



FIRST LIGHT



A Monthly Newsletter Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

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March 2021

Come and Grow With Us

Sundays

Children Sunday School, 8:45am via ZOOM
Worship Service, 9:30am, in-person, LIVE online
Adult Sunday School, 11:15am via ZOOM
Spicy Mustard Youth Group, 11am, in-person


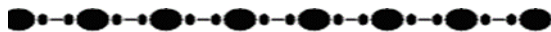
Mondays

Men's Luncheon, 11am, in-person, at the church,
all are invited, discussions centers on last sermon

Thursdays Lifegroups Bible Studies

Paul & Terry Reichardt, 7pm, via ZOOM
Brenna & David McConnell-Booher, 6:30pm, in person.

Masks are required during each event.



Journey to the Cross Sermon Series

February 21	Poured Out
February 28	Complete Devotion
March 7	They Failed Him
March 14	My Will Be Lost in Thine
March 21	Confident Resolve
March 28	For All Nations
April 4	Two Equals One
April 11	Hope for the Journey



Spicy Mustard Youth Group Lent, and 40 Days of Prayer

The youth has created a daily prayer series to guide through the 40 days of Lent with a hand-drawn image and a contemplative sentence of prayer. Please join in this simple Lenten discipline as we draw near to God and reflect on the love of God given to us fully in Christ Jesus. Each of these 40 simple prayer exercises will be posted daily on the FPC Facebook page, Instagram account, and at this blog -

<https://fpcfairbanks.blogspot.com/2021/02/40-days-of-prayer-day-1.html>

~~~ A Message from the Pastor ~~~

I thank God for First Presbyterian Church and for my call here as your transitional pastor. Your hospitality and friendship have been a blessing to help me start this new call in my life.

First of all, God has blessed us with David and Marta, excellent staff people. The Ruling Elders of First Presbyterian has been a joy to work with. I am meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ who will carry with me their friendship for a long time. I'm very grateful that God has led me to my tenant, Chuck Gray, who has opened up his home to me and shared with me many fine stories of his life as well as meals. I can not tell you enough of how I am so grateful to God to be called to be your transitional pastor for First Presbyterian and serve you as preacher, teacher, moderator, head of staff, box carrier and other future services. What makes these roles so fulfilling is that I'm getting to know you within these ministry opportunities.

As your transitional pastor, I will provide a very intentional ministry to you. My calling provides you with three different stages of preparing you for your new pastor, and they are as follows:

- During the first stage (first six months), my intent is to accomplish contacting various FPC members and asking them to provide responses pertaining to Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) questions. These questions will give the participant an opportunity to provide their prospective of areas of concern at First Pres. With God's help, each participant will receive a letter that will describe the interview process. I will provide questions during the interview. The interview will take approximately an hour in length, and it will be conducted via ZOOM, face-to-face, with the last resort being conducted via telephone. Names will be kept confidential, and only results of the questions will be put in a report that will be presented to Session, who in turn, after prayer and God's guidance, will address issues or concerns. With God's help, Session will help implement a plan in which the changes or concerns will be transformed so that the new pastor doesn't have to work those things out.
- During the second stage, if God keeps me for another six months, I will assist FPC with listening to God's new VISION for an outreach ministry in Fairbanks. It will be an exciting time of worship, prayer and study as we seek God's voice and direction to help us to serve a people group in this community. With prayer and study, once God has revealed this outreach ministry, God will also provide us a plan to implement His will for this new ministry. This will be an exciting time in the life of First Presbyterian Church.
- The last stage is where I can help resource the pastor search committee to help them find a new pastor. This is an exciting time for FPC in which God is providing you with a new chapter of the story of FPC's ministry here in Fairbanks. I am grateful that I can be a part of this wonderful transition.

By the way, it took a full month for me to see a moose here in Alaska. I traveled to Chena Hot Springs and down to Anchorage and have not seen a moose until I went to North Pole looking for some tamales.

God is so good!

Pastor Peter Dembroski

Jeremiah 29:11-13, For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. NIV

Neighbors!!

As a way of expressing our care for you and to remind you that God cares about you, First Pres offers free take-out meals each Wednesday from 6-7pm at

The WELL

Pick up a bag of a nutritious, tasty take-out dinner. Meals are distributed from the Cushman Street entranceway of the church.



Love is patient 

Love is kind

It does not envy.


It does not boast.

it is not arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way.

it is not irritable.

 It is not resentful.

it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 

Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

Love Never Ends



IDITAROD DOG RACE

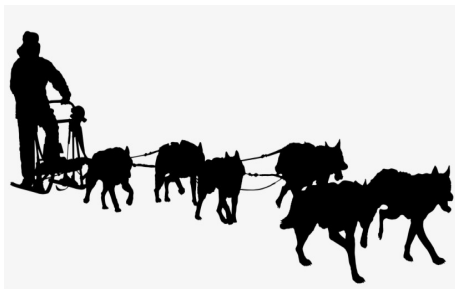
Hello Church Family! I invite you all to celebrate in the accomplishments of one of our church members, Joanna Jagow, as she endeavors to run her first IDITAROD race in just under two weeks (Mar 6).

Joanna Jagow

Joanna has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 2010. In addition to being a full-time dog musher, she is also a full-time registered nurse, and she works hard to balance both sides of her life while still remaining faithful to God and regularly attends church on Sunday mornings.

I will try and post updates on Joanna's progress when the race starts so that we can all be cheering her on. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping support or sponsor her race, please visit her kennel page at <http://www.motleycrewsleddogkennel.com/>. I'm sure she would appreciate any and all support! Additionally, if you see Joanna, please give her some encouragement and be praying for her and her dogs' safety as they prepare for this really awesome adventure.

Brenna McConnell-Booher



Joanna is a born and raised Alaskan and first got hooked running dogs as a child at her parents trapline cabin where her dad ran dogs to run the family's trapline. During Joanna's senior year of high school, she started her own kennel and has been running mid-distance races since, then running several races such as Kusko 300, Copper Basin 300, Yukon Quest 300 and this year is giving Iditarod a go! Joanna would like to thank her family, friends, sponsors and most importantly her dogs and God for making this possible.

CONGRATULATIONS ON ACCOMPLISHING ANOTHER MILESTONE!!!



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What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the February 16, 2021 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.



The Session of First Presbyterian Church met, virtually via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 16th.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski and RE Keith Nore led a devotion based on 1 Corinthians 15:37-54 and an opening prayer.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the agenda, with the addition of a report on Church Revitalization, under New Business.

A brief report on the Pastor Search process was provided by RE Terry Reichardt.

Vital Statistics from January 20, 2021 to February 16, 2021, as well as Minutes from the January 19, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the January 26, 2021 Called Session Meeting, the February 2, 2021 Called Session Meeting, and the February 14, 2021 Semi-Annual Congregational & Corporation Meeting were received. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve them as presented.

There was no correspondence to Session.

There were no Consent Calendar items.

Church Treasurer Christy Repasky was in attendance to provide a financial report, and answer questions.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to close the following savings accounts at Wells Fargo: Schlofeldt Scholarship Fund #0329, Sabbatical Leave #9636, Organ Fund #5675. The balance from each of these accounts will be added to the Restricted Fund savings account #9889. Going forward all of the details will be recorded on the Schedule of Restricted Funds worksheet.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** that "The Finance Committee will work with the Deacons to clearly track how restricted funds are tracked".

Clerk of Session Dave Dreydoppel presented a report on the Winter 2021 Presbytery Meeting. One of the actions that occurred at Presbytery was that David McConnell-Booher was taken Under Care of Presbytery, the next step in his journey towards ordination as a Teaching Elder.

Training for new and current Elders was discussed. TE Dembroski will be preparing a draft of an Elder training program, which will be presented to Session for approval and implementation.

The most recent version of the Session Ministry Responsibilities were provided to Session. Ministry Chairpersons will review their portion of the document and bring updates to the March Session Meeting. Pastor Peter, along with RE Jim Aldrich, will be preparing a draft of a new members class, which will be presented to Session for approval.

RE Stephanie Rozell presented a report on recent Church Revitalization workshops that are being presented by the EPC. The workshops have been recorded and are available on the EPC website. The next workshop occurs on Wednesday, February 24th.

Session Ministry Teams presented written and verbal reports.

Moderator Dembroski has directed each of the elders to put together a list of members who they believe would be willing to go through an interview process, in order to gain insight into the needs of First Presbyterian Church. This list of names, which will be forwarded to him, is needed in order to complete the first stage of the Transitional Process.

The updated 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan will be sent to all elders.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian, and the meeting was adjourned, in prayer by TE Dembroski.

Devotions for the March Session Meeting will be provided by Ruling Elder Barbara Page.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on March 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Video Conference.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



- Holy Week Services
- Easter Sunday Services