

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, May

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KID & MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

JUNE 9-13 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FOR KIDS ENTERING PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!

TRUE NORTH
Exploring Jesus in a Wild World!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT JUNE 2-6

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!

WEEKLY
Sunday school for K-8th meets 9:00 am weekly in our downstairs classrooms.

Just a reminder:

Summer is almost here, and the various Sunday School programs will be taking a break!

The last weekly Sunday School program will be on May 18th

(Regular weekly programs will resume in the fall)

Activities taking place during the summer will be announced as they are scheduled.

SUMMER

First Presbyterian Church Annual Baby Shower
May 31, 2025
10:00-12:00
Potluck Style
Please bring a dish to share!

We will be honoring the following families:

Emily & Adam Kuhl - Baby boy due May 1st

Ganna & Nicholas Wolfe - Osmo David Wolfe
Born August 23, 2024
(Currently 24 months old)

Natalie & Sam Guckin - Baby girl due in June

Find Our Free Pregnancy Center -
If you need one, please call:
Baby Wise (not a clinic or hospital)
24/7 & 24 hours
Full service 478-57
Center for all baby needs
(Center located at 478-57)
(Or go to findourpregnancy.com for more needs)

If you know of someone who is currently pregnant, adopted or had a baby since June 2023, please let me know or a friend so we can honor them as well.

Happy 30th Anniversary!

We are celebrating Peggy Nicholas and her Three Decades of Faithful Service to First Presbyterian Church as Nursery Director on May 18th, 2025 during the worship service and with a reception to follow.

If you or your child enjoyed growing up in the Nursery under Peggy's loving care, please consider sharing photos and stories! Send them to davidboohar@gmail.com

Gifts are encouraged! If you are giving through the church, please mark the check or online donation with "Peggy's 30th"

fpc
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Pink Friday at the Big Dipper
meet us on the 2nd floor of the Big Dipper from 11:00 - 1:00 to walk.

Last Walk is Friday, May 9th

WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 4th, AFTER GRADUATION RECEPTION.

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office: 907-452-2406
Fax: 907-452-7205

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FAIRBANKS APRIL 30

NEXT GEN MINISTRY
Weekly Updates

COMING UP:

SUNDAY, MAY 4th - BIBLE STUDY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

SUNDAY, MAY 11th - NO MEETING. ENJOY YOUR FAMILY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 18th - WORSHIP NIGHT @ NICOLE'S

SUNDAY, MAY 25th - BIBLE STUDY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

GRADUATION SUNDAY IS NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 4th IF YOU ARE A STUDENT OR PARENT OF A STUDENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORMS ATTACHED TO THE QR CODES BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

SCHLOTTFELDT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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.

~~ From the Pastor ~~



Some days you set a Personal Best, and some days you struggle just to walk through the door. Whether you're a runner, hockey player, or weightlifter, if you've been engaging in any athletic activity for any measurable amount of time, you have found this to be true. On certain days, the miles fly by and you feel like you can keep up with Kipchoge and other days you feel like you're dragging your feet with every stride.

On this side of death and Resurrection, sanctification works in much the same way. For every step forward that we take toward spiritual maturity, we often find ourselves taking one (or more!) steps backward as we stumble and sin. Take heart! This is neither surprising nor disappointing to our Lord and Savior. Jesus knows you, and Jesus knows your weakness and your strength. Sanctification is not a straight line that is generally headed upward to righteous behavior and heavenly status. Sanctification is the life-long process by which we are formed more and more into the image of Christ Jesus: that is the image of God within an individual who is part of the redeemed and restored humanity that is under the sovereignty of The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is a fancy theological way of saying that God never lets go of us. Even when we turn away, even when we go and find new trouble for ourselves, even when we go and break ourselves or the world in some new and terrible way, God holds us close and then draws us in closer. Now, does this mean we should sin even more so that God's grace could abound even more? As St Paul writes: "By No Means!" Our sin is neither the source of nor the vehicle to God's grace and love. Sin is the wall that you build that Jesus must tear down in order to reach you. Sanctification is what happens after you and Jesus (mostly Jesus) has dealt with that most recent wall.

Your sanctification, much like your athletic process, is often going better than you think it is. What feels like a discouraging workout today was probably an impossible workout for you a few years ago. When you stumble and succumb to a temptation to sin, you may be discouraged, but you're also mature enough to realize you stumbled. You are wise enough to go before God in confession and repentance, and that is something you would not have even have been aware of earlier in your journey of faith.

"Be strong and courageous... for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." [Deuteronomy 31:6]

Ultimately, sanctification is not a linear path. It is a lifelong journey with God. We walk by faith, not by our own strength or understanding.

~~Pastor David

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Genesis 35:3

FPC Young Adult Ministry

NOTES FROM NICOLE

First Pres Families,

Spring has sprung and at the time of this writing we've experienced BREAK-UP but not GREEN-UP (loading.....). Alaska teaches us something few other states can and it's that change, though sometimes drastic is good for us - even when we don't want it. Life, more often than not follows the pattern of nature and Young Adult Ministry is no different.

This last newsletter under our current theme "O Come to the Altar". I don't know about your students but I have very much needed extra emphasis on being at the altar. We are concluding the first chapter of the 5 year plan (if you attended the intro parent meeting last January when I arrived or read the parent handouts this was in there) and we're moving on to the next phase: **COVENANT**. A rich study in the word reflecting what it means to be His. We'll be in COVENANT for at least two years.

With COVENANT comes *new* branding and discipleship plans. Beginning mid-June High School will serve in the Narthex on Sunday morning at the greeters stand and assisting with coffee prep & service. This fills in the gap of giving hospitality some relief, serving our community, and staying connected to the multi-generations who worship at First Pres.

High School bible study will move to Sundays at 4:00 p.m. with group worship 1 to 2 times p/mos depending on worship team availability. Scattered in the mix will be exclusive meet-ups for College and Career.

The final change of the summer is our name. When I arrived it was clear we needed three distinct groups to effectively minister to our church. For the past 17 months this group has been called Young Adult and it brought a fair amount of confusion. Moving forward we're known as **Next Gen Ministry**. Same ages. Different name.

The summer event calendar is listed at the bottom of this newsletter article. I can't wait to see you and your student at some of these events. Shared experience is what helps build connection and no one is better at summer than Fairbanks. Let's move forward remembering we can always return to the altar to find the God who saves us:

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."

For the good and God,
-Nicole

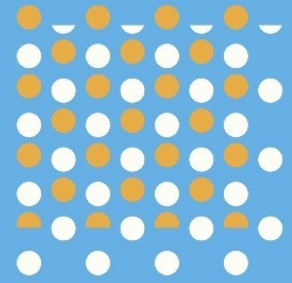
Summer Events

- May 4th - Graduation Sunday
- June - Stanley Cup Championship Game Party in the Studio
- June 20th - Goldpanners Midnight Sun Game
- June 21st - Midnight Sun Run Hospitality Tent
- July 19th - Golden Days Parade, Float + Walkers
- July 20th - 25th, Summer Mission Trip: Nome Alaska





CHILDREN'S ministry

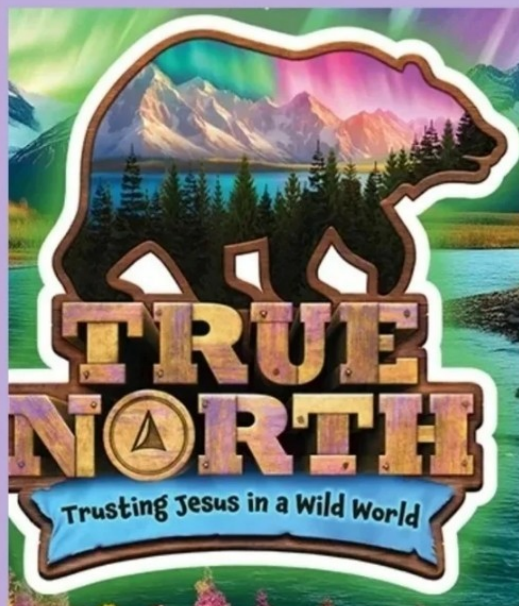


Dear First Pres Folks,
Welcome to spring! Our Middle school girls group spent time at Creamers Field this week, learning from the Alaska Songbird Institute and enjoying one of the most beautiful days I've seen in a while. I loved the birds and being outside with these fun and funny girls, and I learned something interesting: songbirds have to learn their songs by listening to their parents and older birds. If they learn their song, they can find their own mates, and build their own nests as adults. Somehow, I thought it was instinct! It made me think how glad I am that we have a chance to teach our kids God's song: His mercy, His goodness, His character. Our children grow up and they choose where to go with their lives and their faith, but we have this time to teach them the song they are born for. If there's a child in your life who would love to learn God's song, through the beauty of God's Alaskan Creation, sign them up to share our adventure at VBS! What they learn now can give them life and hope for the future.

**JUNE
9-13**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FOR KIDS ENTERING PRE-K
THROUGH 5TH GRADE



SCAN TO
REGISTER
NOW!



May

Happy Anniversary!

Barb & Keith Nore

May 26th

Happy Birthday!

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

Session Report

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the April 21, 2025 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.

The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer.

In attendance at the meeting was RE Mike McCandless, the outgoing Chair of the Presbytery's Ministerial Committee. Mike is making a tour of the churches in the Presbytery before leaving the Committee. He was able to worship with FPC on Easter Sunday.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.

The minutes from the March 26th Stated Session meeting, and the vital statistics from the previous month, were approved.

It was moved, seconded and passed to ratify the results of email votes conducted over the past month.

Correspondence was received from Youth Director and FPC Member Nicole Matthews. Later in the meeting Session spend time discussion topics that were brought up in the letter

Church membership is 156 as of April 21, 2025. The average church attendance for the last month was 162, including Easter. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date is 151.

The Items on the Consent Calendar were reviewed and approved. This included approval of the January and February Deacons Meeting Minutes.

Because Pastor David is scheduled to attend General Assembly during the week of the June 17th to 19th, at a time when Session would normally be meeting, the June Stated Session Meeting will need to be rescheduled. It was moved, seconded, and passed to "Move the June Stated Session Meeting to Tuesday June 10, 2025".

Session members are checking their calendars to determine if they are available to attend the meetings of the General Assembly, as Commissioners, June 17th to 19th in Northville, Mich. Decision needs to be made and voted on prior to Commissioner Certification Deadline on May 15, 2025.

Ruling Elders (RE) Brian Rozell and Keith Nore volunteered to assist with Communion on May 4, 2025.

Clerk of Session Dave Dreydoppel volunteered to provide snack for the May 20th Session meeting.

Session was reminded that TE Andrew Smith (of the EPC) will be preaching on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

Session discussed issues related to the safety of those attending services, as well as those visitors who are looking for a warm place to rest. Also brought up were recent changes to the flow of people entering through the front doors and additional narthex monitors. RE Brian Sunderland will be calling a meeting of the Safety Sub-Committee on Sunday, May 4, 2025, after morning worship.

Mike McCandless was able to provide some input and advice on Security Issues that FPC is encountering. It appears that this is a common topic among some "Downtown" EPC Churches and some sources of information were identified and will be followed up on, in-person at the upcoming Presbytery Meeting in May. Additionally, he was able to provide some insight into topics that will be raised at the Upcoming General Assembly Meeting in June. Session spent time in prayer with and for Mike.

Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams. These reports included such topics and information as;

Received an update from Pastor David on recent services during Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. It was mentioned that those asked though that serving Communion each Sunday during Lent was a good idea. Communion will return to the normal once a month on the first Sunday. Weekly Communion during Lent will most likely return next year.

The Well will end meal service, for the Summer on May 21st and will begin again in the fall.

Facilities brought forward two motions; a motion to install lighting on the 8th Ave parking lot at a cost of approximately \$6,000 was passed. A motion to have the roof of the church inspected, in preparation for solar panel installation was also passed.

It was requested that the Chair of the Stewardship and Finance Committee provide a short summary of the financial status of FPC to be inserted into the bulletin on the Sunday after the Session Meeting and into the newsletter, beginning with this month.

The FPC Stewardship Snapshot for the time period of January 1 to March 25, 2025 reports income of \$137,636.72 and expenses of \$145,619.78

The Clerk of Session was directed to research several motions which were made in years past, which affect current financial practices.

The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator and the closing prayer was led by RE Brian Sunderland.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on May 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

1st Pres Stewardship Snapshot

Jan 1- Mar 25, 2025

Income \$137,636.72

Expenses \$145,619.78

