



# First Light

Volume 28, Issue 8

November 2018



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!!*



## THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

FPC will continue its 30+ years of partnering service with the Food Bank on November 21st as the main distribution point for Thanksgiving Food boxes. Initial assessments indicate the community need for supplemental food boxes has never been greater; in fact, initial projections indicate we will be distributing over 80,000 pounds of food in just one day! It's a ton of work, (actually, over 40 tons!) and will not get done without you. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 am until 5:00pm. The heavy lifting work will be done outside, so bring coats, gloves, hats and boots. If you can't lift heavy objects that's fine; we have a role for you, too!

If you would like to serve, please call or text Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 or by email at [jimw1@yahoo.com](mailto:jimw1@yahoo.com) (<mailto:jimw1@yahoo.com>)



*THANKSGIVING  
FOOD BOXES*

*The Lord is my shield and  
strength, I trust Him with all  
my heart, He helps me and my  
heart is filled with joy,  
I burst out with songs of  
Thanksgiving.*

*Psalm 28:7*

### Thanksgiving Office Closure Dates

Thursday, November 22, 2018

Friday, November 23, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

[www.fairbanksfirstpres.com](http://www.fairbanksfirstpres.com)

547 7th Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 452-2406; fax (907) 452-7205



FPC Saints,  
It's been kind of  
a rough Fall for  
First Presbyterian  
Fairbanks, hasn't  
it? Vital Church  
Ministries gave us  
food for thought,  
some of which

was not easy to hear. Having  
reflected the last three weeks on what  
they had to say, I'm reminded of  
Proverbs 3.11-12,

*My son, do not despise the Lord's  
discipline or be weary of his reproof,  
for the Lord reproveth him whom he  
loves, as a father the son in whom he  
delights.*

There are two words which begin  
with "D" in this passage- discipline  
and delight. Both words are true-one  
is an action, the other is a state of  
being. The second "D" word- delight  
- provides the context for the first-  
discipline.

God delights in his children, because  
of his son Jesus. When a person is  
"in Christ"- a phrase Paul uses over  
and over and over in his letters, they  
are delighted in. "This is my son, in  
whom I am well pleased," the voice  
from heaven said at Jesus' baptism.  
God delights in his children, full

stop. There's nothing to be done to  
gain or lose our status as God's  
children. Jesus has done this. We  
are adopted, in Christ, as full fledged  
heirs with Jesus.

God also disciplines his children,  
because he loves his children. That's  
you, that's me. Like every good  
parent. Only God does it perfectly.  
You and I as parents, hope our  
discipline works out...but God  
accomplishes his purposes,  
completely.

So, our job in all of this? Listen.  
Take heed. Don't despise, don't  
diminish, don't deny, don't demean,  
God's discipline. Here are some very  
clear, tangible things session is  
asking you to participate with them  
in. Hang these on your fridge, put  
them in your bible-do them. And  
remember, the Lord disciplines,  
those whom he loves.

- Pray - move towards unity by  
praying together. Hold a monthly  
concert of prayer.
- Begin reading the following  
books, in this order:  
- *Making Peace* by Jim Van  
Yperen  
- *Emotionally Healthy  
Spirituality* by Pete Scazzero  
- *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller

- Continue to serve the poor and  
marginalized and clean up the  
church.
- Take the AA challenge and do it  
without the attitude of blame.
- Build a culture of honor in the  
church. Bless others. No gossip  
or complaining.
- Go to another worship service,  
meet 3 new people.
- Choose to accept the  
recommendations of the Vital  
Church Ministries report.
- Staff an intentional interim pastor  
who will help FPC navigate the  
VCM report findings.

Session respectfully requests that the  
FPC congregation adopt the same  
action steps.

"Those whom I love, I reprove and  
discipline; therefore be zealous and  
repent. Behold, I stand at the door  
and knock; if anyone hears my voice  
and opens the door, I will come in to  
him and will dine with him, and he  
with Me." (Rev. 3:19-20)

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Dave

BLESSED



GRATEFUL

## *The WELL*

Each Wednesday, FPC opens its doors  
to reach out to its church family and the  
local community by serving hot dinners  
from 6-7pm.

## *FPC Loving Families*

Our next host week is December 2-9. Sign ups are  
available on-line at <https://bit.ly/2EDSvfp>. FPC  
needs a Loving Families Coordinator team. Please  
contact Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 or by email at  
[jimw1@yahoo.com](mailto:jimw1@yahoo.com) if you are interested in serving.

# SESSION

## Maintaining the Mission and Government of the Church

What follows is a **brief synopsis** of the motions and decisions from the October 26<sup>th</sup> Stated Session Meeting:

- Session held a video interview with a candidate for the position of Transitional Pastor, EPC Pastor Don Baird. Pastor Baird has been invited to visit Fairbanks, sometime between November 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, to meet with Session and to preach on Sunday. The Personnel Ministry Team of Session is working on the details.
- Session continued training in what it means to be a Ruling Elder, working on team building, and reaching mutual agreement on how to improve Session meetings.
- Ruling Elder Dawn Cogan provided an update on the current state of a correction to the church's Alaska Airlines Miles account.
- Session is in the process of forming a small subcommittee to study the best use of the time between services and to report back to Session with recommendations. The subcommittee will be composed of Ruling Elders and those involved in programs that take place between services.
- The FPC Personnel Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy have been undergoing revision and are currently under review by the Personnel Ministry Team. When the review is complete, they will be brought back to Session with recommendations.
- Dave Miles of Vital Church Ministries sent a list of "Next Steps" that we can begin working on, while waiting for the final written report of the Assessment. The list of "Next Steps" is included separately. These steps, along with an update on the progress in the Transitional Pastor Search will be presented to the congregation at each service.
- Ruling Elder Mike Repasky presented a report on events that occurred during the recent Presbytery Meeting at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Gig Harbor, WA.
- Session voted to hold a combined service at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 23, 2018. The service will include the Christmas Pageant.
- Ruling Elders assisting with Communion on November 4, 2018 are: at 8:30: RE's Repasky and Page and at 11:00: RE's Williams and Reichardt.

Dave Dreydoppel  
Clerk of Session

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## MISSION and VISION

**Our mission 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.**

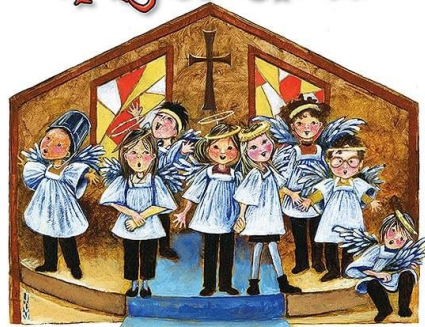
**Our vision is to be a beacon for Jesus Christ. With His love and joy, we will draw people into a safe harbor where they are welcomed, healed, restored, and nurtured, becoming radiant witnesses.**





Mark your Calendars! Children's Ministry has several upcoming events.  
Christmas Pageant December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## The Littlest Angel Choir

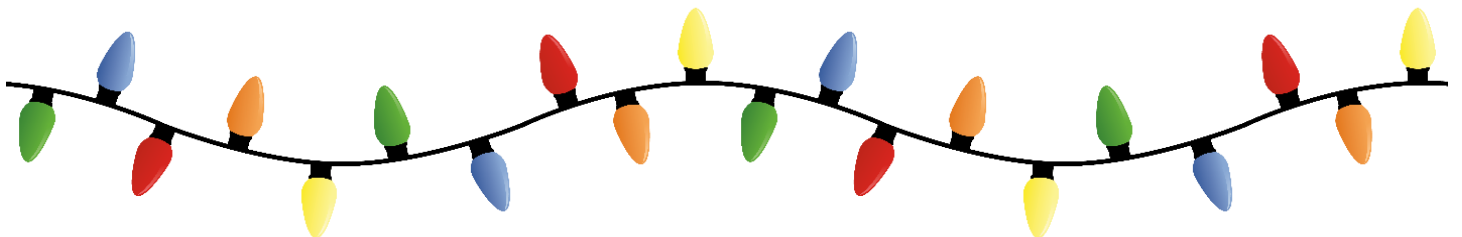


A Christmas Musical For Very Young Voices  
by Karl Hitzemann



Rehearsals every Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. until our performance.

Opportunities for all! Costumes, singing, bells and set design.



## PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

Need a date or shopping night? Enjoy First Friday, and let the kids play while you're away.

Drop your kids for a night of fun at First Pres. We'll have entertainment for your kids, provide dinner, and snacks. (If your child has a special diet, please bring his/her own food.)

Questions? Contact Brian and Stephanie Rozell for more details. 687-3730

Greetings!

I want to share a wonderful resource for parents, young people who love video games, and anyone interested in seeing Christ engaged and praised in pop culture. There is a great ministry called 'Love Thy Nerd'.

They see the gamer subculture as a place where very few people are told that Jesus loves them or that there is more to life than here and now. The founders and supporters of the group are themselves gamers and enthusiasts of pop culture. They're not interested in waging a culture war in the name of Jesus, but rather find it far more fruitful to (like Reinhold Neibuhr last century) engage the culture, bring analysis and critical thinking, and finally point out places and values within the pop culture that point to the transcendent truth of God's grace in Jesus Christ. They do this with excellent writing on their website, visiting conventions like Comic Con where they proclaim the good news of Jesus in fun and engaging ways, and by hosting social media groups that foster thoughtful discussion and Christian fellowship.



One valuable piece recently published on their website is a list of games to play with your kids that are more fun and meaningful than Fortnite. Please give it a look.

<https://lovethynerd.com/8-better-games-for-kids-than-fortnite/>

Where else do you see the church bringing the Gospel in new and powerful ways? Let us continue to pray for Christ's church and all of it's arms reaching out to a lost and broken world!

David McConnell-Booher  
Youth Director

## Growing With Christ

All your children will  
be taught by the Lord,  
and great will be their  
peace

*Isaiah 54:13*

## FPC ROOTS

**Roots (Bible Study and fellowship for grades 4-6) continues to meet on Sunday Nights from 4-6. We are averaging about 15 kids/week.**

**If you would like to donate a dessert on a Sunday, we would love that!**

**Contact Stephanie Rozell to pick a date.**

**[Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com) or**

**907-687-3730**

# CURRENT EVENTS



**NOVEMBER 3rd**

## **Coffee Talk**

Please make plans to meet for Coffee Talk at the Alaska Coffee Roasting Company (West Valley Plaza) on November 3. Coffee Talk is a meeting time for women of FPC and beyond (invite friends). Talk! Drink coffee! Times are from 8:30-11:45am. Get to know others. Coffee Time meets every first Saturday of the month. Questions? Point of Contact is Barbara Moody.

**November 24**

## **Annual Silver Tea**

The Annual Silver Tea will be held on Saturday, November 24. We are planning to utilize baskets as centerpieces and need volunteers to create a 'themed' basket. We are blessed with many creative folks, so please consider helping. We do have baskets available, but you are free to use one of your own. Monies collected from the sale of the baskets will go towards local missions that we have supported in past years. Sign up sheets for other duties needed (cookies baked, craft and food items, etc.) will be available beginning on Sunday, October 21. Questions? Please contact Janice Cleworth 452-5551 or Jeanette Wrede 479-5132.



## **Operation Christmas Child**



The Samaritan's 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 and directions will be available in the Narthex after Sunday Services. Return completed boxes by November 12. POC is JoAnne Klaver.

# BIBLE STUDIES

**Women's Bible Study.** Weekly Bible Study, each Tuesday, 10-11:30am. Childcare is provided. Please contact Donna Brewer at 907-378-3351 or email at [billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com](mailto:billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com).



Do you ever wonder how the church got started? Come, walk through the Book of Acts and find out! We're beginning this journey Sunday, Nov. 11 at 10am upstairs in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Cleworth.

## How to Grow

A

## Garden

By Elder Terry Reichardt

Classes begin each Monday, from 6-8pm. The last class will meet on Monday, November 12.

## FINANCE

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2018	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	438,557
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>402,929</u>
NET	<u><u>35,628</u></u>

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- 1 Sophie Strong
- 3 William Mullen
- 5 Brian Albert
- 6 Jack Morris
- 7 Dave Dreydoppel  
Barbara Schneider
- 9 Joanna Jagow
- 12 Hannah Ekblad
- 13 Jason Huffaker  
Johanna Coester
- 16 Jeanette Wrede
- 20 Katrina Nore

- 21 Deanna Morris  
Pam Hennessey
- 22 Vincent Eldridge  
Dawn Curtis
- 23 Bonnie Johnson  
Don Marsh
- 24 Owen Bunch  
Daniel Griggs  
Henry Repasky
- 28 Kathi Stevens

