

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.

Psalm 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

**Brenna and David
(in-person) Lifegroup
Bible Study, each
Thursday, beginning at
6:30pm
Fireside Room
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Paul and Terry
Lifegroup Bible Study,
(via ZOOM)
each Thursday,
beginning at 6:30pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



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

PRAYER MINISTRIES

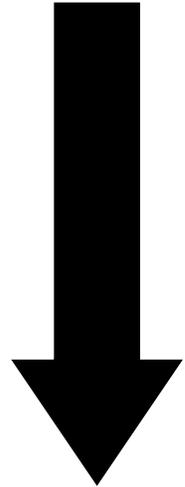
**Prayer Time each
Tuesday at 12:15pm in
the sanctuary. Please
join us in interceding
for our world, nation,
community, church
family and friends.**

**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