



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 14

May 2019



Upcoming Event

Annual Congregational Meeting
June 2, 2019

World, depart, let Jesus in!

One of my annual traditions during Holy Week is listening to the St. Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach. My favorite aria occurs near the end of the Passion. Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for Jesus' body in order to place it in a tomb. The bass aria, "Mache dich, mein Herze" is an intimate, enfolding text based on Matthew 28: 57-61. Bach tenderly incorporates a comforting, gentle-rocking orchestral accompaniment, while Joseph asks for a pure heart so that he can make a precious grave for Jesus.

Like Joseph of Arimathea, this message is for us as we now celebrate the empty tomb: that Jesus would purify our hearts and make his dwelling – more and more – within us.

"World, depart, let Jesus in!"

Below is a translation of the aria from the German text:

Make thyself, my heart, now pure,
I myself would Jesus bury.
For he shall henceforth in me
More and more
Find in sweet repose his dwelling.
World, depart, let Jesus in!

Note: If you haven't heard the St. Matthew Passion or Mache Dich, several high quality audio and video recordings are available on YouTube.

Russ Vander Lugt

In Honor of Memorial Day, the Front Office Will Be Closed Monday, May 27, 2019

From the Pastor ~~~~~

Friends in Christ,

It seems that a Sunday does not go by when someone asks me about the Pastor Search process and when will it be finished. This is a good question and I assure you I'm not taking it personally. I am loving my time in Fairbanks, but I know it won't last forever. So I have put together a general outline as to how Presbyterians find a new pastor. It is important that you know this as you are an important part of this process.

1. The Session is presently putting together a 7 member nominating committee to be given to you next month and voted on June 2 at our Congregational Meeting.

2. The elected Pastor Search Committee (PSC) will begin its weekly meetings upon being elected to put together a Church Information Form (CIF) that describes the demographics, nature, history and culture of First Presbyterian Church. Then an essay is written describing Fairbanks, Alaska, and its demographics, nature, history and culture. This will take about 60 days.

3. That CIF will be sent out to the nation through a variety of search engines. Your suggestions and input are very welcome at this point. If you know of a pastor that you would like to see called to ministry at First Presbyterian, pass that name on to the PSC.

4. Resumes will be received and evaluated, with some being interviewed and their references contacted. This will take any where from 4 months to 1 year. This part of the process will not be public.

5. When all those names submitted have been narrowed down to one, then the PSC will ask the Session to call a Congregational Meeting to have you vote "Yes" or "No" for this candidate.

Before this meeting, there will be a time to get acquainted with the candidate and hear this person preach in worship.

6. Then, EUREKA! We have a celebration and begin a new chapter in the history of Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church.

Now all of this is going to need two things. First it needs your prayers. Each one of us needs to keep the PSC in prayer, encouraging them as they pour themselves into this task. They won't be able to tell us much, but they will be working hard. Second, it will take time. It may take up to a year or more. Be patient. I will do everything I can to make this in-between time meaningful and spiritually equipping. This is not wasted time, but could be extremely productive personally and institutionally.

God bless us as we continue this adventure of being the First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks.

Dr. Donald Baird



Each week, the Food Bank delivers approximately 5200 pounds of food via food boxes to the church, and volunteers assist with unloading and distributing these food boxes to the community.



Bus tokens (purchased by the Deacon Ministry) are distributed to the local community throughout the week as a means to assist with bus transportation for job interviews, etc.

News From the Elders



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

The meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer by Elder Donna Brewer. Pastor Don's "Pastor's Study" was from Ephesians 4:25-28.

The Session conducted the three month review of the Transition Pastor Don Baird, and the Transitional Pastor Covenant.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to discontinue the Elder Corner program at this time. The Congregation Care Ministry Team and Hospitality Ministry Team will be discussing replacing it with a Prayer Corner.

Session continued to discuss the makeup of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

A building use request from a 12-step program was received and forwarded to the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team for action.

RE Jim Williams brought a motion to "continue participation in the Loving Families Program". The motion was **seconded** and **passed**.

The revisions of the Personnel Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy were tabled until the May Stated Meeting.

RE Barb Page moved to "direct the Facilities Team to investigate the installation of a panic button for the Administrative Office". The motion was **seconded** and **passed**.

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

David Dreydoppel
Clerk of Session

FPC Baby Shower/Brunch Saturday, May 18, 2019 (10am-12pm)

Mark your calendars! We are having a baby shower! We currently have three moms and their babies to honor: **Trisha Herren** and her daughter, **Abigail**. (who will be 4 months old by the date of the shower), **Lynn Hull** and her son, **Henry**, (who will soon be 3 months old and is already wearing size 9 mos. clothes!) and **Emily Kohl**, who is expecting a **baby girl** in **Oct**. We will also have a basket for **The Care Net Pregnancy Center**, hopefully you will consider donating to it.

If you know any other mom attending FPC who is currently expecting or had a baby this past year and wasn't honored at our 2018 baby shower, please contact **Rachel Johnson** (907-978-6400) or **JoAnn Mills** (455-7002) as soon as possible. We don't want to miss anyone. We hope you will come celebrate with us! Please bring a gift for at least one of the babies and a brunch food item to share.

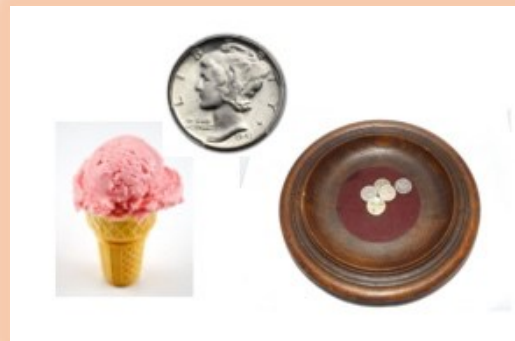
Learning about Stewardship

Parents have an important role to play in teaching and demonstrating stewardship to their children. A wave of nostalgia washed over me upon learning that an offering is taken in our children's church. This started a period of reflection on how I had learned about stewardship, the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

I learned stewardship at home, not in the public schools and not in Sunday school. It started with the dime left under my pillow by the tooth fairy. A dime was a lot of money. With a dime I could buy two ice cream cones.

With 25 cents I could even buy my favorite lemon ice cream soda at Woolworth's soda fountain. My mom told me that, because "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it," (Psalm 24: 1 NIV), I should give part of my newly acquired wealth to the offering at church. She taught me that a tithe would be one penny from my dime. After giving the penny, at least part of the remaining nine cents could be saved. Some could be spent for that coveted ice cream cone or the entire nine cents could be saved and later maybe there would be enough to get an ice cream soda. When I was older, my dad offered to let me use a piece of land to do a 4-H commercial garden project. His suggestion that I grow strawberries was followed up with a visit to the neighboring county where a strawberry farmer taught me how to set up a commercial strawberry patch. Next, mom taught me how to keep a double entry ledger for tracking all income and expenditures and how to manage a checking account. My parents encouraged me to save for college and to make an offering to God as part of my worship. The fact that my parents always put something in the offering plate taught me that giving is important. My parents guided me to establish a pattern of tithing, saving, and spending wisely.

Barbara Page
Elder of Stewardship



1 Stephanie Brewer	25 Deborah Sirevaag
2 Jonah Brown	26 Robert Boswell
5 Ed Washburn	27 Brandon VanHatten
9 Joel Gibson	28 Denise Wallace
13 Ashley Morris	29 Joe Parker
14 Charles Gray	
15 Nathanael Hull	
Sarah Craft	
17 William Van Harper	
20 John Prusak	
23 Logan Foster	

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Seasons of Change and New Life

As we enter this season of change and new life in Alaska, we reflect on where we began, where we are today, and where we are going in the future. *"He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."*

Psalm 1:3

Just like the chokecherry tree that begins to emerge with its green leaves now, in early spring; as it evolves in mid-May or early summer into full blossom filled with incredible fragrance; then the blossoms transform into berries dripping with dew from the fall frost waiting to feed the birds and wildlife eager to brave the Alaskan winter; and finally the dehydrated fermented berries cling to the branch awaiting new life and the next season of change.

Our lives, too, are filled with seasons of change and new life. Each of us has challenges and new adventures that we look to our Lord Jesus Christ to carry us on these journeys. It is with His guidance and our hope and faith in Him that keeps us strong. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."*

Philippians 4:13

Each of us makes a difference in the lives of one another. What are you doing to make a difference? Reach out and lend a hand, share a smile, pray for your enemies and loved ones, and *"trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."* Proverbs 3:5-6

The two most important words: "Thank you." The most important word: "We." The least important word: "I." (God's Little Instruction Book for Teachers) *"Don't be selfish . . . Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself."*

Philippians 2:3

As our seasons change, be joyful, and caring. Thank you, members of First Presbyterian Church, for sharing your talents and gifts with our congregation. It is a pleasure for the Board of Deacons to serve you and lift you up the best we are able.

Barbara Nore
Deacon Ministry



Children's Ministry Friends!

Join us as we celebrate the end of the school year in Children's Ministry with a tasty brunch. Bring your family down to the fellowship Hall, Sunday, May 19th, at 10:00 a.m. and a favorite dish to share. Thanks to all the extraordinary volunteers who have helped with Children's Church and Roots. Our kids have made amazing connections and learned a lot through Bible Telling! We hope to see you there!

Questions? Please contact Heidi Van Harper 206-406-3736 (cell) or Mikki Holt at 206-790-6232 (cell).



On Tuesday, April 23, the **Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Group** began a five (5) weeks bible study of **1 and 2 Timothy**. This study will end on May 21. Childcare is provided. **Invite a friend and plan to come!** We will meet in the FPC Conference Room each Tuesday from 10-11:30 am. For more information, contact **Donna Brewer** at 907-378-3351 or billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com.

NOTE: May 21st is the last day of Women's Bible Study



FPC Playgroup for kids meet in the church nursery from 10-12 each Thursday during the school year and rotates at area parks during the summer. For more information, please call or text Amber Sunderland at 970-497-9481 or e-mail her at amberbug@spu.edu.

NOTE: Due to food allergies, please refrain from providing any products with peanuts to the nursery.

NOTE: The nursery will be closed from May 21-23, 2019 due to nursery cleanup.



Graduation Celebration Sunday - Do you know any First Pres. folks graduating from high school, college, technical school, or graduate school? We want to celebrate all of our graduates on Sunday, May 19. In order to get all those name on the cake and your profile in our booklet, please contact David (by May 14!) with your full name, your school, future plans, and a picture we can share of you. Congrats!

Spring Cleaning! - Do you need weeds pulled? Grass mowed? Leaves bagged? Trees trimmed? The youth are looking to raise money for their mission work this summer and mission trips in summers to come! Please contact David (978-2939) if you have a job the youth can help with!