



Happy Holidays from First Presbyterian Church

I love holidays. It gives us all an opportunity to slow down our busy lives and re-focus. Holidays are to remind us to celebrate important values in our lives, and for me, there is an added blessing of eating good food that is associated with most holidays. As Christians, we focus a lot of our attention and celebration on the big "two" holidays in our calendar, Christmas and Easter. Christmas and Easter are beautiful reminders of Christ's birth and resurrection. They should be celebrated with meaningful reflection, anxious longing, joyful energy and great food.

But, I believe there is another holiday that we are to observe and we should elevate it as an important day of Christian reflection and devotion, and that holiday is "Thanksgiving." Thanking God is a vital and foundational truth in our Christian journey as true worshipers of God. It is very clear throughout Scripture that giving thanks to God is paramount in our worship and relationship with God.

When we give thanks to God, we acknowledge God's goodness, love and provision in our lives. As we thank and worship God, we find ourselves experiencing the real presence of God that fills us with great satisfaction and joy that no turkey meal can ever accomplish.

The holiday "Thanksgiving" reminds and helps us to take the time to thank God for His goodness and reminds us that we are to thank God not just one day of the year but every day of the year.

During the first 3 weeks in November, we will be hearing God from a series of sermons that focuses on the theme "Thanksgiving." I am looking forward to joining you all, my dear sisters and brothers in Christ, in worship services that focus on the theme of "Thanksgiving."

Blessings,
Pastor Peter

Ps 100:4-5

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. NIV

COMMUNION SUNDAY

“....do this in remembrance
of Me. 1 Corinthians 11:24

SUNDAY, Nov 7

Thanksgiving Sermon Series

November 7

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and
His courts with praise! Give thanks to
Him; bless His name!”

Psalms 100: 1-5

Theme: Thankfulness and praise

November 14

“Do Not be Anxious about Anything”

Philippians 4:4-7

Theme: Rejoicing!

November 21

Stewardship Sunday, “Cheerful Giver”

2 Cor. 9:6-15

Theme: Cheerful giver!



**THIS YEAR, THERE MAY BE FAMILIES IN
OUR CHURCH WHO ARE IN NEED.**

Please assist with identifying members
of our congregation that may be in need
this year. Your suggestions can be made
anonymously to the front office, by
placing a request in the offering plate,
and/or by contacting one of the
deacons or elders.

We would like to have this list of
recipients created by the second
week of November so we can better
prepare our “Angels.”

The Angel Tree will be erected
in the Narthex on November
26th.

As congregation members feel moved, they will
select “paper angel requests” and bring donations
to the church no later than December 20th, which
will provide Deacons time to prepare each
delivery. For additional information, please
contact Barbara Nore, Deacon Moderator

Daylight Savings Time, Sunday, November 7

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This Month in Children's Ministry:

☀️ a little library began to grow in the back of our sanctuary. Kids now have some age appropriate, encouraging reading material to use during the sermon. We will continue building that collection over months to come.



☀️ our Roots group for 4th-6th is growing in number and in knowledge. We've been praying regularly together and this Sunday we'll begin our first service project: building boxes for Project Christmas Child.

☀️ Updates to the nursery and Sunday school spaces are being planned to make them as safe and appealing as possible.

☀️ Rehearsals for our Christmas Program (12/12) will begin in November. After the children's sermon each week, the Sunday school age kids will be dismissed to the basement to learn songs and get ready to retell the Christmas story. Friends are welcome, those who aren't able to be there every week are welcome, ALL KIDS who want to participate are welcome. It's the hope of our Children's Ministry team that the Christmas Program is a ministry to the kids as well as a fun performance.

☀️ Finally, some fantastic news: a team of prayer partners from FPC has agreed to join me in praying daily for our kids and our kids program! I'll have help in putting God's ideas and priorities first concerning our kids. It's an answer to last month's prayer request! HOORAY!!

This month, would you please be in prayer:

- ♥️ for more and better ways to welcome families with young kids into the service
- ♥️ for the word of God to be presented clearly and with love to the kids during Roots and Sunday School
- ♥️ for every kid who needs to be here on Sunday to get the ride, the breakfast, the encouragement they need to get here.

Many Thanks,
Carina Menaker
Director of Children's Ministry





The SILVER TEA

Your Help is Needed!

The purpose for our annual Silver Tea has been two-fold: to raise funds for missions within our community, including providing the Upper Room devotionals, and to reach out to the community to enrich our social interactions. We missed being able to do these things last year when we had to cancel the event.

With the continuing COVID-19 issues in the community, we have planned something a bit different for this year. In lieu of our usual tea, we will hold a [cookie sale and mini-bazaar after church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28.](#) The hope is that we will be able to fund some of our missions as well as uplift our connections with each other.

What is Needed:

1. We are looking for anyone who can provide 5-6 dozen home-made cookies. This year we are not looking for tea-sized cookies but regular size Christmas cookies. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex of the church.
 2. Cookies will be needed at the church by Saturday, November 27, 11:00 am.
 3. For cookie questions, contact June Champlin at 907-479-3540. For questions about the bazaar, contact Jeanette Wrede at 907-479-5132.
 4. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex of the church.
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***Serving
neighbors,
changing
lives,
through
the love
of Christ***

THE WELL

FIRST Pres offers a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God's work in the lives of His people, and an invitation to prayer

**WEDNESDAYS,
6-7PM**

CLOTHES CLOSET

As cooler weather has descended on Fairbanks, First Pres staff and volunteers have fielded numerous requests for warm clothes. In response, we intend to set up a clothes closet equipped with warm coats, jackets, sweaters, socks, caps, gloves and mittens. If you have items to donate, please contact the front office (452-2406) for assistance.

Dear Fellow Church Members,

When I was in second grade, our family lived in a manse next to our church. It was a wonderful neighborhood with a few stately homes and a lot of kids to play with. The church was the main focus in our family life with most social events taking place there. Television did not come on until 5PM (black and white) and I do not remember many great shows or spending much time watching programs. But as Marion Breaid (a member from 1945 until her death in 2017) once told me, "this too will change".

Now we have video games, smart phones, Face Book and Bit Coin. Parents become soccer and hockey moms and dads and rush from one event to another. Time becomes more precious than money and yet we still need to check our phones to see who texted us, to check the news, or to Google any subject that is on our mind. My new truck does not have an owner's manual but has all of that information programmed into the information center just in case you like to take your eyes off of the road to figure out which icon is for your ABS.

Unfortunately, church has ceased to be our number one priority. We will fit worship in when it is convenient and try to avoid serving on any committee that zaps more of our time.

I serve with Barbara Page and Christina Repasky on the Stewardship Committee and we find ourselves talking a lot about the stewardship of one's time. What would it take for each set of eyes reading this letter to commit more time for the Lord? There is a saying that if you want something done promptly and well, ask the busiest person you know. They seem to have a gift for time management and achieving goals. But is that fair to them?

In a few weeks we will be sending out our annual stewardship letter, but with a little twist. Included will be a list of opportunities for you to serve your Lord and Saviour with your time and abilities. Also included will be a pledge card to aid our elders in constructing a meaningful budget. My prayer for each of us is that we will be able to focus more on our prayer life and church life in the coming year. Our God is worthy of our whole attention.

Blessings,
Jerry Cleworth

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.

***Stewardship
Sunday
November 21***

***Office
Closure***

Nov 24-26

***Advent
Begins
November 28***

Youth Ministry Update!

Dessert Auction December 5th



Mark your calendars! We will be having a Dessert Auction on Sunday, December 5th right after worship service. We are looking for bold and creative bakers to donate desserts that we can place on the auction block and receive bids, all to raise money for our Summer Mission Trip! It is sure to be Delicious Fun! See you there!

Confirmation Class Has Begun

Confirmation Class is a program where young students learn the basics of Christian discipleship in order to say "Yes!" to their baptismal promises, either being baptized into the church for the first time or reaffirming their earlier Baptism. We will be walking through the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, the sacraments of Communion and Baptism, and what it means to be a Christian. We meet every Sunday after church during Youth Group. Lunch is provided. Confirmation will be done by 2pm every day, but all are invited to stay for more youth group fun until 4pm every Sunday.

For additional information, please contact David McConnell Booher, Youth Director.

Operation Christmas Child



The Samaritan Purse Project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts and deliver them to children in need. This year, FPC will again assist with this project. Shoeboxes are available on the kiosk or from Marta (front desk), M-F. Collection Week is November 16-23. All boxes must be returned to the front office by 11am on Monday, November 23. Boxes can be built online, google Build a Shoebox. For additional information, please contact Joanne Klaver.

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church in Partnership with the Fairbanks Food Bank Presents

Thanksgiving

FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTIONS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue

November 24, 2021
9am—4pm

FPC will continue its 30+ years of partnering service with the Food Bank as the main distribution point for Thanksgiving Food boxes.

Volunteers are asked to self-screen. Also, volunteers are asked stay at home if feeling ill.

Masking is Encouraged!

WHAT IS NEEDED:

- 4-6 volunteers are needed between 4-6pm on **Tuesday, November 23** to load trucks, position food boxes, secure the parking lot, and any last minute tasks prior to next day, and
- A steady stream of volunteers are needed between 6am-4pm on **Wednesday, November 24** to unload food boxes, assist visitors with carrying boxes to cars, also needed is a panel truck driver

If you would like to serve, please call or text Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 or by email at jimw.101591@gmail.com.

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the October 19, 2021 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met via ZOOM at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 19th.

- The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.
- Pastor Peter provided a devotion based on Matthew 6:24 to 34.
- It was **moved**, **seconded**, and **passed** to move work on the 2022 Budget to the beginning of the meeting.
- Session, led by Ruling Elder Barb Page, went through a line by line review of the second draft of the 2022 Budget.
- Through a process of motions and voting, Session adjusted line items and budget amount for various expenses and ministries, to develop the third draft of the budget, which will be reviewed at the November Session Meeting.
- Vital statistics for the past month and recent session minutes were received and it was **moved**, **seconded**, and **passed**, that they be approved.
- A written financial report was received from Church Treasurer, Christy Repasky.
- Minutes from the August 24, 2021 Deacons Meeting were received and reviewed.
- Due to the length of the discussion on the draft of the 2022 Budget, several motions and items that were to be covered in October were postponed until the November Session Meeting.
- Written ministry team reports were received.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Moderator Dembroski prayed for the elders and for First Presbyterian, and then adjourned the meeting in prayer.

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



Happy
Birthday!!



November 1 Sophie Strong

3 William Mullen

5 Brian Albert

5 Jack Morris

5 Sue Ault

7 Dave Dreydoppel

9 Joanna Jagow

13 Jason Huffaker

13 Johanna Coester

15 Ridge Demers

16 Jeanette Wrede

20 Katrina Nore

21 Deanna Morris

21 Pam Hennessey

22 Vincent Eldridge

22 Dawn Curtis

23 Bonnie Johnson

23 Don Marsh

24 Owen Bunch

24 Daniel Griggs

24 Henry Repasky

28 Kathi Stevens

