

happy

**MOTHERS
DAY**

First Light Monthly Newsletter



CONGRATULATIONS
Class of 2024



Baccalaureate
Sunday



FPC Students and Parents

Parents if you have a student graduating: Kindergarten, 8th grade, High School, College, Trade School, or Graduate School and you would like your student to be recognized please share their information with Carina (Children's Ministry Director) or Nicole (Young Adult Director).

Students will be recognized mid-May.



**Fairbanks First
Presbyterian Church**
547 7th Venue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-2406
www.firstpres.com

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

We're a community of grace where our good, true and beautiful God is worshipped and where questions about following Jesus are welcome, regardless of where you are in the faith. We're a pretty friendly group of folks. You'll be welcomed with a smile, handshake and most likely, a cup of coffee!

**We hope that you'll join us for
worship each Sunday at 10am!**

**Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let
your request be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:6-7

**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.**



God brought Abram outside and said,
“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.”

Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” :

The Families We Find

The month of May brings many changes around here. Sometimes those changes do not come all at once, as May 1st brought snow flurries instead of sunny days and sprouting green leaves. But despite this temporary reminder of winter past, May will bring sunny days and Green-Up all the same.

May also brings us to the end of Eastertide, to the celebration of the church's beginning and the arrival of the Holy Spirit upon us, the church, at Pentecost! Pentecost was a powerful reminder that God keeps all of His promises and that we, as the church, are called to not only receive the Holy Spirit, but to use all that God gifts to us through that Holy Spirit to grow the church and bless the world in Jesus' name.

After Pentecost comes the longest season in the church calendar: what is known as "Ordinary Time." This is a seemingly unremarkable name, but it only means that we have an extended season in which to explore the promises and

truth found in God's Word that we do not have the opportunity to focus on during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter! This is a blessed occasion for us to examine our lives and examine God's Word, and to grow deeper as disciples of Jesus.

This year we will begin by investigating the families we encounter in the book of Genesis. Our sermons this season will be looking at the characters, their relationships with one another and with God, and how the earliest Biblical families and their stories continue to resonate with our families and our stories.

Fairbanks summers are busy for all of us, and I encourage you to keep God at the center of your life, even as your schedule fills up and plans are made. One of the best ways to do that is to continue to meet together with your church family, worshipping God and hearing God's word together.

Grace and Peace
Pastor David McConnell-Booher

Carrying the Light: A Post-Easter Sermon Series

April 7 - We Have Seen With Our Own Eyes - John 20:19-31

April 14 - What Love the Father Has Given Us - 1 John 3:1-7

April 21 - El Buen Pastor - John 10:11-18

April 28 - Grafted, Pruned, And Fruitful - John 15:1-8

May 5 - Water And Blood - John 15:9-17

May 12 - Life Together - John 17:6-19

May 19 - The Advocate - Acts 2:1-21

May Event Calendar

Please visit the First Presbyterian Calendar for the latest updates
www.firstpres.com

Weekly Recurring Events and Meetings

Sundays

- 9am Children Sunday School
- 9am Adult Sunday School
- 9am High School and College Group, Prayer at 9, lunch and bible study immediately following service, dismiss at 2pm
- 10am Worship Service
- 4-6p ROOTS3-5th grade youth group

Monday

- 11:45a Men-In-Action Meets for lunch in the Narthex for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us. For more info, contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.
- 12:30-2p Al-Anon Meeting, FPC Library

Tuesday

- 12:15p Prayer Time, all are invited,
- 7pm FPC Women's Ministry, Nicole's House. Message Nicole for address at 205-914-6281.

Wednesday

- 10am-12p Food Boxes Distributions, 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.
- 3-5pm CLIMB Youth Group, grades 6-8th

Thursday

- 6:30-8:30p Life Study Group, lead by Paul and Terry Reichardt, a light dinner will be provided, contact Paul or Terry, 907-455-6703 or 907-347-3214
- 7p Career Group, Nicole's house, dinner and bible study.

Friday

- 12-30-2p Al-Anon Meeting, FPC Library

FPC MEN-IN-ACTION BREAKFAST



What:	Isaac Mackey will discuss the Free Burma Rangers – who they are, and his involvement.
When:	Saturday, May 11 th at 9:30am
Where:	Fellow Hall at First Presbyterian Church
RSVP:	jwaldrich@gmail.com

Description: The Free Burma Rangers (FBR) is a Christian multinational humanitarian aid and advocacy organization. The organization was founded in 1997 by David Eubank. They deliver emergency medical assistance to the sick and injured, and operate in Myanmar, Sudan and Kurdistan. FBR trains teams of men and women in front-line medical treatment and reconnaissance. They also deliver humanitarian relief and obtain evidence of military violence and human rights abuse.

Questions: Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582

This Presentation is open to everyone, male and female!

In Honor of

MEMORIAL DAY

the front office will be closed on
Monday, May 27, 2024

Happy Birthday!!

*May the abundance
of the Love of
Christ fill all the
days of your life.*



1	Stephanie Brewer	17	William VanHarper
2	Jonah Brown	19	Christine Lundberg
5	Ed Washburn	19	Caden Davis
9	Joel Gibson	22	Harrison Riggs
3	Ashley Morris	25	Logan Foster
14	Charles Gray	26	Robert Boswell
15	Nathanael Hull	27	Brandon VanHatten
16	Alaska Schaefer	28	Denise Wallace

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Dance, Flutes, Dance!

Sunday, May 12

4pm

Davis Hall

**UAF Charles W Davis Concert
Hall**

Free Admission



Hospice Services 2024 Plant Sale

Saturday, May 25th

9:00AM to 2:00PM

2000 Turner St.

Hospice Services is owned by the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation. All proceeds and monetary donations go directly to hospice to better serve the patients & families in our community. Thank you!

**Now accepting donations
and volunteer help!**

Contact Althea
(text only, please)
907-378-2301

Vegetable starts
Perennial starts
Annual starts
Hanging baskets
House plants
Trees
Shrubs
Rhubarb... and more!



Getting To Know You

Hello FPC Church Family! Part of the role of the Deacons is to help new members get connected, and to encourage all members to get to know each other better. In order to do that, your Deacons have decided to feature different households in our church family by sharing a little bit of information about them, so we can all learn a little more about each other. This month we are featuring the Prince and Menaker families. If you and your family 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 Princes

Meet Melissa Prince, her daughter Autumn Prince, and their cat Francis, (a.k.a. Frannie, Baby, Bean). Melissa first came to Fairbanks from the Midwest (mostly Michigan) in 2005. One thing Melissa loves about life in Fairbanks is the authentic, “we’re in this together” nature of the people. Melissa’s official job is librarian, but her side hustles include Mom, cat heating pad, life-long learner, and a Child of God. While these side gigs don’t pay much in terms of cash, they are full of their own rewards. Autumn is currently a sophomore at Calvin University, studying Psychology and Geography. In her spare time, she plays flute in Calvin Wind Ensemble. She also enjoys volleyball, and visits with the grandparents. Melissa enjoys cooking, foraging, reading, DIY, and information sharing, especially about life in Alaska. One thing you may not know about Melissa is that you may have seen her around town on her green motorcycle, Wasabi, which she named after the Big Hero 6 character.

Melissa has been an official member of First Pres since 2021. She serves our FPC family in many ways. You’ve probably seen her leading us through the Call to Worship, or singing in the choir. The third Tuesday of every month you can find her wrangling the Sneakin’ Deacons of FPC as their Moderator. One thing she really enjoys about FPC is the format and components of our weekly worship service, particularly the fact that we mix traditional hymns and more contemporary songs. But what she loves most about FPC, are the caring and generous people that call FPC home. Be sure to reach out and say hi when you see Melissa and Autumn!



The Menakers

Say hello to Carina Maria Lopez Menaker, her husband James, children Diego, Essie, and Lucy, and puppy Fiona. Carina first came to Fairbanks from Bellingham, Washington in 2000 after marrying James, who was born and raised in Fairbanks. One thing Carina loves about life in Fairbanks is the animals. She’s even seen a lynx her yard!



James is the Executive Director of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. Carina is our very own Director of Children’s Ministry. Carina’s hobbies include reading, painting, and thrifting. James is also a published author, and a freelance writer. Their entire family is very talented in the various disciplines that make up the arts. In fact, you may not have known this about the Menakers, but they had to make a family rule that they can’t sing at the dinner table, because once they start, they get so distracted that nobody remembers to eat their food!

They have been members of FPC for about 15 years. In addition to running all things Children’s Ministry related, Carina also sings with the FPC choir from time to time. You will often see James on Sunday mornings leading the Adult Sunday School Class. One thing they really enjoy about FPC is that everyone is eager to help. Be sure to say hi when you see the Menakers!

SESSION MEETING

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the April 16, 2024 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:00pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

- The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer
- 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.
- It was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to approve the Minutes from the March Stated Session meeting, and the vital statistics from the last month.
- The minutes of the Deacons February 27, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer. Discussion was held on streamlining the number of Restricted Funds. It was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to move all funds from the “SHY Fund” (\$1771.55) into the Youth Mission Trip restricted fund. It was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to disperse the remaining \$58.14 in the Staff Appreciation restricted fund.
- The Summer Congregational Meeting was set for Sunday, June 2, 2024, after the morning service.
- The Agenda for the Summer Congregational Meeting was set.
- Volunteers for snacks for upcoming Session Meetings were May: Brian Rozell, June Pastor David, and July: Ted Riggs.
- Because of the scheduling conflict with General Assembly, the June Session Meeting was rescheduled to June 11, 2024.
- Results of a recent meeting of the sub-committee on Church Safety were presented. Several of the suggestions presented were shared with Session. These included: identifying those who can assist with information and training; Ministries of the church that need to be involved in planning; adding additional volunteers to the Narthex Ministry team for a minimum of two per Sunday; presenting an informational meeting to the whole church on the topic; and providing a more in depth training for those who feel called to provide for the safety of the church.
- The whole church informational meeting on church security has been scheduled for May 5, 2024 after the morning worship service.
- Clerk of Session David Dreydoppel was elected as a Commissioner to the May Presbytery Meeting at Saddlerock EPC in Wenatchee, Washington.

(continued on next page)

- Ruling Elder Ted Riggs was elected as a Commissioner to the 44th General Assembly Meeting June 18th through 20th, in Memphis, TN.
- Ruling Elders Brian Sunderland and Ted Riggs volunteered to assist with Communion on May 5th.
- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to grant access to the Session Google Drive to the Church Treasurer, for the purpose of posting monthly financial reports.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer, by the Moderator at 9:01 pm.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on May 21, 2024 at 6:00pm, in the Church Conference Room.



O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres,

The Studio is OPEN. Young Adult ministry can now resume meeting downstairs in this newly updated space. Special thanks to Session for approving this upgrade!

If you missed Open House please come see it! This is my gift to you and I so hope you are able to feel at ease in this space. Packets from the Parent Meeting will be available in the Narthex as well as viewed in our church Friends and Family Facebook group.

May will mark the end of current programming as we grow into a new season of ministry. Our last Sunday afternoon meeting time will be Sunday, May 26th and our last Sunday morning prayer will be Mother's Day, May 14th.

Beginning June 6th:

High School Students will meet on Friday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

College Students will meet every other Sunday night from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Career Members will continue to meet at my house on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

High School students are invited to attend Fusion, a youth worship and faith conference, in Anchorage July 31st - August 2nd. \$175 p/student and includes ticket to event, transportation, and lodging. Deadline for this rate is May 26th.

All Young Adult Ministry is invited to attend the Alaska Goldpanners Midnight Sun Baseball Game. Tickets are \$27.00 and is due by June 1st.

Thank you all for your continued patience and support as we learn the FPC traditions and get to know each other better.

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.

For the good and God,
-Nicole



MAY EVENTS

Sunday Morning Prayer (until May 21st) @ 9:00 a.m in the Studio

Sunday, May 5th - Young Adult Serve Day, 4 members to serve as Ushers and Greeters + 1 member to serve Call to Worship

Sunday, May 5th @ 6:00 p.m. - Worship Night in The Studio

Sunday, May 14th - Mother's Day. NO Young Adult Programming.

Sunday Afternoons 21st and 26th @ 11:30 a.m. - High school and College fellowship lunch & bible study, REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BIBLE AND A NOTEBOOK. Meet in Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room

Sunday, May 26th, Baccalaureate Sunday during Main Worship Service



CHILDREN'S ministry

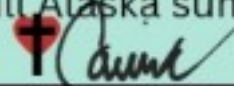


Dear First Pres Folks,

I don't know about you, but I was tired after winter. I was tired after January--but I didn't have time to stop and rest. I didn't rest until I noticed myself grumpy and irritated and ready to snap! I finally took a "staycation" at home this month--and I found this book: Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, by Marva Dawn.

Ms Dawn reminded me of everything I knew about Sabbath but had forgotten: we rest as an act of faith, that God will take care of us. We rest to remember we are not God-- and we rest because it is a commandment!

As I try to change my weary ways, God is meeting me. Lessons are prepared more quickly. I remember to do small things that make life sweeter for my family. I'm full of ideas, and I have a smidgen more grace for myself and others. As we look toward our full Alaska summer, I pray you have rest too. Maybe this book will help!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP PROJECT



Use your strength, teamwork and creativity to build an amazing undersea world for VBS! We'll work, play and learn about God's plan to change the world through you!

June 10-14
10 am-2 pm
Lunch
included.

Scan the code
below to
register.



ROOTS CLUB

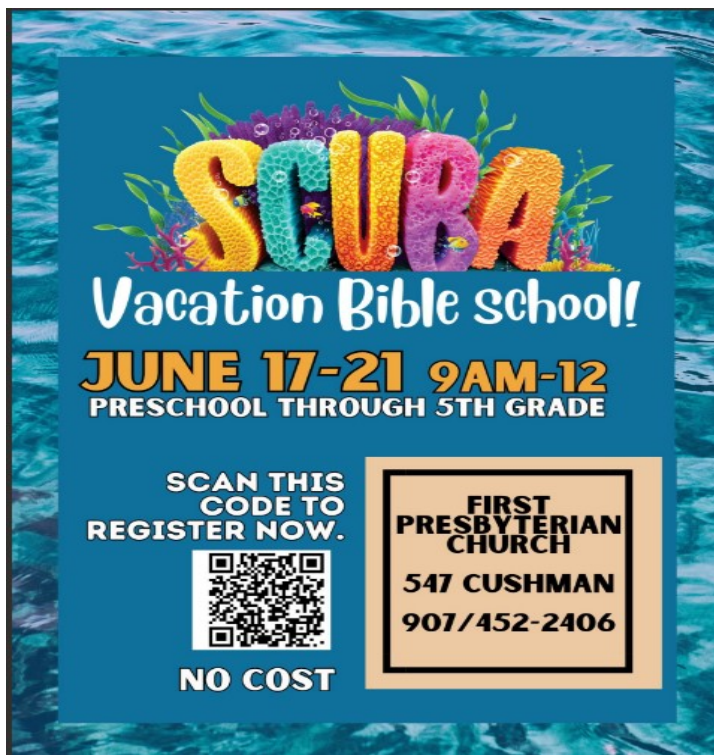
MAY 5: MEET AS USUAL
MAY 12: MEET AT
PIONEER PARK FOR END
OF YEAR FUN!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MAY 5: MEET 9 AM
MAY 12: MEET AT
9AM, END OF YEAR
CELEBRATION!

CLIMB CLUB

MAY 1: MEET AS USUAL
MAY 8 & 15 TBD
JUNE 10-14: MIDDLE SCHOOL
SERVICE PROJECT



Upcoming Events In June

