

# *First Light*

A Monthly Newsletter  
Publication of the  
Fairbanks First  
Presbyterian Church

May 2023



**Creamers Field**

## *Hello May!!*

*A Month Full of Celebrations at FPC!!*

Please Join Us in a Celebration  
for  
Our Transitional Pastor

**Dr. Peter Dembroski**



Sunday, May 7, 11:30am

Please join us in thanking Pastor Peter for his two years of leadership and friendship. There will be a light lunch, a time to give public thanks, and a reception afterward.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Wishing you a very  
special day filled  
with love and  
happiness!!

- 1 Stephanie Brewer
- 2 Jonah Brown
- 5 Ed Washburn
- 9 Joel Gibson
- 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



**HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY!**

*May 14, 2023*

*To ALL  
Women who  
Love with a  
Mom Heart....*





WOMEN'S  
EVENT

SATURDAY  
May 6, 10am

At  
Alaska Coffee Roasting Company  
4001 Geist Road

Let's Meet  
for Coffee, Tea,  
and  
Great  
Conversation!!  
Bring a Friend!!



For additional information , please contact Cindy Aldrich at 907-388-6366

For as the earth bring forth it sprouts,  
and as a gardener causes what is sown  
in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will  
cause righteousness and praise to  
sprout up before all nations.

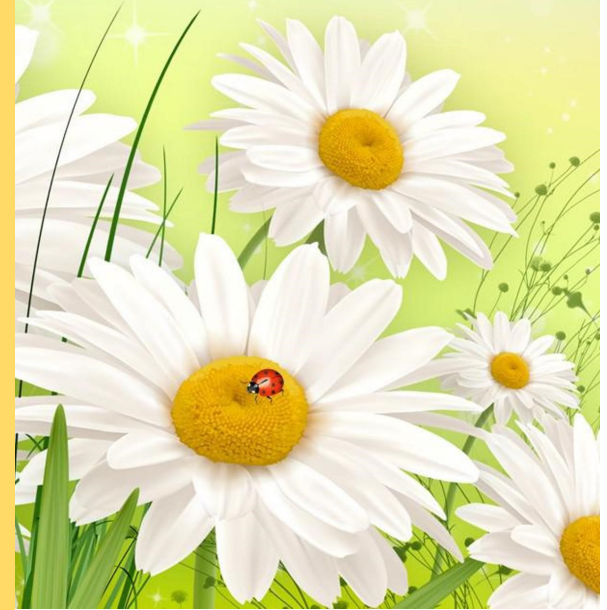
Isaiah 61:11



*Remember and Honor*

Office Closure Monday, May 29, 2023

Spring is  
Here!



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.

## ~~~ Pastor Peter ~~~

I thank God for the 2 years, 3 months and 12 days that I was with First Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks. My heart is full of joy and thanksgiving and I will leave knowing that I have great relationships that will continue throughout my life. Daily, I am blessed by the quality of members and leaders that have committed themselves to FPC.

I am thankful to God for .....

- FPC's faithfulness and conviction to preach, teach and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- the Session and all the elders that served on the Session. Their leadership provided a new hope for the future of FPC. They served faithfully and prayed diligently to hear God's voice to bring healing, joy, health and a new chapter for FPC.
- Dave Dreydoppel for his leadership as our clerk of Session. He is a faithful, helpful and humble colleague to me and to the Session.
- David McConnell – Booher's leadership, maturity, and friendship. When I started with him, he was a potential candidate to become a pastor, with no hope of being a lead pastor at FPC, and we all saw the miracle that took David from a youth director to the senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church.
- Marta Conner, who is an amazing office manager and represents the good that comes from FPC. She also is a kindred spirit when it comes to our sharing of our love for Jesus Christ.
- Carina Menaker, our children's director, who is a blessing from God and I thank God for her. Her love for children is so evident as well as her love for her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful that I was a part of God bringing her here at FPC.
- the men's ministry, for their friendship and

the time they spent with me.

- the music ministry at FPC which is amazing and inspirational and has been a blessing to me.
- Last, but not least, the Deacons and their care for the members of FPC...a true example of how Deacons should serve.
- His great work at FPC. When I arrived, there was a lot of pain and uncertainty that came from the division that took place. Now I see and feel that FPC is filled with joy from the healing that took place from forgiving and reconciling. God is helping FPC with a new vision and a new pastor.

Because you can see and feel that FPC is healthy, you can sense the excitement that is coming from members, leaders, and visitors at FPC for the future. I am so excited for God's future for you and looking forward to stay connected with you. I promised David Booher that if anybody calls me for pastoral counseling or leadership, they would be referred back to him. My connection will be of friendship and family. I plan to return to Fairbanks in September (moose hunting with Bill Brewer), and David has approved of me to visit as a friend and spectator.

Thank you so much for your support, leadership, and love that I received while I was here.

With God's love,  
Pastor Peter



**A benediction that I shared with the Session and I will share with you.**

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14,13**

**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;  
be men (and women) of courage; be strong.  
Do everything in love. NIV**







# CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres. Folks,  
 This month in children's ministry, we are finishing the school year well. Summer vacation, time at the park, and Vacation Bible school are all just ahead of us, but I want to take a pause to rejoice with you. We have developed all new Sunday school curriculum this year and led the children from the Creation story, through Easter and into the ministry of the Apostles and the Holy Spirit. Our teachers have persevered through illness and fatigue and new teaching territory. Our kids have grown in knowledge of scripture, and their ability to apply it to their lives. I have grown in thankfulness and delight at what God can do-- and gained some practical skills along the way! Thank you for your help and your prayers this year!



## WEEKLY EVENTS:

**Roots Club for Kids 3rd-5th**  
 Last meeting of the year May 7

**Climb Club for Kids 6th-8th**  
 Last meeting of the year May 3

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 7

9:00 Sunday school  
 9:30 Parent Meeting in  
 Fellowship Hall

May 14

9:00 Sunday School  
 Celebrating the Last day of the  
 Sunday School year

## FPC KIDS PARENT MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 7  
 9:30-10

During the Sunday School Hour

- Help set dates for Fall 2023
- get info on FPC Kids summer activities

## MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

This month, the Children's Ministry Team looked back at April programs and counted our blessings-- including lessons learned.

we set a date for the Parent meeting

We discussed building our summer volunteer team for VBS and a potential outreach event during the Midnight Sun Festival.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 4..

## David's Ordination and Installation

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a special worship service of Ordination and Installation as David McConnell-Booher is ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. This service will be Sunday , May 21st at 6:00pm with a reception afterward.

## Youth Ministry News

### Graduation Sunday—May 21!

High School, College, Trade School, Grad School Kindergarten....do you have a student graduating this spring? Please David with their full name, school they are graduating from, future plans, a photo, and any other details you would like to be shared as we celebrate our graduates. We will celebrate and bless our graduates during the Sunday worship service on May 21st and we will have a cupcake reception.

### Youth Summer Schedule

As we finish the school year, Youth Group will stop meeting on Mondays, switch the Wednesday gathering to a 1pm-4pm meeting, and continue to meet on Sundays. From 11:30-3pm. We are looking to schedule special summer activities including a wilderness float trip, a lock-in, day hikes and other off-site adventures. Please contact me if there are preferred days of the week for special activities or weeks that are blocked out for family vacations!

### Summer Mission Quests

FPC will be hosting some church youth groups from the Lower 48 this summer. These students are looking for service projects to tackle while they are here. Do you or your neighbor need help with any home or yard projects that a group of teenagers could assist with? Please contact David at the church office with details about the job you need done.

# SESSION MEETING

- What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the April 25, 2023 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.
- Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on Galatians 5:19-26 and 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. He then opened the meeting with prayer.
- 13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The agenda was approved as amended, by moving the Transitional Pastor's report to the end of the meeting.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer, Mikki Holt, who was in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved as amended.
- There was no correspondence received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Consent Calendar item, which included the approval of the Deacons February 28, 2023 Meeting.
- Session discussed methods of streamlining administrative workflow and records sharing. A workshop, to be combined with prospective officer training is being planned for mid-June.
- Session discussed and set the date for the June 2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, on June 4, 2023 after morning worship.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to reschedule the 2023 May Stated Session Meeting from May 16, 2023 to May 23, 2023.
- In order to formalize the closing out of Pastor Peter's contract, the Personnel Team provided a release from Transitional Ministry Covenant was presented and signed. The document will be sent to the Presbytery by the Clerk of Session to be signed by a Presbytery representative.

***(continued on next page)***



- Session received a verbal report from the Vision Team for our GO Center revitalization process. The next combined work session will be Sunday, March 30, 2023.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- Since it is easier to start at the beginning of a pay period rather than in the middle, it was moved, seconded and passed to initiate David McConnell-Booher's new financial package on May 16th.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to increase the budgeted amount for ordination expenses to \$9,000.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on May 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

*There Will Be  
A  
CELEBRATION  
OF LIFE  
for  
Mark Wartes  
Saturday, May  
20, 2023  
4pm*

**Celebrating  
New Moms**  
Are you expecting, adopting, and/or fostering a child? FPC is planning a baby shower and would like to acknowledge and bless your family. The shower is scheduled to take place about June 10. Please contact the front office staff, a deacon or Elder, and/or Lindsey Dreydoppel at 907-750-8208.

