

First Light

Volume 28, Issue 15

June 2019



WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING In the SANCTUARY EVERY TUESDAY AT 1:30pm



Join us in praying for our church, our community and beyond. Church Potluck Lunch **JUNE 9, 2019**



Following the combined service. Bring your favorite dish and spend some time getting to know others while enjoying some good food!

First Presbyterian Church 547 7th Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99701 907-452-2406 (office) 907-452-7205 (fax)



We stand on the brink of Summer. I am really looking forward to this time in Fairbanks, because I have never experienced a time or place where the sun never sets. The Book of Revelations tells us that will be the way it is in heaven. In heaven, "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads, and the night will be no more.

They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever," (Revelations 22:3-5). Sounds like Fairbanks, doesn't it? "The night will be no more."

But, really, this text is telling us that there is no need for "sun" either, as the light we need to see the truth by is "the Lord God." This is the light we need all the time. Which gets me to my real point. We are going to need the Lord God as much this summer as we have needed Him all winter. Scripture never talks about a "vacation from God" or "retirement from the Church." It doesn't because the need for both is constant. Temptation takes no vacations nor is it ever unemployed. Challenges in life don't cease for a time when we are "ready" to face them. God provides His Presence and Spirit 24/7, 12 months a year. Thank God. While we are recreating, let us stop re-creating our growth in the Spirit. All summer, First Presbyterian Church will be holding worship services every Sunday with special events for the children. During the week, we will have programs in the parks for families, and there is planned a men's events and women's events. We stand on the brink of summer, in Fairbanks, where the sun never sets and ""he night will be no more" what gift.

See You in Church, Dr. Donald Baird

P.S. I pray that you have enjoyed and been encouraged by our sermon series on the Book of ACTS, "Living Out of Faith." This series will come to an end on the last Sunday of July, so I am beginning to consider what our next series will be. I'd like to invite you to participate in the preparation of this next series by suggesting what kind of a series you'd like to hear in worship. Is there a Book of the Bible, Old or New Testament, subject or theme, such as the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer or questions you'd like to ask to explore with me on these future Sunday mornings? Write your ideas on a piece of paper and give them to Marta or slip them under the metal office window. All suggestions will be considered. Thank you for your input.



- 1 Kyle Vanhatten Mya Perkins
 - **Richard Halfhill**
- 2 Roberta Scott David McConnell-Booher Amy Richards
- 3 Aaro Mackey
- Henry Morris
- 4 Ellie Hull
- 7 Roland Tapper
- 8 Steve Beene
- 9 Kathleen Fagre Jerry Freel Benaiah Vanderlugt

- 10 Carla Lundberg
- 13 Chelsea Miller
- 14 John Waddell
- 16 Lillian Fortune Kyle Sunderland
- 21 Marcel Colp
- 24 Sarah Rozell Liam Brewer
- 27 George Bowder
- 28 Sara William James Fuller
- 29 Jacob Rozell
- 30 Taylor Young Kyle Lundberg



Stewardship

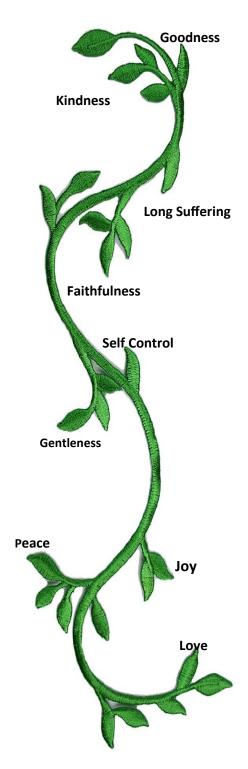
The challenge of stewardship can seem daunting. Being managers of our environment, our possessions, our time, our abilities and skills, our families, in fact all of God's creation can appear to be an overwhelming task that God assigned to us humans. Not only do I find each aspect challenging, I also find tensions between them. For example, sometimes my responsibilities to my family seem to come into conflict with my desire to put more time into other endeavors towards building God's kingdom. As I've tried to negotiate my way among these challenges and between the ensuing tensions, I've found that my only solution is to approach them with humility, relying on prayer and the Holy Spirit along with God's Word for guidance. I've learned, through many of these situations, that I can trust Him to provide even when I don't see a way.

One example occurred when our children were teenagers. We were tithing 10% of our income to the church. My husband taught at the university and I directed a Christian non-profit with a very low salary. Our income was more than enough and we were very contented until our oldest child began attending a Christian college. In her second year, her relatively low tuition took a big jump. At the same time, we had a younger daughter wanting to attend college as well as a son only a couple of years behind her. When we calculated costs if they all went to Christian colleges, things didn't add up. We believed that providing for their education was a responsibility God had given us as parents. It appeared to me that I would either have to change my job for a higher paying one or we would need to cut back on our giving to church. We felt that God had called me to the job I had and the same was true with our discipline of giving 10%. After much prayer and discussion, we chose to trust God and made no changes. We didn't know then that my husband would be offered a new position with a higher salary, nor did we know that both younger children would end up attending UAF tuition free. This is just one of many situations where God has provided for us as we try to live for him.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:31-33 "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Terry Reichardt Elder Hospitality and Fellowship





| FINANCE | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| THROUGH APRIL 2019 | | |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 194,901 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 208,252 | |
| NET | (13, 351) | |



The meeting was opened by Pastor Don, who presented a "Pastor's Study" on Exodus 18:13-23, which is the biblical basis for the use of ministry teams or committees. Elder Jim Williams led the devotion and opening prayer.

Session received a letter from Deacon Debra Lynn Bush, tendering her resignation from the Board of Deacons.

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry team moved to make several amendments to the Financial Controls Policy and to the Purchase Order Policy. Session voted to approve amendments.

Session received verbal and written reports from the Elders of each Ministry Team.

Session received a Financial Report from Treasurer Dave Stephenson.

Session finalized the list of seven member's names to be submitted to the Congregation as Nominees for the Pastor Search Committee.

Session tabled the approval of the Sexual Misconduct Policy until the June Session Meeting.

Because work is still progressing on the updated Personnel Policy, Session decided to table the approval of the Policy until the June Session Meeting.

Session spent the last portion of the meeting in prayer for one another First Presbyterian Church.

The next Session Meeting will be held on June 18th at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room.

Dave Dreydoppel



The Well 2018-2019

Each Wednesday from mid-September until the end of May, 1st Pres provided a free hot meal open to all members of the community. Although the number of meals served varied from around 50 to nearly 100, on a typical Wednesday we served about 80 meals, provided a brief devotion, and offered prayer to all who attended. The collection of guests included homeless individuals, people on restricted incomes, and a smattering of 1st Pres congregants. Through the year we were able to comfort and pray with people who had suffered tragic losses and addictions, and we were occasionally blessed by guests who volunteered a testimony or offered a prayer of thanks.

All this would not have been possible without the hard work of an army of volunteers—including five groups from within 1st Pres, five groups from other congregations in Fairbanks, and a small, but dedicated, group of individuals from our congregation who always answered the call when we needed help. We appreciate all the volunteers, but we would like to especially thank the members of the Spicey Mustard Youth Group for their assistance in setting up each week. We also want to take this opportunity to remember "superchef" John Pierce and all the wonderful meals he provided over the years.

Paul Reichardt and JoAnn Mills



FPC Summer Family Fun Nights

Join us for dinner, an engaging Bible story, and FUN each month this summer.

Monday, June 10, 6-8 PM Board Game Night





Monday, July 15, 6-8 PM Outside Games - Parents Vs. Kids Night

> Monday, August 5, 6-9 PM Movie Night



Events are for all ages and guests encouraged!

FPC SUMMER AT THE PARKS



Please join us on Thursday mornings from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM for some adult conversation and kid playtime outside. Children of all ages are welcome with an adult. No long commitment necessary. Come when you can! Most people bring a sack lunch since it is over the lunch hour. For directions or more information,

call or text Amber Sunderland 970-497-9481 or Stephanie Rozell 687-3730

| May 23 | Snedden Park | On Slater Drive, behind Chowder House by the river |
|-----------|--|---|
| May 30 | Ester Park (Bring bikes!) | Off Parks Highway on Old Nenana behind the fire station |
| June 6 | Growden Park | On Wilbur, Next to Goldpanner Stadium |
| June 13 | Tanana Lakes (Growden if too cold) | End of Cushman - This is a beach! Wear swimsuits, bring life jackets and beach toys |
| June 20 | FunTime Park | On College, Across from Beaver Sports |
| June 27 | Snedden Park | On Slater Drive, behind Chowder House by the river |
| July 4 | No Playgroup | 4th of July community parades! |
| July 11 | Tanana Lakes (Growden if too cold) | End of Cushman - This is a beach! Wear swimsuits, bring life jackets and beach toys |
| July 18 | Ester Park | Off Parks Highway on Old Nenana behind the fire station |
| July 25 | Growden Park | On Wilbur, Next to Goldpanner Stadium |
| August 1 | Goldstream Valley Lions Park (Bring bikes for the BMX track!) | On Goldstream, near Ivory Jacks |
| August 8 | Snedden Park | On Slater Drive, behind Chowder House by the river |
| August 15 | Musical Playground at Tanana Lakes | 4400 S. Cushman |

In case of <u>rain</u>, we will meet at the church in the narthex.

FPC Men's Chena River Regatta Saturday, June 15



Float the Chena River from Graehl Landing (212 Front St) to Chena Wayside (State campground on upstream side of University Avenue) and then have hot dogs, chips, drinks and a short message for us men. So that we have plenty of food we need you to RSVP with Jim Williams (978-3320; jimw.101591@gmail.com) or Jim Aldrich 479-2582; jwaldrich@gmail.com) as soon as possible and no later than June 12th. Drop the craft you will be floating in (i.e. canoe, raft, kayak, other) at Graehl Landing after 9:00 am (we will have someone there to watch them) and then drive your vehicle to Chena Wayside. Be there and check in by 9:30 am and we will provide a ride back to Graehl Landing. Stay to fellowship as long as you would like, but we are thinking that most of the planned activities will be complete by around 2:00 pm or so. If you have extra room in your craft or if you need a craft, let us know.







Happy Summer Everyone!

Read onward for important information about upcoming special events, and remember that our weekly youth gatherings will be...

> Every Wednesday - 12:30-4:30 Every Sunday - 1:00-4:00

New Youth Breakfast! June 8, 9:00am-12:00pm



All new 7th graders, this is your GRAND WELCOME to Spicy Mustard Youth Group! We will be cooking you a great french toast breakfast, picking you up, bringing you to church, answering questions about being in middle school, and having fun together as a youth group! Wear pajamas!

ALL Youth should come to this event (and this is a GREAT time to jump back in to youth group if you've been missing out lately, so please make time to come and enjoy this great welcome event!

Summer Tabletop Days! Mondays, 2pm-5:30pm

No video games allowed! We will be having tabletop game



nights for all youth every Monday from 2pm-5:30pm. Strategy games, dexterity games, puzzles, social games, cooperative games, role-playing games, we will have them all. Bring your tabletop loving friends and your favorite game and join us this Monday, June 3 (and almost every other Monday this summer at 2pm).

Extra Fun Youth Group at North-Haven Center Sunday, July 14th, 1pm-7pm



Thanks to the Mitchell family, we have the center at Fort Wainwright reserved all day on Sunday, July 14! We will meet at church at 12:45pm and then drive over to the community center where we will have lunch, a big screen theater for movies and jumbo video games, outdoor games, and special team competitions! Families and kids of all ages should come for this super fun extended youth group time!

Echo the Story!

We are still enjoying our walk through scripture with our Sunday Bible Study Series called Echo the Story!

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Echo the Story is a fantastic walk through the entire arc of scripture: exploring the story of God's creation of the universe, God's relationship with us, our broken and sinful history of forsaking God, and finally God's ultimate plan for redemption and salvation that begins with Jesus Christ and expands to the world through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Church! We will begin this excellent new series at Youth Group, 1pm on March 10. For more information, please contact <u>David McConnell-Booher</u> or check out <u>https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286829/Echo</u>-the-Story-36

Family Corner

We are a pretty geeky youth group here at First Pres. We love frisbee, board games, video games, superhero comics, and some of us love Math, History, and Geography even more than pop culture stuff! What does it mean to be Christian and really into 'nerd' or 'geek' culture? Love Thy Nerd is a Christian ministry that seeks to ask and explore these questions. If your kid is a nerd, this may help you engage in faith discussions that relate to them where they are at. <u>This</u> is a great example of such a conversation: <u>https://lovethynerd.com/finding-the-gospel-in-nerd-culture/</u>

Meal Train!



We want to make sure every student who comes to our youth ministry programs feels warm and welcomed and part of our church family. One of the best and easiest ways to do that is to provide them a hot meal and 'break bread' together. Would you consider providing a meal once a quarter to help our youth ministry thrive and grow? Sign Up Now!