

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FAIRBANKS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
547 7th Avenue
907-452-2406
fpc@fpcfairbanks.com

June 17—June 21
9-12noon



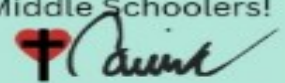
Dear First Pres. Folks,
Children's Ministry often highlights the cute little ones, but it needs to be said: Middle schoolers, the ancient ones of children's ministry, are pretty awesome too! Although they often get a bad rap as the most difficult age, I have found middle schoolers in general--and ours especially--to be a dynamic and fascinating group. Last year, during our Middle school service project,

I came to appreciate in a new way that they are ready and willing to contribute to the world-- they just need a chance to do something meaningful, and a little respect. As I gave them tools, instructions and space to work--they really worked! They tackled dozens of projects and helped to build our church building into a new and delightful place to learn about God during VBS.

This month, as our Climb kids affirm their baptism through Confirmation, I hope you'll rejoice with me that they are here at First Presbyterian. They are more than a stereotypical "hard age". They are musicians and thinkers and creators and athletes who are making a choice to follow after Jesus. They are willing and able to bring all kinds of life into our Body of believers.

**MIDDLE
SCHOOLERS
ROCK!**

Thank God for Middle Schoolers!





P.S. If you have a Middle Schooler in your life, please invite them to join us for **Service and Leadership 2024**. June 10-14. Registration is open at vbspro.events/p/8016a9



HAPPY JUNE!

I would like to say a huge "THANK YOU!" to everyone who wished me a happy birthday and a happy one year anniversary on my ordination and installation as pastor, thank you so, so much! I appreciate you and all the support that you demonstrate to Brenna and I. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated and reminds me of the call that God gave me to this church and the way that my work can only take root and thrive by the power of God's Spirit at work in and among all of us. I would also like to extend a specific "Thank You!" to Nicole Matthews and the Personnel Committee for the video and gifts marking my ordination anniversary!



We already shot past the first weekend of June and I know many FPC families are in full-on "Summer Mode." As you hike, float, camp, travel, and enjoy extra rest at home (hopefully in a hammock!), I would like to share this word of encouragement:

You Were Meant for This

As early as Genesis 1:27-28, we see in God's Word that we are created in the image of God and with a purpose to enjoy God, to steward God's creation, and to live as co-creators under the Lordship of our Creator. God created us to enjoy our work, our rest, and our recreation with our family and friends, in a healthy balance.

It is an act of Christian obedience to take every vacation day that your employer offers you. It is an act of Christian obedience to ensure that you and your family explore some corner of Alaska that you have always wanted to see this summer; backpacking in Denali, floating the Tanana River, driving North past Coldfoot, walking the trail in Creamer's Field, or grabbing a burger from the new spot in North Pole.

As we read more from God's Word in Genesis, we see that the family dynamics of God's people in Canaan (and beyond) are often disrupted and rendered dysfunctional by sin. We resonate with the same hurts that we have endured in families (and in our own personal lives) that are also touched and shaped by sin. But for all of their (and our) dysfunction, the mothers and fathers, and sisters and brothers we meet in Genesis are longing for one thing:

Meaningful time with God and the people they love the most.

Abraham and Sarah want children to love, teach, and raise to enjoy God's blessings and to carry those blessings to their neighbors. Isaac longs to see his sons make peace and care for each other. Joseph longs to see his father and his brothers again.

Here's my prayer and my pastoral instruction for you at the beginning of another Fairbanks Summer: May you get outside with the people God has put in your life. Pray before you go. Look for God's presence as you drive, walk, float, or bike. Try to minimize how much you look at your phone or think about work. Pray when you get home: talk about what you saw, heard, and experienced. Share how God kept you safe or encouraged you when things got difficult. Whether it be a 15 minute walk through the park or a 5-night trek through the wilderness, God will show up. Memories will have been made. The time we spend with God and the people love today will have echoes that ripple through eternity.

Amen

Grace and Peace

Pastor David McConnell-Booher

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

May marked the end of one era and the beginning of another. The Studio has officially been unveiled for a month and it has been cool to see your reactions to this new space. As the Studio opens we've closed existing programming and launch new meeting times for both High School and College.

As we move forward High School and College will no longer meet after church on Sundays. Instead High School will meet on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Studio and College will meet every other Sunday beginning June 9th in the Studio from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

High School will have a new Youth Leader, Ms. Emma Snell. Emma is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army! We are thrilled to have her support our students as we begin this new chapter of High School Ministry.

In addition to Friday nights, High School Students are invited to hang out in the Studio each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m for the Book Cafe. Bring your tablets, computers, or books to chill out in the Studio with your friends.

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

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

For the good and God,
-Nicole



JUNE EVENTS

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

Friday nights @ 7:00 High School meeting in the Studio

College nights @ 6:00, every other Sunday beginning June 9th

June 21st - Alaksa Goldpanners Midnight Sun Baseball Game, meet at the gate at 9:00 p.m.

SESSION

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the May 21, 2024 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
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The minutes from the April Stated Session meeting, and the vital statistics from the last month, were approved.
- The minutes of the Deacons March meeting were reviewed and approved.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer, who was present to answer questions.
- To Letters to Session were received, one from a church member on the topic of Church Security and one from an EPC Congregation in Texas, asking for assistance with fundraising.
- The Session discussed Church Safety, and recommendations from the recent congregational meeting related to that topic.
- A report on the recent Presbytery Meeting in Wenatchee, WA was presented.
- The Summer Congregational Meeting was set for Sunday, June 2, 2024, after the morning service.
- The Agenda for the Summer Congregational Meeting was reviewed and set.
- Session approved Pastor David serving communion at the Youth Worship Service, on Fridays, on a monthly basis. The worship service had previously been held on Sunday evenings.
- Session approved welcoming Nicole Matthews into full membership at First Presbyterian.
- Session will be examining new officer candidates on June 11th at the Stated Session Meeting.
- Ruling Elders Keith Nore and either Brian Sunderland or Terry Reichardt were volunteered to assist with Communion on June 2nd.
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- A motion from the Stewardship & Finance Team was approved, that update the list of approved collection counters.
- A motion from the Facilities Ministry Team was approved, that FPC would ask Next Step Ministries to help with a painting project on June 10th-12th and June 17-19th.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer, by the Moderator at 9:06 pm.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on June 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

Getting To Know You



Introducing the Foster Family!

Marty, Debby, and their sons, Logan and Austin. They were all born and raised right here in Fairbanks, Alaska! Marty and Debby are both retired teachers from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, although Debby is better at retirement because Marty is still working fulltime!

One fun thing that you may not know about this family is that 35 years ago, Marty and Debby were set up on a blind date! This was arranged by none other than Debby's niece, Michelle VanHatten. This took place when she had Mr.

Foster as her math teacher at Lathrop High School. It was the Fosters' first and last blind date and it must have been a match made in Heaven because they are about to celebrate their 33rd Anniversary!

Currently, Debby is serving as a church Deacon, which is a ministry that is very dear to her. Marty, Debby and Logan have been members of 1st Presbyterian Church for many years and one thing that they love about this church is the people! They love the hearts of the longtime members, as well as getting to know the wonderful new folks that come in. God is really moving at First Presbyterian Church and the Fosters are blessed to be a part of it!

Meet Michelle and Bob Brandon, and Kyle Vanhatten!

They have lived in Fairbanks all their lives and believe it is a beautiful place to live with all its nature and God's presence.

Bob and Michelle have been married for 22 years this June and were married at First Presbyterian Church. Michelle is manager of Wrightway Auto Carriers and Bob is in the 942 Labors Union. They have four (4) grown children—Daniel is experiencing life, Brandon is a plumber and pipefitter, Kasandra is a kindergarten teacher, and Kyle is a senior at Yale University. Their daughter Kasandra made them grandparents in July with a beautiful new granddaughter (Ellanora) and she is 10 months old. They have two animals, Robby Choco (dog) and Mr. Kitty (cat).



Michelle has been a deacon in the past for two terms and enjoyed it a lot. The Vanhatten Family loves First Presbyterian Church and are very happy that David is the pastor.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SERVICE AND
LEADERSHIP
PROJECT**



Use your strength, teamwork and creativity to build an amazing undersea world for VBS! We'll work, play and learn about God's plan to change the world through you!

June 10-14
10 am-2 pm
Lunch
included.

Scan the code
below to
register.




SCUBA

Vacation Bible school!

JUNE 17-21 9AM-12
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE

SCAN THIS
CODE TO
REGISTER NOW.



NO COST

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

547 CUSHMAN

907/452-2406

**Happy Birthday
To You!**



1	Kyle Vanhatten	8	Steve Beene	24	Liam Brewer
1	Mya Perkins	9	Kathleen Fagre	25	Sarah Fortune
1	Richard Halfhill	9	Benaniah Vander Lugt	25	Ezra Mackey
1	Eileen Griggs	10	Carla Lundberg	27	George Bowder
2	David McConnell-Booher	14	John Waddell	28	Sara Williams
2	Amy Richards-Wiegers	16	Lillian Ahsoak Fortune	28	Jim Fuller
3	Aaro Mackey	16	Kyle Sunderland	29	Jacob Rozell
3	Henry Morris	20	Katherine Lubowicki	30	Kyle Lundberg
4	Ellie Hull	24	Sarah Rozell		

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY



Men-In-Action Monday's at 11:45, Narthex, for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us. Contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582/ jwaldrich@gmail.com.

Al-Anon Meetings, FPC Library, 12:30-2PM

WEDNESDAY

Food Boxes Distributions each Wednesday. To request food boxes, please call the church's front office (907-452-2406) on Wednesday mornings, 10am-12pm. Pickup is from 1:30-4pm.

THURSDAY

Life Study Group lead by Paul and Terry Reichardt, each Thursday, 6:30-8:30p, a light dinner, please contact Paul or Terry at 907-455-6703 or 907-347-3214.

FRIDAY

Al-Anon Meetings, FPC Library, Mondays & Fridays, 12:30-2PM

TUESDAY

Prayer Time, all are invited, Tuesdays, 12:15p, sanctuary

Women's Ministry
The Catechism Study, **each Tuesday**, 7pm at Nicole's House. Message Nicole for address at 205-914-6281.

HELP WANTED

Greeters and Ushers Needed!
Two (2) greeters and two (2) ushers are needed every Sunday. Signup at the following link: <https://signup.com/go/Pydpqos>

Sign up for just 1 Sunday, a certain Sunday each month, or for a full month or two at a time.

For additional assistance, please contact Sarah Albert [@bsalbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bsalbert@hotmail.com)

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.