

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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

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Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

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Fairbanks, AK 99701

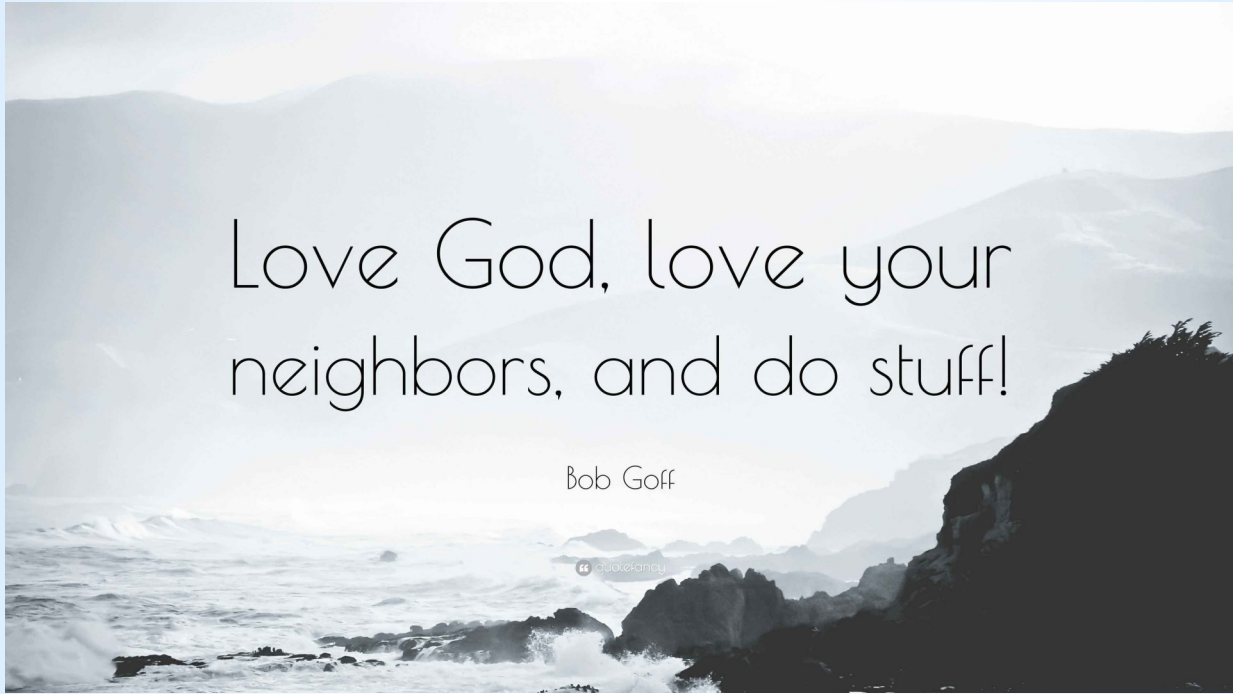
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Our VISION is to see the world transformed to love, worship and serve Christ. We do this through our MISSION, which is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and living faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God's love.

"Go Do Stuff With Jesus"



Love God, love your
neighbors, and do stuff!

Bob Goff

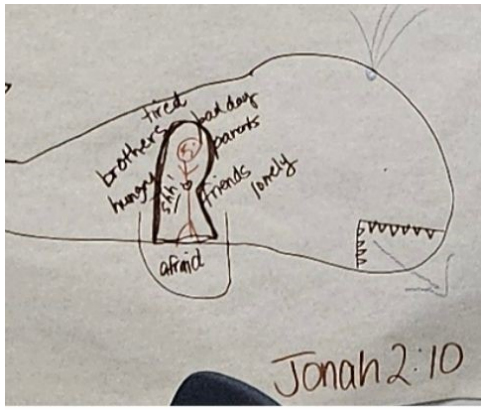
Today (the 28th of May in the year of our Lord, 2026) First Pres hosted a small luncheon for individuals and churches interested in hearing about our solar panel project and the process that took us from identifying the need all the way to installing them and enjoying their benefits. At the end of the luncheon, someone thanked me (not that I had much to do with it) and said "I love that you're a church that does stuff! A church that tries new things!"

For all the old jokes about Presbyterians hating change (How many of us does it take to change a light bulb?), we really can (and do!) try new things around here, and people are noticing! This past Sunday, as I preached on "Translating Jesus," I recounted a modern-day parable often used by Tony Campolo among others: where a town decides to host a 5k, but when the starting gun fires, no one is actually running the race, but instead forming committees to talk about how to manage and improve the race, or giving thanks for the opportunity to be running the race, or critiquing others about their form and stride without taking a step themselves. This is a serious danger when it comes following Jesus: that we spend more time contemplating the ideas, organizations, and feelings around following Jesus than we do, actually loving, listening to, and obeying Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives! When Jesus called you, he said "Come and follow me." Perhaps this could be translated as "Let's go do stuff!" Depending on your circumstances, that "Stuff" can look like many things: meeting neighbors, helping folks tackle yard projects, tutoring at the local school, volunteering at the Food Bank, writing letters to congress, giving swim lessons, or helping teens at church write job applications. The list is literally endless!

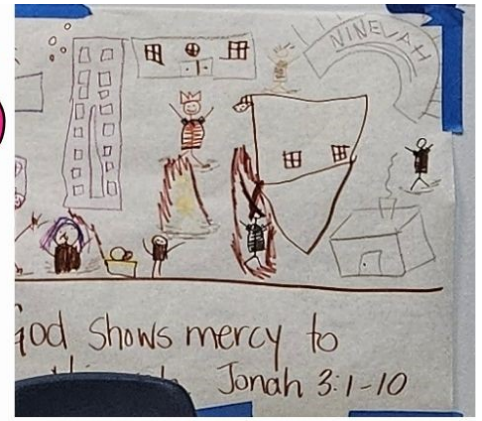
One way to step out in faith and follow Jesus by trying new things is to sign up for Gospel Lab here at church in just over a week! We will be studying scripture, worshipping, praying, learning and actively following Jesus every evening of Gospel Lab! The idea for Gospel Lab was to break up the old routines of VBS as we've been doing it for decades: to change the time to allow more adults to attend, to refocus the teaching and activities for people of all ages, and to reform the way we gather and learn so that fresh perspectives might inspire us to follow Jesus more closely and love God with every muscle fiber and heart string!

Over the years at FPC, I have been blessed to give an enthusiastic "YES!" countless times when a student asks if they can serve the church in a new way, or have the youth group try a new activity or service project. I have been blessed to say "Yes, let's try that!" to proposals for new songs and worship styles, or community outreach events, or solar panels. I am glad that we are developing a reputation as a church that lives out its faith to Jesus Christ by taking big swings and trying new things. Our Lord Jesus is someone who loves us, who gives Himself to save us, who takes our hand and invites us to consider how we can step up and love our community with real, tangible actions that bring about the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite His Kingdom a little bit closer.

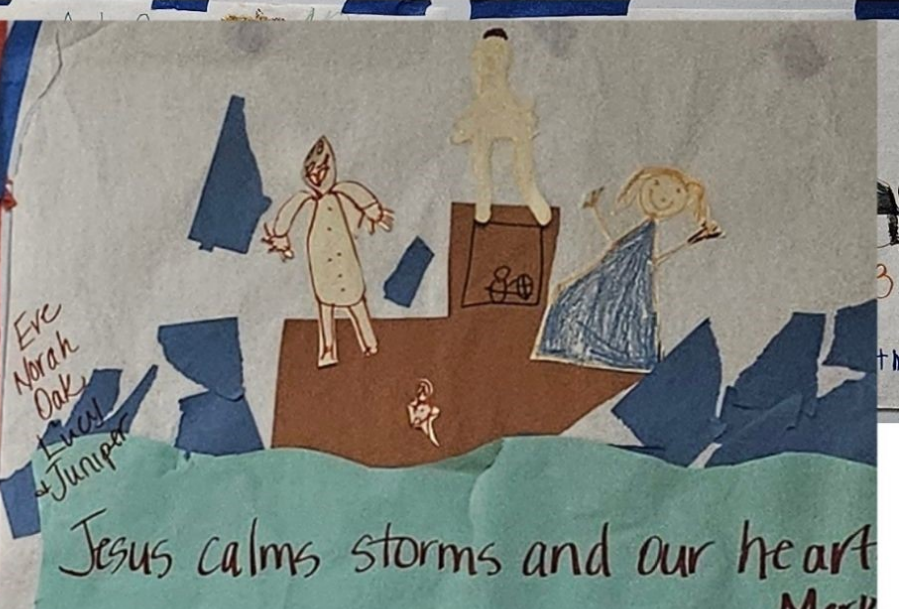
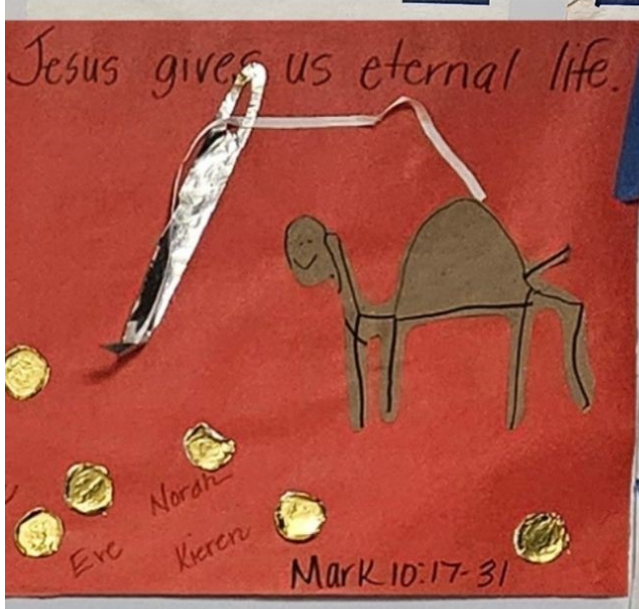
~Pastor David



CHILDREN'S ministry 2025-26

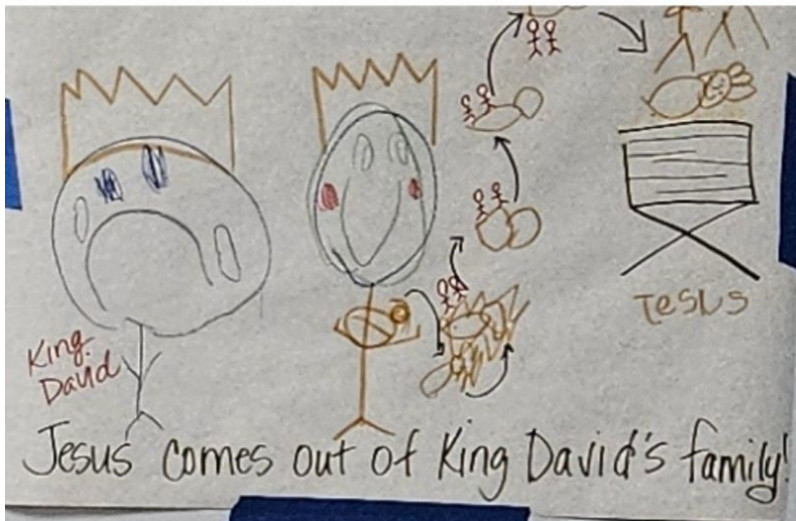


THESE DRAWINGS REPRESENT SOME OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS THIS YEAR. THEY WERE CREATED IN STEPHANIE ROZELL'S PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN CLASS.



THANK YOU TEACHERS!

MARTA BEAUDREAUX, AMBER SUNDERLAND,
MEGAN SMITH & STEPHANIE ROZELL



THEY BEAR THE FRUITS OF
PATIENCE, LOVE, WISDOM
AND KINDNESS
WEEK AFTER WEEK.



Covenant

Notes from Nicole

First Pres Families,

Summer is finally here and I know I'm not the only one longing for slightly warmer temperatures even though that means we'll be attacked mercilessly by mosquitos.

I would like to take part of this newsletter to tell you thank you for your warm extension as we share the news of moving to the lower 48 to be in closer proximity to my aging moms. This phase of life appeared much sooner than anticipated.

Our time in Alaska has equal parts broken us and made us the truest versions of ourselves and that wouldn't have been possible without the opportunity to serve you. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve you in the sub-arctic. My kids leave Alaska the last week of May then I'll return for us to finish a 'full send' summer.

There is a newspaper for you to grab in the narthex with the entire summer schedule for NextGen. Additionally, it will be included in this month's newsletter. Coming up we have A LOT of opportunity for worship, call to worship, missions, and service. I hope you'll encourage your students to foster their faith by participating in as many shared experiences as possible.

Summer is just getting started and feels almost over at the same time. I can't wait to see how God transforms us in the coming weeks.

For the good and God,
-Nicole

June Calendar

- **Please see Newspaper included in the Newsletter**



June

Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Vanhatten
- 1 Mya Perkins
- 1 Richard Halfhill
- 1 Eileen Griggs
- 2 David McConnell-Booher
- 2 Amy Richards-Wiegers
- 3 Aaro Mackey
- 3 Henry Morris
- 4 Ellie Hull
- 8 Steve Beene
- 9 Kathleen Fagre
- 9 Benaniah Vander Lugt
- 10 Carla Lundberg
- 16 Lillian Ahsoak Fortune
- 16 Kyle Sunderland
- 20 Katherine Lubowicki
- 24 Sarah Rozell
- 24 Liam Brewer
- 25 Sarah Fortune
- 25 Ezra Mackey
- 27 George Bowder
- 29 Alice Weber
- 29 Jacob Rozell
- 30 Kyle Lundberg

Anniversaries

- 5 David & Brenna McConnell-Booher
- 7 Debby & Marty Foster
- 13 George & Wanda Bowder
- 14 Bob & Michelle VanHatten
- 17 Emily and Kohl
- 30 Victor & Denise Wallace

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the May 19, 2026 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:08 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.
- A written financial summary was received from Church Treasurer Mikki Holt. Mikki was in attendance to provide information and answer any questions. Year to date receipts have been \$291,098 and year to date expenses paid are \$193,468, resulting in an approximately \$97,630 surplus.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The vital statistics from April 22nd to May 19th and the minutes of the April 21st Stated Session Meeting, May 3rd Special Session Meeting, and May 12th Special Session Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no email votes were conducted over the last month.
- Church membership increased from 161 as of April 23rd to 166 with the reception of 5 new members. The average weekly church attendance over the last month was 147 per service. Average weekly attendance for 2026 year-to-date is 144.
- Minutes of the February 24, 2026 Deacons meeting were reviewed.
- Correspondence was received from former Ruling Elder Bill Satterberg, and from Genesis Presbyterian Church (EPC)
- A motion from the Stewardship & Finance Committee was discussed and passed:
- MOTION: The Stewardship and Finance Committee moves that the Designated Gifts/Restricted Fund proposals for Youth Mission Trip, Women's Retreat, Silver Tea, Schlotfeldt Scholarship, Deacons' Fund, and Staff Appreciation be adopted and the related processes be implemented.
- Session also discussed the funding of the Schlotfeldt Scholarship fund and Seminary Expense Reserve Fund. No motions resulted from the discussion. The discussion centered around finding a method of increasing the earnings of the Seminary Fund.
- Three new prospective members were examined by Session. It was moved and passed that Rick Halfhill, Theresa LaMagna, and Lee Aeo were approved for membership, and that they be welcomed into the congregation at a date to be determined.
- A weekend at Bingle Camp was discussed. There is the possibility of having an event on a Saturday & Sunday, to include worship were discussed. An alternative proposal of a Friday evening and Saturday event was discussed as a better alternative. The second alternative would allow for a Sunday morning Worship Service at FPC. Further research into cost and a possible work party is being conducted.
- It was moved and passed that the June Stated Session Meeting be rescheduled to June 30th and the July Session meeting will be cancelled.
- It was moved and passed that the Summer Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting be held on Sunday, June 28th, after morning worship.
- Ruling Elder Dave Henry and Clerk David Dreydoppel volunteered to assist with communion on Sunday June 7, 2026.
- RE Dave Henry will be providing snacks for the June Session Meeting.
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.

- The Pastor reported that a thanks and send off for Nicole is being planned. The current sermon series is being extended and Nicole will be giving a sermon prior to her last Sunday, which will be July 19th. A brief update on the survey about the Narthex Ministry was provided.
- The Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry Team reports that plans for the Gospel Lab meals is underway.
- Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland gave a report on the events and actions of the recent Presbytery Meeting in Portland, OR.
- The Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team provided a written report which outlined the current financial state of the church. Planning for the 2027 Budget will begin at the June Session Meeting.
- The Facilities Ministry Team requested a motion related to upgrading door hardware to improve function and security. It was moved and passed to Spend up to \$7,000 to purchase door hardware, to be installed by the Facilities Team. The funds will be drawn from the Facilities Repair Budget.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 8:58pm and RE Brian Sunderland led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on June 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

SUMMER PARK DAYS

Wednesdays 11-1

Bring a lunch and enjoy the beautiful Alaska summer together!

<p>May 27Tanana Lakes Rotary Club Playground</p> <p>June 3South Davis Park</p> <p>June 10 Gospel Lab, no Park time</p> <p>June 17Funtime Park</p> <p>June 24Ester Park</p> <p>July 1Pearl Creek School</p> <p>July 8Tanana Lakes, Rotary Club Playground</p> <p>July 15Funtime Park</p> <p>July 22Growden Park</p> <p>July 29South Davis Park</p> <p>August 5Pearl Creek School</p> <p>August 12.....Ester Park</p>	
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Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church
EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information, call:
First Presbyterian Church
(907)452-2406

GOSPEL LAB:



5:00 Worship
6:00 Dinner
6:30-8

Learn about Bible times with Hands on activities and Presentations.

June 7-10

ALL AGES!



REGISTER YOUR FAMILY HERE

CURIOUS:
adjective
cu'ri'ous 'kyŪ-rē-əs

1. Marked by desire to investigate and learn
2. Distinct, strange, different



Adventures in Missions

Adventures in Missions will be staying with First Pres June 21st - July 2nd with two groups. One group from Maryland and the other from Pennsylvania.

They will join us for high school on Sunday afternoon, a meal and worship on Tuesday, then smores at my house on Thursday.

NextGen is encouraged to participate in each of these socials + help lead worship.

Mission trip - serving Fairbanks, June 13 - 19

**two spots available*



Worship

A big focus of NextGen this summer is worship. NextGen will lead 2xs on Sunday morning + Additional services with Adventures in Missions.

Please consider volunteering to serve during those times.

Worship Times

June 22nd - (Tues) @ 6:00*
June 28th - Big Church @ 10:00
June 30th - (Tues) @ 6:00*
July 12th - Big Church @ 10:00
*Dinner provided w/ Adventures in Missions

High School

Sunday meet-up in the Studio @ 4:00:
May 24th
June 21st
June 28th
July 5th
July 12th
July 19th

Fire-pit nights @ 7:30
June 25th
July 2nd

College, Gap, Career

Friday's at Nicole's House at 7:00 p.m.

June 5th
June 19th
June 26th
July 3rd
July 10th
July 17th

Fundraiser

Friday July 10th - noon - 6:00

Saturday, July 11th 10:00 a.m. - 4:00
*donations may be dropped off the last week of June.



Special Events

Gospel Lab - June 7th - 10th, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mission Trip: June 13th - 19th

Nicole's Last weekend

July 17th - 19th



1st Pres Staff
 David McComill
 -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
 Charles
 Beaudreault
 David
 Dreydoppel
 David Henry
 David
 McComill-
 Booher
 Keith Nore
 Paul Reichardt
 Brian Rozell
 Brian
 Sunderland

June 2026

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Steve, Ashley, Oak & Eve Dykstra	Vincent Eldridge	Sig Eriklook	Aaron & Bethany Evans	David & Kathleen Fagre	Dale & Janie Feist
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FPC	Pat Fink	Merle, Lillian, Merle, Jr. & Sarah Fortune	Martin, Debra Austin & Logan Foster	Becky Fuller	Roma Lee Fuson	Ruth Garbett & Stacy Lynn Garbett
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Youth Ministry	Scott, Sena, Bennett, Brooks & Beau Gilbert	Carol Gray	Charles Gray	Jeff, Molly, Eric, Douglas & Lucy Green	Daniel Griggs, Katie Lubowicki, Sam, Eileen & William	Diane Hamlet
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
All Fathers	Janette Hanneman	Krista, Nate, Elias & Nya Heeringa	Noreen Harwood	Pam Hennessey	David & Diane Henry	Thomas, Sandra, Avriel, Quirvaq & Anarrakaq Hoak
28	29	30				
Nicole Matthews	Mikaila Holt	Shiva, Milima, Mishi & Esha Hullavarad				

*****Gospel Lab*****

Healing Prayers for
 Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
 George Shoogakarwk Kianna May
 Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels