

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

FIRST LIGHT

Volume 28, Issue 24

March 2020



JESUS

THE LIFE-CHANGING LIFE SERIES

SERMON SERIES // JANUARY—JUNE 2020

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Presented During the 8:30am and 11am Worship Services



Confirmation Class

**Students 7th Grade and Older
March 1**

This class will teach the foundations of Christian faith and will prepare students for Baptism/Affirmation of Baptism and full participation in the congregation as an adult member.

For additional information, please contact David McConnell-Booher.

**Do This
In Remembrance of
ME**

**Holy Communion
Sunday, March 8**

**FPC Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 7, 9am
Fellowship Hall**



Come hear a presentation on "*Is Genesis History?*"

This film is the first step on a journey toward understanding the history of the Earth according to Genesis. Del Tackett travels across the continent with over a dozen scientists and scholars to see fascinating new evidence for creation and a global flood. The film explains that this is not a discussion of Science versus the Bible, but rather a discussion about the interpretation of a common set of data based on two different paradigms.

Come join us and bring a friend!

Breakfast will be served.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR DAVID

After much prayer and waiting on God, David McConnell-Booher has taken the step of enrolling in Fuller Theological Seminary's on-line Masters of Divinity Program. Although David has felt in himself a call from God, his own aspiration isn't enough. His call should also be affirmed by others, which it has been, by our last Pastor, Andrew Ekblad, as well as by our present Interim Pastor, Donald Baird. Then, at our February Session Meeting, our church's Ruling Elders took the step of affirming his call by endorsing his candidacy for becoming a Teaching Elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and thus putting him under the care of our Presbytery. Now we have an opportunity as a congregation to affirm his candidacy.

The first and most important thing we can do is to pray for him. Pray that the Seminary will provide him with the preparation that he needs for pastoring and that he'll find joy and affirmation in his studies and not get discouraged. Taking classes while working full time is always a challenge and it's especially a challenge for him since he's taken on extra responsibilities for our church during this transition time. Also, pray that God will provide him with the funding that he needs to pay for his classes. This is a step of faith for him that God will provide. Don't just pray for David once. Put him on your long term prayer list to keep praying for him over the roughly three or four years that it will take him to complete his studies.

Another thing we can do is to encourage him. Just a word of encouragement can make a difference. Notes or cards during his studies encouraging him to keep going can also help.

Finally, prayer or encouragement without action is hollow. Contributing to our church's Seminary Fund is an action that will make it possible for him to cover the costs of the courses that are required. Each course costs \$1,700 along with another roughly \$150 for fees and books. He must take 30 courses to get a degree for a total of \$51,000 plus more for fees and books.

If God is calling David into pastoring, it's important that we join with God in what he's doing. We can do this with prayer, encouragement and financial contributions, affirming and joining David as he says "Yes" to God.

Terry Reichardt, Elder
Personnell

Church Announcements

Learning Musicians

We'd love to hear from you! If you are a musician who is taking lessons or isn't quite comfortable accompanying a service or leading worship, we'd love for you to come alongside us and gain some experience! For first service, please see Rachel Johnson, who is scheduling, and is always happy to play with other musicians. For second service, see one of our worship leaders to join in practices or Sunday worship.

Youth Group 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.

Church Flowers

There are plenty of spots available throughout 2020. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of someone, in honor of one of your loved ones, a birthday, anniversary or any special occasion, please see the bulletin board in the atrium to sign up. Flowers cost is \$40.

MARCH



8



Palm Sunday and Easter are less than a month away. As I have begun to reflect on the earth shaking, world changing, lifesaving events that took place on those days, a text in the Gospel of Luke came to mind that has always intrigued me. Jesus is coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, riding on a colt, and thousands of people are crying out ***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the***

highest!” We call this riot “Palm Sunday” because Matthew tells us that those in the crowd waved palm branches as they cheered Jesus riding into Jerusalem. To see the Savior coming into Jerusalem must have been quite a sight, a big enough event to make the Roman soldiers and Jewish priests quite anxious. But that is not what has intrigued me. What has caught my attention is what Jesus said when the Pharisees (I am sure, well-meant) tried to quiet the crowd, instructing Jesus to ***“rebuke your disciples.”*** Jesus replied, ***“I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”***

Now we know that stones don’t cry out. They usually just sit there. I long thought Jesus was just trying to make a point about how impossible it would be to keep the world from cheering the most amazing event of history, the redemption of the world, and He had selected the most inanimate object to make His point. And that is a good point. Silence is not usually the way the world greets amazing events. Cheering, even from the most unexpected sources, is the norm and down through the ages, that is the way the world has recognized this triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and into our lives.

Consider the cheering that is going on today regarding the Savior from the least likely of sources. Think about the number of people you know who were least likely to become Christians and who, today, sing the praises of God, or consider the least likely places on earth where, today, can be heard the name of Jesus being worshiped. But, as I have thought about it, I have come to the conclusion that Jesus really meant ***“the stones will cry out.”***

At the end of Holy Week, on Easter morning, the great stone that had covered the mouth of Jesus’ tomb was rolled away to reveal to the whole world an **empty tomb**. There was no dead body to be found there. Luke puts it, ***“On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb...”*** Matthew says, ***“After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and SAT ON IT.”*** Wow, THAT is Easter, God has taken control and it is announced by a “Stone.” The “Stone” had been rolled away to declare that Jesus is ***“THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD”*** and God is completely in charge.

This Easter, let us all join the stones crying out the name of the risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Do not let broken relationships or bodily aches, local or national issues, pressing distractions or troubling circumstances silence your voice. HE IS RISEN and how intriguing is that?

Happy Easter,
Dr. Donald Baird

Certificate of Appreciation

AWARDED TO

First Presbyterian Church

For bringing Christmas joy to needy children around the world by sending

44 shoebox gifts in 2019

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. Thank you.

Ellen Leetch

Ellen Leetch, Area Coordinator
Interior and Northern Alaska Area Team



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



Janice Trumbull, Soprano Vocalist, and Director/Conductor of the Northland Youth Choir, will be performing various major vocal works with Pianist Lorna Eder & Oboist Candy Rydlinski on March 4.

Admission is free !

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the February 11, 2020 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.



The meeting was opened by Ruling Elder Mike Repasky, with prayer and a devotion based on passages in Isaiah, 1 Samuel, Proverbs and Psalms, on God's Guidance.

Pastor Don led a "Pastor's Study" on building a committee, based on Exodus 18:13-23.

In January, Session received a letter from Ruling Elder Scott Marney about his plans to resign from Session. Session voted to receive, with regret, RE Marney's resignation.

Session worked on the Strategic Plan Review, which was begun at the November 2019 Session Retreats. Work included; focusing on three years (2020 to 2023), changing the title of the plan to "2020 Three Year Plan", and work done on the Long Term Strategic Outcomes.

Ruling Elders Barb Page and Mike Repasky reported on their attendance at the recent Presbytery Meeting in Kent Washington, from January 30th to February 1st.

It was moved, seconded and passed to elect Ruling Elder Dave Dreydoppel as a Commissioner to the next Presbytery Meeting in Caldwell, Idaho from April 30th to May 2nd.

It was moved, seconded and passed to elect Ruling Elders Mikki Holt and Stephanie Rozell as Commissioners to General Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee, from June 23rd to 26th.

Consent Calendar items were passed as presented. The Consent Calendar items included: Approval of the Worship Committee's plan to hold two Ash Wednesday services on February 26, 2020, one at noon and one at 7:00 pm; the Mission Committee moved that, if the way be clear, that EPC Missionaries Mike and Tammy Mika be granted permission to speak to FPC Families on the evening of Saturday May 16, 2020 and to speak at both services on Sunday May 17, 2020.

Reports from the Ministry Teams were received.

It was moved by the Personnel Committee to "endorse David McConnell-Booher's candidacy to become a Teaching Elder in the EPC". The motion was passed. The Clerk was directed to notify the committee of Presbytery responsible for the process.

It was moved by the Personnel Committee to "Provide a 2% raise to Marta Conner, raising her salary to \$37,791 per year, effective immediately (2/11/2020)" The motion passed. The Clerk was directed to notify her in writing.

Presenting Devotions at the February Stated Meeting is: RE Terry Reichardt.

Presenting Dessert at the February Stated Meeting is: RE Mikki Holt.

Presenting a testimony at the February Stated Meeting is RE Jim Williams.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on March 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room.

Easter

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

FAMILY EVENT

APRIL 4, 10:00AM – 12:00AM

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 5

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 8:30AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 11:00AM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 12

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 8:30AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE 11:00AM

EASTER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Donations Needed (by 3/29)

- egg cartons
 - soil
 - seeds
 - hard-boiled eggs (*please bring on Friday 4/3*)
 - markers
 - watercolors
 - paint brushes
 - craft pipe cleaners
 - Fruit, veggie, or cheese tray
 - homemade playdough
- cookies or Peeps marshmallows

Volunteers Needed

- Greeters
- Jellybean butterfly station
- Planting station
- Sack races
- Playdough station
- Egg toss (cornhole)
- Setup help
- Coffee/kitchen help

Name:

Phone or email:

***Please place this sheet in the offering plate or turn in to the office*

**Upcoming
Event!**



VBS 2020! June 1 – 4

LIFE IS WILD, GOD IS GOOD!

Vacation Bible School Prayer checklist

- Pray for the planning of this year's VBS
- Pray for enough volunteers
- Pray for a clear, true Gospel presentation
- Pray for stronger faith and salvation!
- Pray that everyone attending will leave knowing that Jesus loves them
- Pray for health and safety of all involved
- Pray for smooth sign up & many kids
- Pray for patience, strength, Jesus' life-giving love, grace, and kindness for all volunteers
- Please pray for God to use you for His glory in prayer, participation, or donations!

★
HAPPY



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



BIRTHDAY!!!