott Hummel), Kari, and Kelsey. They also have two grand dogs: Mabel and McKinley (pictured). This month Keith and Barbara will welcome their first grandchild. Keith retired in 2019 from the Odom Corporation (35 years), as the branch manager, working in beer & wine sales and marketing, and soft drink distribution. Barbara retired from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District in 2016 as a music educator for 32 years. You might not know that Barbara and Nancy Dreydoppel are sisters. Barbara joined FPC in 1983 and has served as a Sunday School teacher, musical director, food box phone calls, and recently as the Moderator of the deacons. Keith became a member in 1991, and shares his gifts of music, leadership as an elder and deacon, and worship leader. We both love the congregation and sense of family at First Presbyterian Church.

Nore Family Picture from left to right: Kelsey, Keith, Barbara, (Katrina's dog, McKinley), Kari, Katrina and Scott Hummel, with baby on the way.

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

June was a month of honest discovery. Each season brings a new Alaskan experience and I still can't believe this is summer. We can go outside and it doesn't feel like you're wrapped in a wet towel. It will take a few years of living here to get the hang of Alaska summers.

June proved to be a moment of trial and error. What we learned is the "Book Cafe" is a wash and Sunday nights are the preferred meeting time for High School. If you missed the bulletin there is a new schedule update:

High School - Sunday nights @ 6:00 p.m.

College - Sunday afternoon 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Career - Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. @ my house.

Ministries are broken down into the following ages:

High School - Freshman through Senior

College/Gap - Graduation Senior through College Senior

Career - Master's Students, Anyone out of college

My prayer for you and your students is to remember Genesis 35:3, "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone."

God is not mad at you. There is nothing you can do to change His affection for you. There is a standing invitation to repeatedly visit the altar to bring worship to Him and remember who you are. As I serve in this body what I'm learning is our students *want* to believe this but because of doubt they aren't convinced. When you pray for your students let this be a common prayer we can share together. For our students to radically encounter the affection of God often and always.

If you'd like to serve with our Young Adult program we'd love to have you! Give me a call or text (205) 914 -6281, e-mail nicolefirstpresfbx@gmail.com

For the good and God,
-Nicole



JULY EVENTS

Sunday, July 7th - Young Adult Serve Day, 4 members to serve as Ushers and Greeters + 1 member to serve Call to Worship

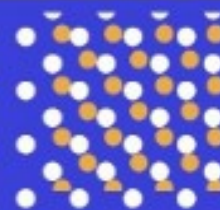
July 7th - WORSHIP NIGHT for all Young Adult Members, we'll meet downstairs in the Studio

Friday, July 19th - s'mores @ Nicole's House (due to smoke & fire this might change to an ice cream social) + yard games

July 31st - August 2nd | Fusion , High School Conference



CHILDREN'S ministry



T

Dear First Pres Folks,
Thank you for all the ways that you supported our VBS program this summer! By the grace of God we served 93 children which almost perfectly maximizes the use of our space and resources. Children had a wonderful time and were presented with scripture to reinforce (and for some, introduce) God's love for them.

I am still digesting all the ways God worked and what we learned this year, but I leave you with these snapshots:

- a child who bullies being led to a better way,
- an out of control child being loved with gentleness
- a child with a broken heart being heard.

I'm using this summer time to reflect and plan and do about a million puzzles for the sake of rest. I'm also giving thanks that we were able to be Jesus hands and feet to the kids of our community. May this time help to grow strong men and women of God.

✠ Aunt

ROOTS CLUB
SUMMER HIATUS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUMMER HIATUS

CLIMB CLUB
SUMMER HIATUS



Sea Otter

Spiky

Happy Birthday!!

2	Billy Brewer	17	Jill Gates
4	Rebekah Vander Lugt	18	Kathy Rahmander-Halfhill
6	Janette Hanneman	19	Bob VanHatten
7	Judy McNinch	23	Michele Marney
9	Diane Miller	23	Amy Logan
10	Scott Gilbert	23	Elsa Beene
11	Margaret Vander Lugt	26	Nicole Matthews
13	Sarah Albert	26	Walter Lord
14	Cindy Aldrich	30	August Schaefer
14	Roxie Fink	31	Allyson Benson
16	Oliver Brewer		

CHURCH HUMOR

After a very long and boring sermon, the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God." The pastor was thrilled. "No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Well, it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the love of God because it endured forever!

Have a Great Week!

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-2406

<https://fairbanksfirstpres.com>
<facebook.com/fpcfairbanks>

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.