

First Light Newsletter

March 2024



Easter at Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

Eggstravaganza
March 23
10am-12 noon

Palm Sunday
Worship Service
March 22

Maundy Thursday
March 28
Soup/Supper, 6pm
Communion/
Worship, 7pm

Easter Sunday
March 31
Breakfast, 9am
Worship, 10am



Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-2406
www.fairbanksfirstpres.com

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.

BIBLE STUDIES

How Great Is Our God Breakfast



"How Great Is Our God" Breakfast
Saturday, March 16th at 9:30 am

Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church (FPC)

The Men's Ministry of FPC will sponsor a pancake breakfast along with the showing of the video "How Great Is Our God" by Louie Giglio. This event is open to everyone: men, woman, and children from within or outside FPC. This video will give all ages a much better appreciation of exactly how great our God is. Starting with a discussion of our solar system and the galaxy; progressing to a discussion of the human body; and then bringing it all home with a discussion of what does this mean for you. You've heard the song, now come see what it is all about.

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



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

Life Study Group

Lead by Paul and Terry Reichardt

Each Thursday from 6:30-8:30p, a light dinner will be provided, topic of study is II Samuel- Account of David as King of Israel. For additional information, please contact Paul or Terry at 907-455-6703 or 907-347-3214.

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because Faith is growing abundantly, ad the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
2 Thessalonians 1:3

Women's Ministry

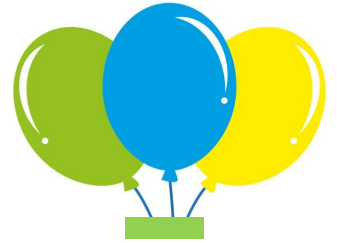
The Catechism Study

FPC Women's Ministry
kindly invites you to attend a
Women's Small Group on
Tuesday Nights @ 7:00 p.m.
at Nicole's House*
beginning March 12th, 2024.

This season we will study the
Westminster Long Catechism.

Light refreshments will be provided.
Please bring your bible and notebook.

(*message Nicole for address 205 - 914 - 6281)



Happy Birthday!!!

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

DATE CHANGE



THE FPC TALENT SHOW IS COMING!

ARE YOU READY?

COMEDY, SKITS, MUSIC, POETRY ~ WE WANT IT ALL!

Many famous entertainers got their start at the
FPC Talent Show... or not

New Date

Saturday, April 20, 6:00pm
in the Sanctuary

Contact Jerry Cleworth at: 907-452-6461 (days) OR
907-452-5551 (evenings/weekends) to sign up your act.

Sunday, March 10, Daylight Savings Time

Getting To Know You

Hello FPC Church Family! You may have noticed several new faces at church over the last few months. Or maybe you are one of those new faces. As Deacons, part of our job is to help new members get connected, and to encourage all members to get to know each other better. In order to do that, the Deacons have decided to start a section in our monthly newsletter called "Getting To Know You." Each month, we will feature 2-4 households in our church family by sharing a little bit of information about themselves, so we can all learn a little more about each other. We are kicking off this new section with two of our deacons and their families: Daniel Griggs and Marta DeLeon. If you are interested in being featured now, or on a particular month, please let one of our Deacons know. We are looking forward to getting to know you all a little bit better!

The Griggs

Meet Daniel Griggs and Katie Lubowicki and their kids Samuel, Eileen, and William. They came to Fairbanks separately but got married in 2018 at FPC, where Daniel has been a member since 2014. Katie is a college professor of writing and Daniel is a cartographer, and in their free time the family enjoys camping, gardening, skiing, fishing, and reading. They love living in Fairbanks for its friendly people, closeness to nature, and the Aurora borealis. Daniel is from Jefferson City, TN and Katie grew up in Erie, PA, which means relatives are far away. They really value First Presbyterian because it's like having a big family right here in town. Daniel is a Deacon at FPC and Katie and the kids serve where and when they get a chance. Be sure to reach out and say hello when you see them!



The DeLeons

Say hello to Marta DeLeon, her mom Molly, and brother Ramon. On Sundays, you often see Marta with her fiancé Charles Beaudreault, and her nephews Ben and Michael. Originally from Killeen, Texas, the DeLeons first came to Fairbanks when in 1989. They loved it so much that when Marta's dad retired from the Army, they moved to Fairbanks permanently. Marta worked as a lawyer in the Seattle/Tacoma area until her job allowed her to telework from Fairbanks during the pandemic, and she hasn't left since! One thing she loves about her life in Fairbanks is being close to her family and fiancé. Molly works for the IDEA homeschooling program in their business office,

but her real job is being a grandma to grandsons who are growing up way too fast. In their free time, the DeLeons enjoy crafting, Legos, puzzles, and British murder mysteries. Marta also loves nerding out over Tolkien, Star Wars, Harry Potter, and anime. Ramon has worked all over Fairbanks, and is an anime and superhero geek. The DeLeons almost always have a puzzle out that they are working on. Marta has been a member of FPC since 2022, and Molly and Ramon have been attending with her for about the same time. In addition to being a Deacon, Marta serves in Children Ministry as a Sunday School leader and VBS volunteer. One thing all the DeLeons love about FPC is the genuine love and care they have seen and felt from so many of you since the first time each of them walked through the doors. Be sure to say hello when you see them!

We
Are
Christ's

DEATH AND RESURRECTION PEOPLE



I recently encountered a story by Australian pastor and writer John Dickson. After appearing at a public debate between Christian leaders and advocates of atheism, Dickson remembered lamenting that his hard work and thoughtful arguments did not appear to change a single mind or heart toward Christ in the crowd that attended the event. He did his best to “lose well” and to give thanks to God for the opportunity to defend the hope, joy, love, and mission that defines Christianity, even if the event was not a tangible ‘victory.’ Dickson is an expert in the early history of the church, and he is all too familiar with the ways that the apostles and the earliest saints and martyrs rejoiced in their persecution: their oppression, their imprisonment, and even their pending executions. Paul sang hymns in jail and the martyrs looked for opportunities to encourage fellow believers and show God’s love to their captors. Dickson wanted to remind himself and remind us, his contemporary Christian sisters and brothers, that we are a people called to Death and Resurrection. When we experience persecution, failure, or even just discouragement of any kind, we are to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We must resist the urge to lash out in anger the way that the world does; desperate to regain clout or pride. As Christians, we are the Death and Resurrection people. When we lose well, when we are gracious in the face of discouragement or even hatred, the world notices. There is a

peculiar hope in loving enemies and rejoicing in God’s goodness even when we aren’t experiencing goodness in that particular moment. When we, as Christ’s church do this consistently, people don’t just notice, they draw close and listen. They want to know where this hope, this enduring strength comes from.

Dickson’s story didn’t just end with “losing well.” One of the professors at the public debate was impressed with Dickson’s presentation and character, reached back out to him, and eventually this led to him being hired to teach early Christian history and theology at a secular university. He was suddenly sharing the truth of the Gospel with hundreds of students who might otherwise have never encountered it! We are Jesus’ people. We are called to die with Him and to be raised to new life with Him. This happens in the cosmic and eternal sense, but it also happens in an infinite number of small, daily deaths and resurrections. When we trust God fully through our disappointments and losses, we find resurrection and victory on the other side of them.

We are Christ’s Death and Resurrection people.

Pastor David~~~



CHILDREN'S ministry



Roots Club built a scale model of the Tabernacle Lampstand

Dear First Pres. Folks,
One thing about Children's Ministry is we are all about LEARNING. Sunday school classes spent the month in the book of Daniel (Check out the bulletin board Malder by our late elementary kids). Roots kids continued in their study of the OT Tabernacle to increase their understanding of God's hopes for his people. Climb Middle School group launched into Confirmation classes and just completed a lesson on the Prophets. As we launch into Easter season we hope that you'll invite the kids you love to Eggstravaganza so they can know us better and begin to learn the most important thing: Jesus loves you, and He can teach you to love others



March Calendar

- 3/9 Climb @Foodbank 9-1
- 3/10 Spring Break=NoRoots
- 3/13 Climb paint party 1-4
- 3/23 Eggstravaganza 10-12
- 3/24 Palm Sunday: kids hand out Palm branches during service
- 3/31 Easter: no Sunday school, bell choir performs during service

FREE ENTRY BRING YOUR GROWN-UP

EGG STRAVAGANZA!

FOR KIDS
PRE-K
THROUGH
5TH

GAMES

SNACKS FUN!

SATURDAY
MARCH 23
10-12

The Way of the Cross: Journey to the Heart of the Gospel

Feb 18
The Way of Baptism
Matthew 3:13-4:11

Feb 25
The Way to Pray
Matthew 6:1-18

March 3
The Way to Healing
Luke 8:40-56

March 10
The Way of the Gospel
Matthew 10:1-31

March 17
The Way to Jerusalem
Matthew 16:13-26

March 24
The Way to the Cross
Matthew 21:1-17

March 28
The Way of Communion
[Maundy Thursday]
Matthew 26:1-56

March 31
The Way of the Cross
[Easter Sunday]
Matthew 28:1-20



O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres,

What a wild few weeks! We're getting in the rhythm of ministry and how to work together. I want to tell you more about the theme for the next 16 months, "O Come to the Altar". At the altar is where we foster relationship with Jesus by beholding Him and recognizing His unending capacity to hold our hearts. At the altar we behold God, at the altar we give God what is His (worship), at the altar we share our souls. And it is ALWAYS time for this.

The verse for this season is Genesis 35:3, "Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone."

From now until May we're in the gospel of Matthew. The rich conversations we have on Sunday afternoons as we exegete scripture and apply it to our lives is incredible! I encourage you to join on Sunday afternoons to hear the profound consideration our students give the text.

The question most students had when I came on board is: how do we minister and shine a light to those around us? How do we have a living faith practice. Students and Career members are being encouraged to invite their friends to join us and we're starting a new prayer focus from now until the end of the school year for non-believing friends to know Christ and to join us here, at the altar, to encounter the love of Christ.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to volunteer to mentor with us please give me a call (205) 914 - 6281, send me an e-mail nicolefirstpresfbx@gmail.com, or visit in office Monday - Thursday 9:15 - 3:15. Thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you; it's the privilege of a lifetime.

For the good and God,
-Nicole

MARCH EVENTS

Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 a.m. - Meet in Youth Room for Prayer (all Young Adult Members) PRAYER FOCUS: Non-believers

Sunday Afternoons @ 11:30 a.m. - High school fellowship lunch & bible study, REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BIBLE AND A NOTEBOOK

Thursday Nights @ 6:30 - Career meet for dinner and bible study at Nicole's House

Friday, March 15th @8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Young Adult Lock-IN, "IDES OF MARCH" theme. Full itinerary will be posted soon.

Friday, March 29th @ 6:00 p.m. - Good Friday "Fish Fry" and worship

DONATIONS + VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Lanterns or candelabras
- Metal storage baskets
- Brown, Grey, White fleece blankets
- Battery Operated Pillar Candles & Tea Lights
- Snacks for Sunday
- Mentors for Highschool and College programs



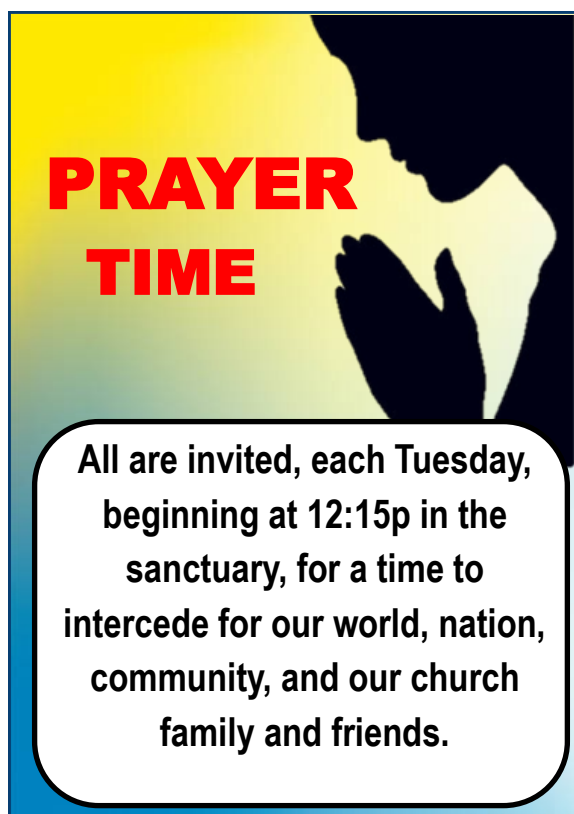
What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the February 20, 2024 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

- Moderator McConnell-Booher opened the meeting with prayer and then presented a devotion based on Matthew 14:23, Luke 6:12 & Matthew 6:5-6 on the Practice of Corporate Prayer vs. Solitary Prayer.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the agenda as presented.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer, Mikki Holt.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting, the recent Congregational Meeting and vital statistics from the last month as amended.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Consent Calendar item, approval of the Vacation Leave Request for Pastor David, March 10 through 12, 2024.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the final draft of the 2024 Budget.
- Ruling Elders Brian Sunderland and Keith Nore presented a report on the recent Presbytery Meeting.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve membership for Jon & Jess Romaneski and Judy McNinch.
- Session discussed how to more effectively communicate church information to the congregation. Several solutions were presented and are in the process of implementation.
- Ruling Elder Paul Reichardt and Elder Terry Reichardt volunteered to assist with Communion on March 3, 2024 for Sunday morning worship.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve serving Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on March 28, 2024. Ruling Elders Ted Riggs and Keith Nore volunteered to assist with serving Communion.
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- Session received an update, from the Facilities Team, on seating in the Sanctuary. The team is in the process in obtaining samples of available seats.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the ongoing service of Communion, by Pastor David, at the evening Youth Service, on the first Sunday of each month.

(continued on next page)

- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the use of up to \$5500 from the Capital Improvement Restricted Fund to pay for the remodeling of the youth room.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve that the repair and supplies associated with the sewage back-up be paid for out of the Capital Improvement Restricted Fund.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve that both the Children’s Ministry Director and the Youth Ministry Director be given church credit cards, linked to the same account that we are currently using.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to continue the meeting until 9:15 pm.
- It was decided that the Session and the Vision Team need to meet together to discuss steps forward with the overall Vision of FPC.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer, by the Moderator at 9:19 pm. The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on March 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.



PRAYER TIME

All are invited, each Tuesday, beginning at 12:15p in the sanctuary, for a time to intercede for our world, nation, community, and our church family and friends.

THE WELL

COMMUNITY

Meals

Please Join us Each Wednesday

6-7pm

First Pres offers a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God’s work in the lives of His people, and an invitation to prayer.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Food Boxes Distributions

In partnership with the Fairbanks Food Bank, food boxes are distributed 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.