

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FAIRBANKS JUNE 1

NEXT GEN MINISTRY

Weekly Updates

COMING UP:

SUNDAY MAY 25TH
BIBLE STUDY FOR
COLLEGE AND CAREER

SUNDAY JUNE 1ST AND 8TH
NO NEXT GEN MINISTRY

ANY NEXT GEN MEMBER
CONTINUING THEIR
EDUCATION MAY APPLY
FOR THE SCHLOTFELDT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

Q&A SESSIONS
@ 5:00 PM

COLLEGE AND CAREER
SUMMER MEET-UPS

STARTING THURSDAY,
JUNE 12TH

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN
@ 1:45P, THURSDAYS @ 5:00.
BRING YOUR CHAIRS AND WE
WILL SEE YOU THERE.

RISE FRESHMAN - MOVE
INTO NEXT GEN, ON
SUNDAY JUNE 15TH -
WE'LL HAVE A WELCOME
PARTY ON THE 22ND @ 5:00
P.M.

KID & MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

JUNE 9-13 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FOR KIDS ENTERING PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Seeds in a Wild World

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT
JUNE 2-6

WEEKLY
Our usual 9 am Sunday School is paused for the summer.

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
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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." —Steve Lawler, author of *Grace Unleashed*

Tattoos on the Heart

THE POWER OF
BOUNDLESS COMPASSION

Gregory Boyle
Founder of Redemptor Ministries

Winner of the 2011 PMA Center USA Literary Award for Christian Nonfiction

FIRST PRES

BOOK CLUB

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 ~~

There's *humility*, **humility**, and then there's humility. There is the false humility of feigning modesty in search of praise or merely to seem polite: what we often call "fishing for compliments." Then there is the false humility that, rather than tending toward the pride of the previous example, leans toward despair as we legitimately put ourselves down, below our equals; our fellow human beings with no plans to be raised back up. True humility then, is neither pride masquerading as meekness nor low-self-worth pretending to be modesty.

How do we, as followers of Jesus Christ, stay humble and avoid the pitfalls of false humilities on either side of the path? How do we maintain both healthy self-image and avoid temptations toward pride and selfishness?

Be Curious. As humans, we like to categorize things. We love to notice patterns and then associate those patterns into neat columns. But when we do it with people, including ourselves, we quickly begin to compare, and to judge. While we have the ability and sometimes the responsibility to judge actions to make safe decisions for ourselves and for the people in our care, Jesus warns us not to judge or condemn the people themselves, only those actions. Before we get judgmental of people or actions, let us first be curious.

With humility, we can ask honest questions, and often in doing so, we discover more about the people around us. We are able to hear the stories that have shaped them, and we often find opportunities to share the love that God has for them. Being curious starts and ends with listening. This is the most important step in humility with others.

Be Honest. We are quick to omit, obfuscate, and otherwise manipulate the truth, especially when we are concerned about the consequences the truth might have in our lives and in the people around us. We often tell many half-truths throughout the day in attempts to spare someone's feelings or to avoid confrontations. Most dangerously, we are

tempted to lie to God and to ourselves in order to justify our behavior. This is no fairy tale, and no one in this life believes they are the villain. But we are all capable of doing villainously terrible things for what we tell ourselves are the right reasons.

In Luke 5:1-11, Simon has met Jesus and dutifully taken him out onto the water to create a natural acoustic amphitheater for Jesus to preach to the crowd gathered on the shore. After the sermon, Jesus instructs Simon and his companions to venture into deeper water and cast their fishing nets once more. After a day of catching absolutely nothing (which I'm sure none of us Alaskan anglers can commiserate with) Simon and the boys reluctantly cast their nets one last time. When the load of fish in the nets is massive enough to almost sink all the boats involved, Simon falls down at Jesus' knees and says "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Simon's response is not false humility or manners. This miracle confirms that Jesus is not some wannabe messiah or two-bit healer. This is a man of God and maybe the Son of God Himself. Simon knows his life, knows his own sin, and in awe of the One who is before him, he can only ask to not be kept in this terrifying situation any longer. Simon's confession echoes that of the prophet in Isaiah 6, and they both have the same ending. Rather than punishing the humble men for their sins, God instead gives them incredibly important jobs! Isaiah will go and speak the Word of God to entire nations, while Simon will go on to be the foundational leader of Christ's Church!

Isaiah and Simon both encountered all kinds of people after these terrifying moments in the presence of Holiness Itself. You can imagine how an encounter like the one each of them had informed future encounters with kings and generals, mothers and fathers, builders and beggars. You can imagine that, when they thought of their own sin laid bare before the Creator of All in that first moment of Holy Vocation, they were able to extend a measure of the same grace and peace that was extended to them. Perhaps they were able to both practice true humility while also encouraging, blessing, and even guiding those whom they met along the way.

Even if you haven't had a gut-wrenching personal encounter with the Divine Lord God that rivals the experience of Isaiah or Simon, seek to be genuinely humble this season. Be Curious. Be Honest. Walk with God in prayer today. Ask God what He wants to show you tomorrow.

~~Pastor David



Covenant

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

Summer is finally here and I almost can't believe. May was just December with a tank top and well, we endured. A cool thing June is we get to move forward - NextGen is now, officially, NextGen. I can't wait to have our 8th graders move into their freshman year of high school. 8th Grade will move into NextGen ministry on Sunday, June 22nd at 5:00 p.m. We'll do dinner, a worship song or two, and open the floor for some testimony and sharing time.

College and Career - you still hold a special space in my heart and we'll gather mid-week at UAF for Music in the Gardens. We'll meet starting in June and go through the end of the summer.

Our summer calendar is chock full. I hope you make plans to join us. We're officially in the season of 'Covenant' and Exodus 19:5 is our verse for the next two years:

Exodus 19:5

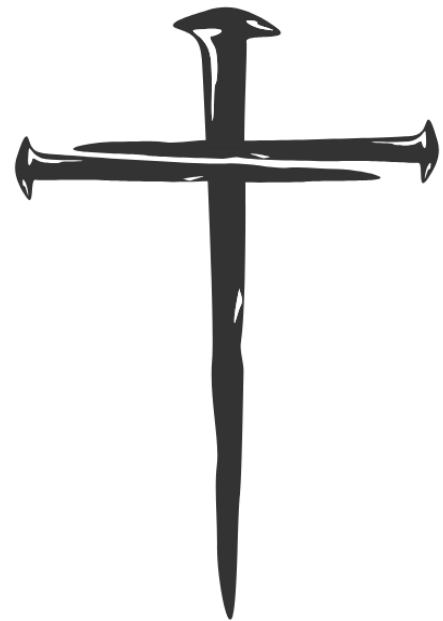
Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

For the rest of the summer we'll be in the gospel of John. We begin Covenant in the last gospel. Please make plans to join us in bible study, worship nights, fellowship gatherings, and service projects. Shared experience is the ticket to building connection - whether you're an upcoming freshman or you've been at FPC since you were a baby there is room for you in the Studio, room for you in NextGen.

For the good and God,
-Nicole

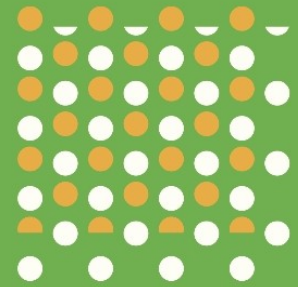
Summer Events

- June - Stanley Cup Championship Game Party in the Studio
- June 20th - Goldpanners Midnight Sun Game
- June 21st - Midnight Sun Run Hospitality Tent
- July 19th - Golden Days Parade, Float + Walkers
- July 20th - 25th, Summer Mission Trip: Nome Alaska





CHILDREN'S ministry



**FPC families and friends meet at
the park Wednesdays
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

June 4.....South Davis Park
June 11 **Vacation Bible School,
no park time**
June 18.....Funtime Park
June 25Ester Park
July 2Pearl Creek School
July 9Tanana Lakes,
Rotary Club Playground
July 16Funtime Park
July 23Growden Park
July 30South Davis Park
August 6Pearl Creek School
August 13.....Ester Park

A Poem for Park Day

Thanks God
For extravagant blue skies
And white rocks at the water's edge.
Thanks for little girls who love snails
and little boys who engineer trenches
to the water.
Thanks for puppies who visit us;
thanks for new friends.
Thanks God for help and prayers from
sisters and brothers in Christ.
Thank you for bug dope.
Thank you for the good close of last
season and
the open door to summer.
May we grow in You.
May we love our neighbors.
May we always be thankful.



June

Anniversaries

- 5 David & Brenna McConnell-Booher
- 7 Debby & Marty Foster
- 13 George & Wanda Bowder
- 14 Bob & Michelle VanHatten
- 29 Rob & Ellucia Boswell

- 1 Kyle Vanhatten
- 1 Mya Perkins
- 1 Richard Hatthill
- 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
- 14 John Waddell
- 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
- 28 Sara Williams

Happy Birthday!

Session Report

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the May 20, 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.
- The minutes from the April 21st Stated Session meeting, and the vital statistics from the previous month, were approved.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to ratify the results of email votes conducted over the past month.
- Correspondence was received from Member and Elder Maggie Demers, to provide information on a proposed event with Home Boy Industries, which Session will be considering.
- Church membership remains the same as last month, at 156 as of May 20, 2025. The average church attendance for the last month was up slightly to 159. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date is 153, also up slightly.
- Maggie Demers and Amber Reichardt presented a proposal to Session to assist with facilitation of an upcoming event in November involving Homeboy Industries. Homeboy Industries provides hope, training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, helping them to redirect their lives and rejoin the community. The event will include an RSVP Luncheon, an evening Keynote Address, by the founder Father Greg Boyle.
- A Treasurers Report was presented by Church Treasurer Mikki Holt.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The Item on the Consent Calendar was reviewed and approved. This included approval of the leave time for Pastor David; June 12th to 15th and July 13th to 14th.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to set the date of the upcoming Spring Congregational Meeting for June 22, 2025 after morning worship.
- The Agenda for the Spring Congregational Meeting on June 22nd was discussed, and will be finalized at the June 10th Session Meeting.
- A presentation on the recent May Presbytery Meeting was given by Pastor David and Dave Dreydoppel.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to provide support to the upcoming event involving Homeboy Industries through, planning, funding, and use of the church facilities.
- At the recommendation of the Presbytery, a Clerk of Session should be elected / or re-elected on a yearly basis. It was decided by Session, that this should occur at the Session Meeting closest to the

Election of the Secretary of the Corporation at the Winter Congregational Meeting. It was moved, seconded and passed to re-elect current Clerk of Session David Dreydoppel for current year, and until the February Session Meeting.

- It was moved, seconded and passed to examine prospective elders and deacons at the June Session Meeting, on June 10th.
- Ruling Elders Dave Henry and Paul Reichardt volunteered to assist with Communion on June 1st.
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams. These reports included such topics and information as;
 - * Pastor Daavid will be facilitating a summer Sunday Morning study of the book by Father Greg Boyle, Tattoos on the Heart, which is related to Homeboy Industries, and an event which is being facilitated by FPC this coming November.
 - * The Facilities Team report included an update on, and recommendations of the Safety Subcommittee. Several motions related to use of the facility and policy for use of the entry area / Narthex during the week and on Sunday mornings. Several of the motions were tabled for further discussion.
 - * On a motion from the Facilities Team, it was, seconded and passed to install two on-demand water heaters, at a cost of approximately \$9,600.
 - * On a motion from the Facilities Team, it was, seconded and passed to approve a painting project by Next Step Ministries, a volunteer ministry team that is traveling to Fairbanks this summer. This would include painting of the Nursey and hallway and some associated repairs.
 - * On a motion from the Facilities Team, it was, seconded and passed to move forward with plans to install 52 solar panels on the roof to offset / supplement electrical costs. Funding would come from restricted capital funds, with off-sets from funding from grants related to renewable resources.
 - * The FPC Stewardship Snapshot for the time period of January 1 to April 25, 2025 reports income of \$179,428.89 and expenses of \$206,191.99. This leaves a deficit of - \$26,493.10, which will partially be offset by May Income of approximately \$18,000 in interest from CD Investments.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator and the closing prayer was led by Pastor David.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on June 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

