

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, November 2025

In This Issue:

From the Pastor
Children's Ministry
Young Adult Ministry
Announcements & Events
September Birthdays
Session Report (October)
Prayer Calendar



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Our community has the **unique** opportunity to host Father Greg Boyle and Homeboy Industries staff.

Join us on **Friday night, Nov. 21**, at the Alaska Centennial Center for the Arts (Pioneer Park theater) at 6 p.m. to hear powerful stories of transformation, healing and hope. The work of Homeboy Industries creates lasting change, not just for individuals, but for entire communities.

Homeboy Industries has asked that we provide a donation for their visit. Your contribution will go directly to their organization and **provide for something AWE-INSPIRING to happen in Fairbanks!**

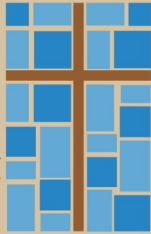
May we recognize your generosity?
Let us know when you give: kinshipalaska@gmail.com
We want to recognize **your support** on the website.
homeboyalaska.org



Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church
547 7th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office: 907-452-2406
Fax: 907-452-7205

New Members Class

Join us at 9am downstairs in The Studio on November 9th, 16th, and 23rd as we pursue greater fellowship, deeper discipleship, and membership at FPC!



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.

~~ From the Pastor ~~

The Already and Not Yet

November seems like a highly appropriate time to reflect and give thanks. While snow is already on the ground here in Fairbanks, we still associate the Thanksgiving holiday with harvest, abundance, and reflecting back on the last year: giving thanks to God for all the ways that He has provided for our needs, equipped us to do important work for others, and demonstrated His power, mercy, and love for us in times of challenge and times of celebration.

As Christians, we live in “The Already and Not Yet.” We are already saved from sin, Satan, and death through Christ’s victory, yet we still await the perfection of our faith. We continue to look for the full redemption and restoration of what remains broken in this life. We are already adopted by our Heavenly Father because of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished and we cry out in faith to God: “Abba, Father!” But we still long for the day when we will see The Lord face-to-face, and not with the eyes of faith, only.

One way that this “Already and Not Yet” state of reality is made manifest before us is the ongoing matter of “Safety and Hospitality” here at First Presbyterian Church, particularly on Sunday mornings. We have seen an exponential increase in the number of visitors coming into the church building from off the street. Not all of them are experiencing homelessness, addiction, or mental health concerns, but many of them are.

Your Pastor and Ruling Elders hear the concerns you have about this: we have read your letters, listened as you shared hopes, concerns, and goals, and (after prayer and thoughtful deliberation) made changes to address the changing needs of our congregation when it comes to Safety and Hospitality. We have a team of volunteers who work as greeters, guides, and shepherds on Sunday morning from before Sunday School starts until after Sunday worship ends. Our new schedule has two volunteers who stay by the front entrance (which is locked until just before church starts) during the Sunday school hour, two volunteers who watch the narthex during Sunday worship, and a third volunteer who keeps watch from the back section in the sanctuary during worship. We do not allow any visitors to smoke, drink, or openly carry alcohol or weapons on the church premises. We do not allow visitors to lie down on the floor or otherwise sleep in the church building on Sunday morning. We do not tolerate hostile behavior, offensive language, or other disruptive actions. We limit the number of visitors who are residing in the narthex to 10 people (5 per volunteer). We keep visitors who are not entering the sanctuary from wandering upstairs, downstairs, into the nursery, or back into the entryway. We ensure that all visitors who desire to join us for worship are welcomed, but we ensure that they are not likely to be disruptive due to intoxication or other immediate concerns. We are continuing to find ways to provide training on de-escalation of conflicts, first aid, and other relevant subjects for our volunteers, and we are always recruiting new volunteers for the team! Noreen Harwood, our Office Administrator, is working every Sunday morning as a member of this team and we greatly appreciate the skill, dedication, and Christ-like compassion that she brings to this team!



We live in the tension between the “Already” that God has done and the “Not Yet” that God will do. We recognize the need to lead and care for this church with the safety of everyone as a paramount priority. We recognize that every person that comes through our doors is beloved of God: worthy of dignity and care.

Our goal is that each person who comes through our doors is greeted warmly, shown the love of God in Jesus Christ through our words and actions, enjoys a safe experience during their visit, and is able to join in the ongoing faith life of our congregation.

I would ask that you join us in striving for this goal by praying for our guests, for our Safety and Hospitality Team volunteers, for our Ruling Elders, and for me, your Pastor. Almost every Sunday, our narthex guests ask me and our volunteers for prayer. They cherish when leaders in our church ask their name, listen to their story, and demonstrate to them the love and respect that Christ extends to all of us sinners. The ministry continues as the words of our Lord and Savior echo in our hearts: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” [Matthew 25:35-36]

Amen, Come Lord Jesus!



I had a teacher who said “some people make their own weather”. He meant: “some people bring their security and their positive attitude along with them, and they can’t be disturbed by what goes on around them”. He said it admiringly, and it is an admirable goal. When we let news and social media and the loud voices around us shape our feelings, we are prone to letting them control us, and cause us to act in ways that don’t glorify Jesus.

This week , as a whole Sunday school (ages prek-8th) we learned about Jesus calming the sea when his disciples were afraid; we observed Jesus’ great power to control what seems terrifying and uncontrollable. We also talked about the storms inside of us: the angry feelings or sad feelings. We were reminded: Jesus can handle those storms too. During our classroom times, the 3-5th graders practiced taking time to journal their feelings, then give those to Jesus.

I think my teacher had it partially right: it is terrible to be at the mercy of people and events so that our hearts feel battered and unsteady. He also missed one crucial thing: we *can’t* make our own weather. Only Jesus can calm our hearts and anchor us in love , peace and compassion. Only Jesus is able to transform us so that we bring glory to Him.

If your child (or you!) would like to try the simple journal our 3-5th graders used this week, there will be copies in the back of the sanctuary on the children’s shelf.

May you bring your weather to the One with power to change everything.  

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
IS IN SESSION!**

9:00 A.M. FIRESIDE ROOM

**ROOTS CLUB
3RD-5TH**

WEDNESDAYS 4-6

**CLIMB CLUB
6TH-8TH**

SUNDAYS 4-6

Covenant

Notes from Nicole

First Pres Families,

Has this fall been crazy? Yes.

Has this fall been good for the soul? Also yes.

NextGen continues to ebb and flow with the seasons and it's kind of beautiful. I want to tell you about a moment in October that served our church and blessed my soul.

I first met FPC on the first weekend in October of 2023. I arrived at an unnecessary hour according to Fairbanks tradition where Stephanie took me to meet Melissa. It was first Sunday and communion was offered. Then after church we went to Sarah Curtis and Anne Jones' house to rake leaves, a quick lunch, and a service project of raking leaves. That day became a core memory of how I saw this church: they love each other deeply and are willing to serve.

First Sunday in October of 2025 - NexGen doesn't do ONE service project they do two. Blessing of the Pets followed by raking and bagging leaves at Noreen's house. Two years later we're doing what we did when I met you: service.

As we prepare the next series- Love the: Neighbor, Stranger, Enemy I want to encourage you to reflect on your capacity. What is there to hold, get rid of, and change directions.

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine" Exodus 19:3

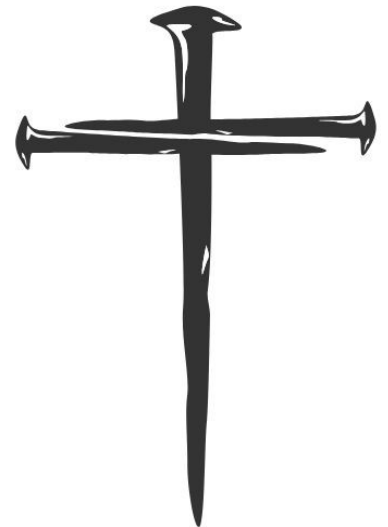
Where is God calling you/us to be obedient in this hour? What are we being called to change? Where are we being called to expand? Our students faithfully demonstrate this through leading worship, service, and fellowship with one another.

I hope they are a light to you as they are to me.

For the Good and God,
-Nicole

November calendar

- **November 2nd - Sunday Serve Day**
- **November 16th - Friendsgiving**





WOMEN'S MINISTRY

PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL

Silver Tea and Craft Bazaar

Saturday, November 8th

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This is an all-ages event!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

547 7TH AVENUE

FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

Leave us a review!!!



The Fairbanks Community Food Bank

has received an offer from Alyeska to match donations up to \$6500!

Because of the government shut-down, the SNAP food program that many people in this community depend on will not be providing assistance this month. This means that it is even more important for the food bank to receive additional local funding and donations.

Please consider how you can help out!



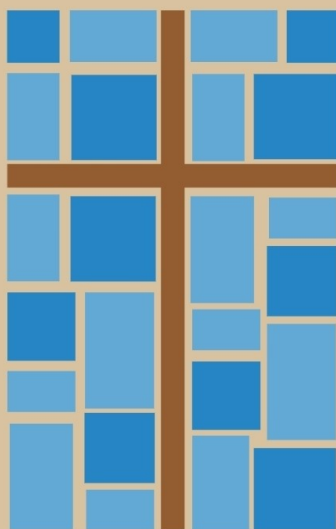
FPC BLESSING TREES

BLESS A MEMBER OF
THE FPC COMMUNITY
BY CHOOSING AN
ANGEL ORNAMENT.
RETURN THE ANGEL
WITH YOUR CHOSEN
ITEM(S) ON OR
BEFORE DEC. 7TH.

SEE A DEACON WITH
RECIPIENT SUGGESTIONS OR
QUESTIONS.

New Members Class

Join us at 9am
downstairs in The
Studio on
November 9th,
16th, and 23rd as
we pursue greater
fellowship, deeper
discipleship, and
membership at
FPC!



FATHER GREG BOYLE OF HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES IS COMING TO FAIRBANKS!



New York Times bestselling author Greg Boyle of **Tattoos On The Heart** and founder of **Homeboy Industries** is coming to speak in Fairbanks with two former gang members.

Homeboy Industries provides hope, training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, helping them to redirect their lives and rejoin the community.



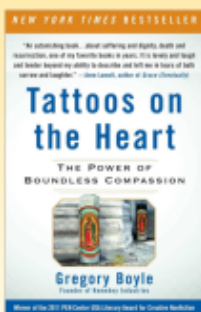
November 21, 2025

6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Alaska Centennial Center for
the Arts (Pioneer Park)**

www.homeboyalaska.org

Tattoos on the Heart
Available at Solstice Books



Presented by
First
Presbyterian
Church of
Fairbanks



Birthdays

- 1 Sophie Strong
- 1 Caxton Marney
- 5 Marta Beaudreault
- 5 Brian Albert
- 5 Jack Morris
- 7 Dave Dreydoppel
- 9 Joanna Weber
- 13 Jason Huffaker
- 13 Johanna Coester
- 15 Ridge Demers
- 20 Katrina Hummel
- 21 Deanna Morris
- 22 Vincent Eldridge
- 22 Dawn Curtis
- 23 Bonnie Johnson
- 23 Don Marsh
- 24 Owen Bunch
- 24 Daniel Griggs
- 24 Henry Repasky
- 28 Kathi Stevens

November

Danny & Rosario Sheets - November 1st

Happy Anniversary!

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the October 21, 2025 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.

- The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The vital statistics from September 17th through October 21st were reviewed and approved. The minutes from the September 16th Stated Session Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- There was a motion to ratify an email vote which was taken from October 7th to 10th, which was conducted according to the email policy. The motion, to approve serving communion, to coincide with a sermon on the sacraments, was passed.
- Correspondence from Teaching Elder (TE) Jeff Jeremiah was received, which provided information on a recent report from a General Assembly ad-interim committee presented this past June. Dr. Jeremiah is the former Stated Clerk of the denomination.
- Items on the Consent Calendar were approved. These included approval of minutes from the Deacons Meeting from July 29, 2025; and approval of the baptism, on November 9th, of Dawson Henry Kohl, son of Emily and Adam Kohl.
- Church membership remains steady at 151 as of October 21, 2025. The average weekly church attendance increased over the last month to 154 per service. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date remains at 148.
- A financial summary was received from Ruling Elder (RE) Paul Reichardt, chair of the Stewardship and Finance Team. The projected deficit of \$15,000, from the end of August, increased to about \$24,000, primarily due to income from pledges being down by about \$10,000. Also, about \$12,000 in maintenance and repairs were expended in September. However, loose offering receipts increased by about \$5,000 above expected. At this point the projection is that expenses will exceed income by about \$15,000, which remains consistent with budgeted figures.
- Three new Deacons were ordained and installed over the last month.
- A motion from the Administration & Personnel Team was discussed and passed. The motion was to contract with Grace Ministries to implement their training program, Safeguarding Initiative, prior to the end of 2025, to begin as soon as possible. The program includes Sexual Misconduct policy review and development, as well as training for staff and volunteers. The cost of the program is \$6,000 plus travel expenses (if any).
- A motion from the Stewardship and Finance Team was brought forward, and was passed, to adopt a process by which contracts between First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and external entities would be handled.

- With the 2026 Budget process beginning, topics related to the budgeting process were discussed. Elders took a first look at the 2026 Budget worksheet.
- RE's Brian Sunderland and Dave Henry volunteered to assist with communion on November 2, 2025.
- Several motions related to policy for the use of the entry area / Narthex during the week and on Sunday mornings have been tabled, pending the further gathering of information. Further discussion will resume at the November Session Meeting. Pastor David was asked to provide an announcement on Sunday, October 26th, outlining actions taken / decisions made up to this point.
- A motion to combine the Specialized Ministry Team into the Adult Christian Education Ministry Team was discussed and passed. Those affected by the change were aware of the plan and concurred with the action.
- The Youth Ministry Team will be renamed the Next Gen Ministries Team. This ministry Team will consist of all functions currently overseen by the Youth Ministry Team, while adding in young adults, of college and post-college age.
- Written reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator and RE Emma Snell led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on November 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

October Snapshot of 1st Pres Finances

As of the end of September:

2025 General Fund Income	\$422,705
2025 General Fund Expenditures	\$445,960
2025 Deficit	\$23,255

As of October 27:

2026 Pledges: 12 pledges for \$73,440

1st Pres Staff
David McConnell-Booher
Nicole Matthews
Carina Menaker
Noreen Harwood
Peggy Nicholas
Paul Bonnell

Deacons
Marta Beaudreault
Aaron Evans
Bethany Evans
Debby Foster
Daniel Griggs
Emily Kohl
Kathy Libby
Shannon Riggs
Christy Repasky
Sarah Rozell
Joanna Weber

Elders
Sarah Albert
Charles Beaudreault
David Dreydoppel
David Henry
David McConnell-Booher
Keith Nore
Paul Reichardt
Brian Rozell
Emma Snell
Brian Sunderland

November 2025

Sun Mon Tues Tjirs Wed Fro Sat

Healing Prayers for
Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
George Shoogukunrk Joan Riggs
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Indonesian Mission	Glenn & Beth Brummond	Matt, Marita, Owen, Blake & Trevor Bunch	Johanna Coester	Jerry & Janice Cleworth	Bryon, Debbie & Cora Cogley	Joy-el Culligan
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Music Ministry	Collin, Wendy, Marcus, Sara & Christopher Cogley	Aurora & Hunter Colasacco	McKinley & Jaden Colasacco	Sam, Natalie, Isla, Silas & Maevis Cuidon	Sarah Curtis	Lori Davis
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday Schools	Molly DeLeon	Chris, Maggie & Ridge Demers	Nancy & David Dreydoppel	Jenna Dreydoppel	Lindsey Dreydoppel	Steve, Ashley, Oak & Eve Dykstra
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Our Pastor	Vincent Eldridge	Sig Ericklook	Aaron & Bethany Evans	 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.	Homeboy Industries event	Dale & Janie Feist
30						
FPC						