

# First Light

A Monthly Newsletter Publication  
Volume 31, Issue 5, May 2021



**Holy Communion Sunday**

**May 2**

## On-Line Giving

On-line giving options have been expanded to include designations most frequently made by our congregation, and they are as follows:

- Ministry and Mission of FPC (general fund)
- Junior and Senior High Youth
- Youth Ministry Food
- Flowers
- Youth Mission trip
- Missions
- Seminary Expense Reserve Fund

**May 31**

**Office Closure In honor of  
Memorial Holiday**

*The flowers appear  
on the earth, the  
time of the singing  
of birds is come.  
Song of Solomon 2:11-12*





# *Congratulations!*

## *Class of 2021*

Chloe Albert - Kindergarten  
Hunter Colasacco - High School  
Tyriq Foster - High School  
Harrison Riggs - High School  
Kyle VanHatten - High School  
Sarah Curtis - UAF  
Jenna Dreydoppel - UAF



*Happy Mother's  
Day*  
*To All Women*  
because all women  
bring life to the world  
in some way!



## Chewing on God's Word A Note From Pastor Peter

I like to imagine a cow sitting under a shade tree “chewing her cud”, re-visiting a scrumptious meal that she had consumed an hour earlier. It was a good meal of field grass and now she is slowly grinding her meal into smaller bits for digestion. This is the image that the Bible gives us when we are feeding on and digesting God's Word for spiritual nourishment. To better understand this process, imagine us eating a “sit-down meal” and slowly enjoying every bite of food. We are drinking in the spices, seasonings and flavors that are associated with our delightful meal, or imagine a good piece of chewing gum like a stick of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit or Big Red, we are enjoying the great taste as we slowly work the gum in our mouth, its sweetness and flavor flooding our taste buds.

God tells us to meditate on God's Word, slowly chewing it and tasting all “flavors” with which it is filled. Too often though, we become fast-food Christians, rushing through life and gobbling down our spiritual food.

In this culture and generation, resources are bombarding us so readily and quickly that we jam the information into our minds and hearts on a constant basis, moving on, often without regard to its content. The Internet and e-mail are amazing resources, but many times we find ourselves overwhelmed with information. We sort through our e-mail, its notes, advertisements, anecdotes, and urgent messages at such a frantic pace that we are gasping for air when we are done!

We can find ourselves approaching God's Word in the same way. We shove our mouths full as we move quickly from lesson to lesson and from Scripture verse to Scripture verse, not taking the time to really be nurtured by God's Word. In order for God's Word to fuel our spirit and strengthen our faith, we need to slowly meditate and reflect on its content.

Right now, I want you to set aside 15 minutes (get a timer if you need it) and meditate on the following verses:

### **Romans 2:1**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV*

**Read it, chew on it and ask questions like:** What is God telling me as I read? Are there special words that resonate with me? What can I learn from this and how can I apply its message to my life? I will assure you that as you chew and meditate on these verses, that God will show you some wonderful insights to God's kingdom. Have a good chew.

### **Psalms 119:27**

*Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. ESV*

*Pastor Peter ~~~*



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What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the April 20, 2021 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church conference room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 20th.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

Moderator Dembroski led a devotion based on 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 and Ephesians 6:10-13. The devotion was closed and the meeting was opened in prayer by Moderator Dembroski.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the agenda, after moving an item under New Business to the end of the meeting (discussion of the Pastor Search Process), removal of an item from the Consent Calendar (approval of changes to the Personnel Policy) and moving a motion from the Children's Ministry Team Report to the Consent Calendar (approval of the Children's Ministry Director Job Description).

Vital Statistics from March 16, 2021 to April 20, 2021, as well as Minutes from the March 16, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, and the March 30, 2021 Called Session Meeting were received. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve them as presented.

Session received a letter from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Pacific Northwest which included the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Conflict of Interest policy, which was supplied to all members of Session. The forms will be signed by members of Session and maintained on file by the Clerk of Session.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. These items included; approval of the Deacons Meeting Minutes from November 24, 2020, January 26, 2021, and February 23, 2021; Approval of use of the church facility for one night by a visiting Youth Group on June 4, 2021; Approval of a motion from Personnel to increase Pastor Peter's salary by \$50 a month to cover costs on his cell phone bill due to church business; and Approval of the Job Description for the Children's Ministry Director.

A written financial report from Church Treasurer Christy Repasky was received.

Session reviewed the updated Ministry Team Responsibilities. After several corrections, the document will be brought back for approval.

Session Ministry Teams presented written and verbal reports.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to hold Vacation Bible School at FPC this summer. The dates of VBS will be determined at a later time. During the event, classes will be smaller than normal and held outdoors as much as possible.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to invite EPC Missionaries from Malaysia to speak at FPC this summer, and to provide some travel costs, logistics, and hospitality.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that David McConnell-Booher be given one paid month for rest and refreshment in early summer, the dates to be approved by the Lead pastor.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve changes to the Personnel Policy, as recommended by the Personnel Ministry Team.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that the Personnel Ministry Team would talk with Pastor Peter about continuing on as Transitional Pastor, after his current contract expires, including a time line and contractual conditions.

Session continued a discussion of the Pastor Search Process.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian, and the meeting was adjourned, in prayer by Moderator Dembroski.

**The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on May 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.**

**Sunday Morning  
Adult Bible Studies**

**Begins at 8:30 in  
the Fireside Room**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# **BIBLE STUDIES**

**Paul and Terry  
Lifegroup Bible Study,  
(via ZOOM)**

**each Thursday,  
beginning at 6:30pm**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# **PRAYER MINISTRIES**

**Prayer Time each  
Tuesday at 12:15pm in  
the sanctuary. Please  
join us in interceding  
for our world, nation,  
community, church  
family and friends.**

**Brenna and David  
(in-person) Lifegroup  
Bible Study, each  
Thursday, beginning at  
6:30pm**

**Fireside Room**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Men-In-Action meets  
each Monday at 11am  
at the church to  
fellow ship, bible study,  
etc.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

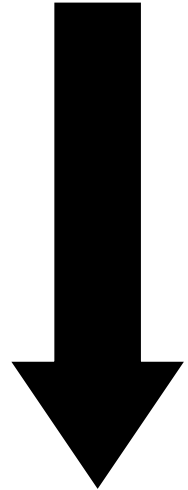
**Each month, prayer  
calendar and letters are  
mailed to various  
members. If you would  
like to become a  
recipient, please  
contact the front desk  
or Joanne Klaver.**





# CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

**EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30,  
CLASSROOMS LOCATED  
ON 2ND LEVEL OF  
CHURCH**



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**SUNDAYS  
AFTER WORSHIP -4PM**

**MONDAYS  
3-7PM**

**WEDNESDAYS  
3-7PM**





- 1 Stephanie Brewer
- 2 Jonah Brown
- 3 Candy Setzer
- 5 Ed Washburn
- 9 Joel Gibson
- 13 Ashley Morris
- 14 Charles Gray
- 15 Nathanael Hull
- 17 William VanHarper
- 18 Emma Moody
- 19 Christine Lundberg
- 19 Caden Davis
- 20 John Prusak
- 22 Harrison Riggs
- 25 Logan Foster
- 25 Deborah Sirevaag
- 26 Robert Boswell
- 27 Brandon VanHatten
- 28 Denise Wallace