

First Light

Monthly Newsletter Publication
March 2023



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Revitalization Workshop

Saturday, March 4
10am-2pm
lunch provided

TOGETHER, LET'S REFINE HOW WE
PRACTICE THE GREAT COMMISSION IN FPC
MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS



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d d d d
?” -?”

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
fairbanksfirstpres.com

MARCH



*Happy
Birthday!!*

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





Grief - How do we handle it?

We are blessed to be a part of First Presbyterian Church. We are thankful to serve one another. We celebrate new life. The month of March brings more sunshine and warmth to our great state.

Grief is a difficult thing that strikes us when we are never ready. Everyone handles grief differently and there are many ways to survive the journey of grief. At First Presbyterian Church, your deacons use a series of four books called, "Journeying Through Grief," by the Stephen Ministries. Each book focuses on ways to help understand your grief and offers positive ways to overcome the loss of loved ones.

Friendships and spending time in God's wonderful creation helps to diminish the loss and depression we experience while we are grieving. We count our blessings for the return to gatherings like the Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner and the Easter Breakfast with fresh hot cross buns.

We celebrate our older members, like Janette Hanneman, Evelyn Sites, Chuck Gray, Carol Gray, Ellucia & Rob Boswell, Ed Washburn, & Joy-el Culligan, that continue to show us how to live a full Christian life of joy and love. We lift up our youth and young adults as they begin to search for their life's journey with trust in Jesus.

We continue to pray first every day for those that struggle with all kinds of obstacles, loss of loved ones, and difficulties. We are blessed to offer and help others to the best of our ability.

In His service, Barbara Nore
Moderator of the FPC Deacons

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7



March Devotion

Waiting on God doesn't mean sitting around and hoping. Waiting means believing He will do what He's promised and then acting with confidence.

Waiting on God is not at all like the meaningless waiting that you do at the dentist's office. You know, he's overbooked, so you're still sitting there more than an hour past your scheduled appointment. You're a man, but you're now reading Family Circle magazine. You've begun to read the article titled "The 7 Best Chicken Recipes in the World." When you're a man and you're getting ready to tear a chicken recipe out of Family Circle magazine because the recipe sounds so good, you know that you have been waiting too long!

But waiting on God is not like that. Waiting on God is an active life based on confidence in His presence and promises, not a passive existence haunted by occasional doubt. Waiting on God isn't internal torment that results in paralysis. No, waiting on God is internal rest that results in courageous action.

Waiting is your calling. Waiting is your blessing. Every one of God's children has been chosen to wait, because every one of God's children lives between the "already" and the "not yet." Already this world has been broken by sin, but not yet has it been made new again. Already Jesus has come, but not yet has He returned to take you home with Him forever. Already your sin has been forgiven, but not yet have you been fully delivered from it. Already Jesus reigns, but not yet has His final kingdom come. Already sin has been defeated, but not yet has it been completely destroyed. Already the Holy Spirit has been given, but not yet have you been perfectly formed into the likeness of Jesus. Already God has given you His Word, but not yet has it totally transformed your life. Already you have been given grace, but not yet has that grace finished its work. You see, we're all called to wait because we all live right smack dab in the middle of God's grand redemptive story. We all wait for the final end of the work that God has begun in and for us.

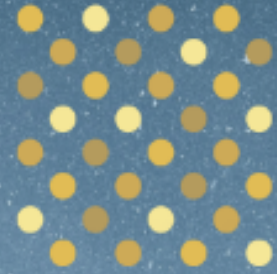
We don't just wait—we wait in hope. And what does hope in God look like? It is a confident expectation of a guaranteed result. We wait believing that what God has begun He will complete, so we live with confidence and courage. We get up every morning and act upon what is to come, and because what is to come is sure, we know that our labor in God's Name is never in vain. So we wait and act. We wait and work. We wait and fight. We wait and conquer. We wait and proclaim. We wait and run. We wait and sacrifice. We wait and give. We wait and worship. Waiting on God is an action based on confident assurance of grace to come.

□

**Tripp, Paul David. *New Morning Mercies*. Wheaton, IL
Crossway, 2014**



CHILDREN'S ministry

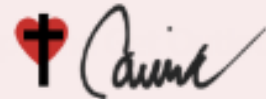


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PRAYER PROMPTS

1. For good health among the kids and teachers
2. For compassion and grace among the kids
3. For kids to love the worship service and grow there
 4. For children to feel at home in scripture
 5. for children to be bold to speak up in prayer
6. for FPC Kids Bible teaching to be accurate and trustworthy
7. for the Holy Spirit to protect kids from any wrong teaching about God from us or elsewhere
 8. For our kids to be certain "God loves me"
 9. To grow kids who speak truth in love
 10. to grow kids who welcome the new kid
11. that our program would be the safest, friendliest place
12. for our Children's Ministry team to be wise and bold in leadership
 13. for our kids to grow in discerning God's voice
 14. For our kids to grow in compassion for the poor
 15. that kids would grow in the gifts God has given them
16. For any child to feel welcome from their first visit to our church
17. That the children would see miracles and recognize the work of God
 18. for boldness in kids to speak Jesus name outside the church
 19. For a keen sense of Gods love for their neighbor
 20. for kids to be aware of their sin and joyful to receive grace
21. for parents and leadership to be excellent models of humility and grace
 22. For children to invite friends to Sunday school, Roots Club and Climb Club and for these to be FUN
 23. For the quiet kids to feel seen and secure
 24. for the loud kids to feel seen and secure
 25. for kids to imagine God's hopes for our world
 26. for kids to encourage each other in faith
27. for big kids to teach little kids Jesus' ways by example
28. for excitement among the kids at God's goodness
29. For deep love in the kids for their friends at school
30. for kids to understand that Jesus is the way to the best life-- here and eternally
31. For kids to have sweet, simple ways to talk about their faith to friends
 32. For kids to create art and music and stories that glorify God
 33. For kids to experience all kinds of art that glorifies God
 34. For kids to pray "as needed" wherever they are
 35. For kids to pray for friends
 36. for kids to pray for their families
 37. for kids to pray for the world
38. For kids to be physically safe as they go out into the world
39. for kids to know that they are fully loved by their grown-ups
40. For kids who need Jesus to be invited and helped and loved until they know Him

Dear First Pres Folks,

Just a week ago, Lent was about to begin, and I had the opportunity to make a list of ways to pray for Children's Ministry during the 40 days. I sat down and rattled off a list that I edited only very slightly before sharing it for parents to use as they wished. Well, the more I read this list, the more I realize it is a great reflection of our hopes and dreams for Children's Ministry. If all of these prayers were answered with a "yes" from God—what a wonderful Ministry that would be! If you are looking for a way to help our ministry, this is my #1 request: join me in prayer.



SPRING CALENDAR:

Sunday March 5: Review & Celebration Sunday
Sunday March 12: Spring Break,
no Sunday school, no Roots Club
Saturday April 1: Eggstravaganza
Sunday April 9: Easter Sunday,
no Sunday School, no Roots Club.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.



ROOTS CLUB

3rd-5th grade
meets Sundays 4-6

CLIMB CLUB

6th-8th
meets Wednesdays 3-5

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Will attend the Revitalization Workshop March 4,
10-12.

See you there!

Next regular meeting:
March 15

Our Pastor

“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, that 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 “The Shadow of the Cross.” 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

Carl Cady with International Friends of Compassion will present an update on the Hohidiai Indonesian Mission at First Presbyterian Church at 7 PM on Sunday March 26, 2023. All are welcome. Please come and listen to all that has taken place recently, including Carl’s recent visit, progress on the school, and Peter Scarborough’s miraculous healing from Parkinson’s Disease.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Aldrich at 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.

Certificate of Appreciation

AWARDED TO

First Presbyterian Church

For bringing joy to needy children around the world by sending

32 shoebox gifts in 2022

Every shoebox gift you pack enables us to reach children worldwide with the good news of God's love and the true meaning of Christmas.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Nancy Leetch".

Nancy Leetch, Logistics Coordinator
Interior and Northern Alaska Area Team

...you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem, and
in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of
the earth." Acts 1:8b

SESSION

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the February 7, 2023 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.

- Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on Romans 3:9-20 and opened the meeting with prayer.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The agenda was approved as amended.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.
- Because the Session meeting was held early in the month, a written financial report was not available from the church treasurer.
- A written report on the actions and events of the recent Presbytery Meeting was provided by RE Barb Page.
- Session received information on the next steps needed for the Pastoral Search process.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to extend Pastor Peter's contract to the end of May 2023.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to amend the 2023 budget by deleting \$15,000 Moving expenses for the new pastor and replacing it with Ordination expenses. in the amount of \$8,500
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Communion being served at the Mem's Retreat on Sunday, February 26, 2023.
- Session received a verbal report from the Vision Team for our GO Center revitalization process. The next combined work session will be Sunday, March 4, 2023.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to elect RE's Jim Williams, Brian Sunderland, and Brian Rozell as Commissioners to the upcoming Presbytery Meeting in May 2023.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on March 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

Clerk of Session

David Dreydoppel

Elder of Worship,
Nominating Cmt,
Congregation Care

Keith Nore

Elder of Finance

Barbara Page

THE SESSION Of Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

Moderator

Pastor Peter Dembroski

Elder of Facilities,
Youth, Children
Ministries

Brian Sunderland

Elder of Mission/
Outreach, Personnel,
Other Administration

Jim Williams

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO BLESS OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE WELL

Every Wednesday
Preparation: Between 2-6 p.m.
Dinner: 6-7 p.m.
Clean-up: Between 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Put a check by any of the following opportunities that interest you and we'll call you to discuss details and dates.

- I can play music on an instrument for some of the time.
- I can cut men's and/or women's hair.
- I can eat a meal with our guests letting them know that we care about them.
- I could serve or clean up or cook or wash dishes or prepare some food at home.
- I'm a nurse and could talk to some individuals about health concerns.
- I have an idea of a way to bless people. I'll tell you when you call me.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

For additional information, please contact Paul and/or Terry Reichardt at 907-455-6703

WEEKLY Announcements

SUNDAY

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School

Worship Service

ROOTS (a club for 4th-5th grade children), 4-6pm

Spicy Mustard Youth Group
(High School Youth Group), 11:30a-3p, .

MONDAY

Men-In-Action The group meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex at FPC.

Spicy Mustard Youth Group

TUESDAY

Prayer Time, Tuesday, 12:15PM All are invited to prayer time each Tuesday in the sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY

Food Boxes Distributions In partnership with the Fairbanks Food Bank, food boxes are distributed each Wednesday at the church. To request food boxes, please call the church's front office (907-452-2406) on Wednesday mornings, 10am-12pm

Spicy Mustard Youth Group , 2:30-7p

CLIMB (Middle School Youth Group)
3-5pm

The Well serves hot meals each Wednesday, 6-7p, Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY

Life Group Bible Study led by Paul and Terry Reichardt, 6:30-8:30p,

FRIDAY

Life Group Bible Study led by Melissa Prince

NOTE!!

AA Meetings, Monday-Friday, 12:15-1:30p

Al-Anon Meetings, Mondays, 12:30-2p



Winter Warmth

The FPC clothes closet is in dire need of winter socks! If you have a desire to donate, please drop any type clothing off at the front desk, or feel free to contact Paul Reichardt for assistance.