

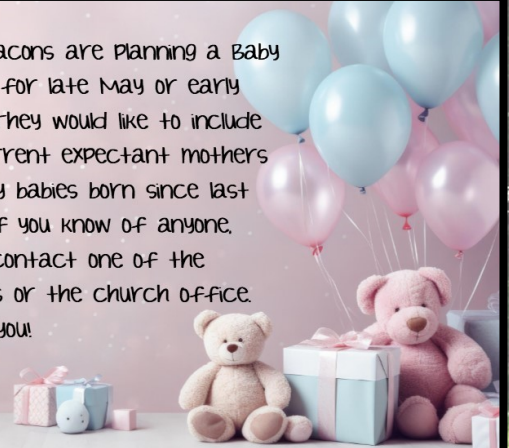
# FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, May 2026

## In This Issue:

From the Pastor  
Children's Ministry  
NextGen Ministry  
May Birthdays & Anniversary  
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Prayer Calendar

The Deacons are Planning a Baby shower for late May or early June. They would like to include any current expectant mothers and any babies born since last June. If you know of anyone, please contact one of the deacons or the church office. Thank you!



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### WAYS TO GIVE

At First Pres



#### GIVE ONLINE

<https://pushpay.com/g/fairbanksfirstpres>

#### GIVE ON YOUR PHONE

Text GIVE to 833-245-4294 or scan the QR code.



#### GIVE IN PERSON

Place your envelope in the offering plate as it passes by.

In addition to online giving, PushPay has a number of other features available through the Church Management Software. We are continuing to set up these features, but eventually we will have access to an events calendar and scheduling, groups (such as Children's Ministries or Life Groups), church directory info., Sunday School check-ins, etc. To access the part of PushPay that is NOT giving based, please use the url below.

[FairbanksFirstPres.ccbchurch.com](http://FairbanksFirstPres.ccbchurch.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.



## ~~ From the Pastor ~~



### **Let's Welcome Our New Members!**

Sunday worship on April 12th was a BIG DAY! There are no Post-Easter lulls here at First Pres, that is for sure. In the midst of all the excitement of celebrating our Lord's resurrection and enjoying a Next Gen-led worship team, I made a mistake when I welcomed all of our new members to come forward. Please forgive my error and help me welcome all of our new members!

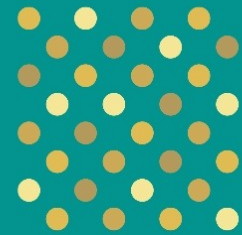
Steven, Julie, Eleanor, Henry, Lucy, and Patty Lynn Hurtle  
Jeremy, Emily, Keila, and Kieran Boynton  
Eric, Ariana, Callie, Luke, Torrin, Lienna, and Felicity Jensen  
Scott, Kendi, and Tye Adams  
Karen Fritsche  
Viletta Knight  
Noelle Lyle

I am so excited to welcome you all into full membership of this congregation and see how God draws you deeper into His love in the coming days!

I know we have a few more folks who have taken the New Members Class but have yet to meet with the Elders and join the congregation and I have spoken with several other individuals who expressed interest in taking the New Members Class. If you are in one of these categories, or you just have questions about deeper participation in the life of our congregation, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! Your Pastor and your Elders are here for you, and we love to celebrate every milestone in your life and in the life of this church!



# CHILDREN'S ministry



**THANK YOU  
EGGSTRAVAGANZA  
VOLUNTEERS!**

Dear First Pres Folks,  
Thank you for supporting our ministry this spring! Thanks to your prayers, volunteering and donations, Eggstravaganza and Easter morning were successful events in the lives of our kids. Our Eggstravaganza attendance was up this year and many new faces attended. One new family expressed their relief at finding a church with lots of kids and programs for kids. They said they'd been looking for a home church with great kids programs, but many they'd seen had no children in them. Please join me in thanking God that these folks found us, and asking Him to grow healthy children's ministries around Fairbanks. There are plenty of children to go around-



## May Calendar

- 5/3 Last day of Climb
- 5/6 Last day of Roots
- 5/10 Confirmation Day and Roots Certificates presented during Church.
- 5/24 Last Sunday School
- 6/7-10 Gospel Lab



***BECOMING GOD'S  
CURIOUS PEOPLE***

Sunday June 7-  
Wednesday June 10  
5-8 p.m

Includes dinner  
Registration for First  
Pres attendees and  
friends opens soon!



# Covenant

## Notes from Nicole

First Pres Families,

We made it another whole school year. In four weeks we will officially settle into summer under the midnight sun. What a gift it is to be in this land, in this space, to behold and know our maker under this sky. The 2025-2026 year felt very much like survival for many of us and the longer days are a welcome sight.

As we look forward to midnight sun our high school students have made their summer bucket list and it will be cool to see those plans come to fruition.

I want to thank you again for supporting NextGen. In the past week we've seen some prayers answered whether it be related to getting vehicles working, passing finals, or just being able to provide a fellowship dinner students are seeing prayers answered.

In April we moved out of the gospels and into Letters and Law. As our theme of "Covenant" continues we get to take a deeper look at what it means to be *His*. For two and a half years we've learned about our Savior - now we get to deep dive into what it means to inherit the kingdom of God while we share it.

This ties in beautifully with Pastor David's sermon series, "translating Christians" because so often we get lost in the semantics and need clearer understanding. In both big church and NextGen we're learning more of what it means to be **His**. It's cool to see this unfold together. I pray this season of learning blesses you.

For the Good and God,  
-Nicole

## May Calendar

- **Graduation Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **NextGen Worship: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **NextGen will not meet Mother's Day weekend, May 10<sup>th</sup> or the weekend of the 31st**
- **High School Seniors and Incoming Freshman move up June 7<sup>th</sup>**





# *Birthdays*

- 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**
- 27 Brandon VanHatten**
- 28 Denise Wallace**

# *May*

*Happy  
Anniversary!*

**Barb and Keith Nore**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**



**What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the April 21, 2026 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:01 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.
- A written financial summary was received from Church Treasurer Mikki Holt. Mikki was in attendance to provide information and answer any questions. Year to date receipts have been \$198,311 and year to date expenses paid are \$146,767, resulting in an approximately \$51,543 surplus. Several larger than expected gifts have been made.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The vital statistics from March 18<sup>th</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup> and the minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Session Meeting, March 29<sup>th</sup> Special Session Meeting, and April 12<sup>th</sup> Special Session Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no email votes were conducted over the last month.
- Church membership increased from 152 as of March 17<sup>th</sup> to 161 with the reception of 9 new members. The average weekly church attendance increased over the last month to 143 per service. Average weekly attendance for 2026 year-to-date is 173, as the result of the Easter Sunday Morning Service.
- Correspondence was received from Ruling Elder Keith Nore. Keith presented a letter about the Narthex Ministry.
- Session discussed a possible policy for the attendance of Known Offenders. It was determined that this topic would be folded into the current policy process on Sexual Misconduct being conducted by Grace Ministries.
- A motion from the Finance & Stewardship Committee was brought to Session, was discussed and was passed:

MOTION: The Stewardship and Finance Committee moves that the 1st Presbyterian 2026 Budget be amended by: 1) increasing the Other Income line in the Income section from \$5945 to \$16,045; and 2) increasing the budgeted amount in the Personnel Training line in the Other Personnel Budget section from \$1500 to \$7500.
- RE Brian Sunderland was elected as a Commissioner to the May Presbytery Meeting, May 8-9<sup>th</sup> at Sunset Presbyterian in Portland Oregon.
- RE Brian Sunderland was also elected as a Commissiner to the 2026 General Assembly Meeting, June 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> , at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, Colorado.
- Ruling Elders Paul Reichardt and Charles Beaudreault volunteered to assist with communion on Sunday May 3, 2026.
- RE Charles Beaudreault will be providing snacks for the May Session Meeting and RE Dave Henry for the June Meeting.

- Written and verbal reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- The Pastor reported that he has officiated a one funeral, has had several pastor counseling sessions and pastoral visitations, and planning for the summer Gospel Lab continues.
- The Administration Team reports that the policy process by Grace Ministries is underway.
- The Children’s Ministry Team has asked to clarify who will sign-off on fiscal paperwork related to Christian Formations activities. It was moved and passed that RE Brian Rozell would sign-off for Adult Education and Special Ministries and that RE Paul Reichardt would sign-off for NextGen and Children’s Ministries.
- The Facilities Ministry Team reported that the solar panels are producing an increased amount of our electrical needs with the extending sunlight. There are several mission work teams coming to Fairbanks this summer, and are looking for suggestions for mission projects. Work on increasing the security of the facilities door locks is in progress.
- NextGen Ministries Team reports that the Confirmation Class is in progress and almost completed. There will be 6 to 7 confirmands to be examined by Session. It was moved, seconded and passed that a Special Session Meeting would take place on May 3, 2026 at 5pm to conduct the examination and that they would be welcomed into membership on May 10, 2026 at the morning worship service.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 9:00 pm and RE Brian Rozell led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on May 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

## **PROPOSED REALLOCATION OF THE SEMINARY EXPENSE RESERVE FUND**

Some years ago, Session created the Seminary Expense Reserve Fund (SERF) as an opportunity for members of the 1st Pres congregation to financially assist our then Youth Director, David McConnell-Booher, with his seminary expenses. Funds left over after David completed seminary have been held in the account with the explicit intent of providing similar support to other individuals who are connected with 1st Pres and are enrolled in seminary studies.

In the years since David graduated, there have been no inquiries about financial support from the fund. Consequently, the Stewardship and Finance Committee is considering a recommendation to Session that the SERF be dissolved and the remaining funds (\$3951.44) be transferred to the principal of the Schlotfeldt Scholarship Fund, which generates interest to provide scholarships to 1st Pres-affiliated college students. However, the Committee recognizes that the possibility of reappropriation of funds was not part of the agreement under which individuals contributed to the establishment of the SERF.


**Therefore, as part of the process and as an acknowledgement of the importance of following donor intent, the Committee asks that any individual who contributed to the Seminary Expense Reserve Fund and has questions or reservations about the proposed reallocation contact Paul Reichardt (paulreichardt@gmail.com or 907-347-3214), the Chair of the Stewardship and Finance Committee by May 8.**



**1st Pres Staff**  
 David McConnell-Booher  
 Nicole Matthews  
 Carina Menaker  
 Noreen Harwood  
 Peggy Nicholas  
 Paul Bonnell

**Deacons**  
 Marta Beauchreault  
 Aaron Evans  
 Bethany Evans  
 Debby Foster  
 Daniel Griggs  
 Emily Kohl  
 Kathy Libby  
 Shannon Riggs  
 Christy Repasky  
 Sarah Rozell  
 Joanna Weber

**Elders**  
 Charles Beauchreault  
 David Dreydoppel  
 David Henry  
 David McConnell-Booher  
 Keith Nore  
 Paul Reichardt  
 Brian Rozell  
 Brian Sunderland

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1	2
						Noreen Harwood	Adam, Julie, Ainsley & Allyson Benson
3	Our Pastor	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Geoffrey Beyersdorf	Paul Bonnell	Ellicia Boswell	Ronda Boswell	George & Wanda Bowder	Daniel & Debra Brady
10	Men's Ministry	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Billy, Stephanie, Liam & Oliver Brewer	Bill & Donna Brewer	Shane Brice	Glenn & Beth Brummond	Matt, Marita, Owen, Blake & Trevor Bunch	Jerry & Janice Cleworth
17	Youth & Children's Ministries	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Johanna Coester	Bryon, Debby & Cora Cogley	Colin, Wendy, Marcus, Sara & Christopher Cogley	Aurora & Hunter Colasacco	Sam, Natalie, Isla, Silas & Maevis Cuidon	Joy-el Culligan
24		25	26	27	28	29	30
		Sarah Curtis	Molly DeLeon	Chris, Maggie & Ridge Demers	David & Nancy Dreydoppel	Jenna Dreydoppel	Lindsey Dreydoppel
31	FPC						

**Healing Prayers for**  
 Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis  
 George Shoogukawrk Kianna May  
 Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels