

Lent

A Time to Renew



FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter
Publication of the
First Presbyterian
Church
of Fairbanks

“Are we there yet?” Who hasn’t heard or uttered these words a thousand times? They may come from the mouths of impatient children, annoyed youth, or bored adults. Age doesn’t seem to make a difference for many people when it comes to impatience.

As a child I certainly drove my parents silly pestering them with that question. I longed to get to the destination as fast as I could. However, maturity and time have taught me a life-changing truth: the journey can be as wonderful and valuable as getting to the destination. How often have we missed the joy of the journey because we have overlooked scenery, interesting waysides and quiet time to reflect on and talk with God? In fact, the journey can actually add to the wonderment of the destination. The voyage can prepare our spirit, heart, and mind to truly embrace the gift of the destination.

The Lent season can be compared to a journey, a journey on the way to the celebration of the Resurrection! As we travel with Christ on His way to the cross, we find a journey with both beautiful and terrible moments. But as we walk that road, our hearts can be filled with wonder and faith as we focus on the strength and grace of Christ as He went very purposefully to the cross.

Taking time to soak in this journey allows us to arrive at our destination with full hearts, ready to celebrate Easter and the gift of Christ’s resurrection and eternal life.

Our Lent Sermon Series is called “Walk to Jerusalem.” Together we will take time to re-look, re-think, re-wonder, and reflect on the story of the greatest gift that God gave to this world: redemption through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Together let’s take in the beauty of the landscape and breath in the fresh air of the Gospel. Let’s not let the rush of life rob us of appreciating this incredible journey.

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Matthew 16:21, NIV

Pastor Peter

LENT SERMON SERIES

“Walk to Jerusalem”



Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022

Ashes will Be Distributed



Children's Ministry in February



Hello FPC Friends!

This month, Children's Ministry soldiered on despite a lot of illness for our families—including the Menakers. We are thankful to see many of us recovered now—and to be able to say: we took good care of each other.

I was reminded this month that being able to maintain consistent programs is a blessing to be truly thankful for. Teachers stepped in to substitute teach and friends checked in on friends. The kids who were well, were largely able to participate in well-staffed, well executed lessons. As I was ill, cookies and prayers and a crack substitute teacher (thanks again Stephanie!) made life run smoothly and soothed many anxieties.

Having been through that, I am reminded that grace for each other, service and patience are the fruit of many years of being in community with each other and with Jesus. People didn't suddenly become kind, they lived out the kindness that God had been growing for a long time.

What an excellent witness to the work of the Holy Spirit. God takes our hearts and makes them into something glorious.

As we move forward this spring, we will be preparing for the Easter outreach "Eggstravaganza", and believe it or not, beginning the work for our summer Vacation Bible school. Please be with us in praying that our church continues to show the good fruit that God has sown in the kids and in the Children's Ministry leadership. Our programs are only a means to Discipleship and Discipleship is only a smoothly plowed path inviting our friends, our neighbors and us into relationship with Jesus.

Carina

March Prayer Requests

- **Thoughtful, and serving organization of VBS**
- **A ton of excellent volunteers**
- **An Eggstravaganza that glorifies God and reaches lots of kids**
- **Increasing Health at FPC**

The Prodigal God-Sermon Series

THE PRODIGAL GOD SERMON SERIES

BIBLE STUDY

Brian and Stephanie Rozell are hosting a bible study at their home on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm.
Interested?
Please contact Stephanie at 687-3730.

THE PRODIGAL GOD SERMON SERIES

Paul and Terry Reichardt has resumed their Life Group-Bible Study, and you are invited for study and fellowship. The bible study is conducted via ZOOM EACH THURSDAY, BEGINNING AT 7PM.

For additional information, please contact Paul or Terry (455-6703, paulreichardt@gmail.com)

LIFE STUDY GROUP

PRESENTING ***SPICY MUSTARD YOUTH GROUP***

TALENT SHOW

Friday, March 4

***Lasagna Dinner at 6pm
SHOW begins at 7pm***



Discovery Workshop

March 25-26, 2022
First Presbyterian Church
Fairbanks, AK

DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS are a vital orientation to EPC theology and polity for Elders, Candidates and church leaders looking for a crash course in "Evangelical Presbyterianism."

- Required for incoming church leaders from a different denomination or Presbytery.
- Required for Candidates Under Care.
- Clarifying for inquiring churches and leaders.
- Helpful overview/leadership training for EPC Ruling Elders and staff.

Completion of this workshop is one of the requirements for candidates, transferring pastors intending to join our presbytery and Transitional Pastors. Previous workshop participants have also found it to be a great opportunity to begin a long-term connection with the EPC community of faith.

There is no charge for the workshop. Lunch and snacks are provided. (Registration by March 17th is required for lunch.) Participants are responsible for transportation, lodging and other meals. Registration Deadline is Thursday, March 17th.

All attendees are responsible to obtain copies of the Westminster Confession and EPC Book of Order available from the www.epc.org website prior to attending the workshop. Books will not be sold during the workshop.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND ENROLLMENT PLEASE CONTACT

Dr. Edward Cummings

Mrs. Larena Mills

E-mail: clerk@epcpnw.org

larena@epcpnw.org

Presbytery Office Phone: (509) 833-3882

Register On-Line: <https://epcpac.wufoo.com/forms/q49hqs009kitw9/>



(more information on the following page)

(Cont'd from previous page)

EPC DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

Preparatory Work

The purpose of the Friday evening portion is to introduce the ethos of both the EPC with its 5 Core Values and the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest.

Discovery Workshop: Polity

The purpose of the half-day Polity discussion is to help participants evaluate, understand, and apply the biblical, theological, and historical background and content of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church system of government. The facilitator encourages dialogue and debate concerning (a) EPC form of church government, (b) its support in the Bible, and (c) its application in individual congregations.

Ministers, Candidates and Ruling Elders prepare by reading the Book of Order (available online at www.epc.org).

Discovery Workshop: Westminster Standards

The purpose of the half-day Westminster Standards discussion is to examine the system of theological thought and conviction that are expressed in the Westminster Standards (Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms*) with regard to their function and expression in the life of the evangelical Christian community and EPC churches.

Ruling Elders prepare by reading the Westminster Standards.

Ministers and Candidates prepare by reading the Westminster Standards and writing their exceptions, if any, to the Westminster Standards.

The Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms is available online at www.epc.org).

Typical Schedule:

Friday:

7:00pm – 8:30am Ethos of the EPC and Pacific Northwest


Saturday:

8:00am – 8:30am Snacks, coffee, tea and fellowship

8:30am – 12:30pm: The Book of Order

12:30pm – 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm – 5:00pm: The Westminster Confession



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.

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the February 15, 2022 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record. The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Conference Room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 15th.



The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

Pastor Peter provided a devotion based on John 15:12-17 "Loving One Another".

Minutes from the last Session meeting, the Congregational meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.

There was no Correspondence received or discussed.

There were no Consent Calendar items..

Session's discussion about the benefits of hiring a Church Administrator were carried over from the January meeting. The motion from January was amended to read that Session would **"Explore the possibility of hiring a Church Administrator"**. The amended motion passed.

The motion from the January meeting to amend a proposed revision of the Session's Conflict of Interest Policy and place it under a new section was again discussed. It was then **moved, seconded and passed** to continue postponing the vote to amend the main motion until the March meeting.

It was **moved and seconded** that **"an annual baby shower and meal train for new babies be the responsibility of the Deacons and Congregational Care committee"**. . It was then **moved, seconded and passed** to postpone the vote until the March meeting, after having consulted with those committees.

Ruling Elder Terry Reichardt presented a written report on the activities that occurred at the recent Presbytery Meeting, in Portland Oregon.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to have the **"Adult Education Committee look into bringing training by Ambassadors for Reconciliation to Fairbanks for First Presbyterian and the community"**.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that **"Session members will prepare a proposed list of criteria for selecting members of the Pastor Search Committee to the March Session meeting"**. The Clerk of Session will distribute to session members a draft of a previous list of criteria as a starting point.

Written and verbal ministry team reports were received.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to extend the meeting until 9:30 pm.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it was **moved, seconded and passed** that **"Professional Expense policies 309.3, 309.4 and 309.8 through 309.11 be modified to read as presented"**.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it was **moved, seconded and passed** that **"Session approve vacation time for Pastor Peter from February 23 through March 2, 2022"**.

At the request of the Youth Ministry Team, it was **moved, seconded and passed** that **"the Elders join the youth immediately after church on Sunday, March 6, for 45 minutes to have lunch and meet with the students who would like to become members of the church and/or be baptized"**.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, and elders praying for those needs, Moderator Dembroski then adjourned the meeting in prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

Find out more about our church!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The new member will understand.....

- how to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, grace alone for salvation.
- What it means to become a member of God's kingdom.
- What it means to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. Worship, faith, and the mission of the church.
Commitment via stewardship of gifts.
- What it means to become a member of the EPC denomination.
Explain the Presbyterian system for governance.
- Invitation
to be a disciple of Christ
to be a member of First Presbyterian Church and EPC denomination.
- Examination by elders

MARCH 20, 12-4p



1	Derald Johnson	20	Terry Reichardt
1	Jeanne Maddux	21	Barbara Page
2	Travis Brown	25	Ted Riggs, Sr.
3	Debby Foster	27	Julie Benson
5	Linda Stephenson	28	Debra Brady
6	Jonas Huffaker	28	Ainsley Benson
7	Holden Jones	29	Adalie Mackey
8	Gwendolyn Bunch	31	Seth Wietgreffe
9	Sig Ericklook		
10	Sandy McKee		
13	Robert Kent		
14	Evelyn Sites		
14	Stacey Lynn Garbett		
16	Bill McKee		
17	Collin Cogley		