FIRST LIGHT
NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, Nov. 2026

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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~~

Looking Back With Gratitude, Looking Forward With Hope



Begin with gratitude; that's good advice for all of us. Begin your morning by giving thanks to God for another day to work, rest, and recreate with the people you love. Begin your meal by giving thanks to God for food on the plate and a warm home in which to enjoy it. Begin your next project/semester/season of life by giving thanks to God for the ability to tackle such a task with the necessary resources, creativity, and intelligence to do it well.

I give thanks to God for our church every day. I am so grateful for every card, gift, and encouraging word that you all generously gave to me and Brenna across "Pastor Appreciation Month," thank you!

These gifts have reminded me all month that Brenna and I are loved, prayed for, and supported in ways far beyond what we could expect, and we are truly grateful to you and to The Lord for this church and all the ways we care for one another!

Beyond these special gifts in October, I give thanks to God for First Presbyterian Church because I can look back on my own 3+ years as pastor and our 122+ years of history and see all the ways that our congregation has worked with diligent faithfulness to hear and pursue the call of God in their lives and in our Fairbanks community. Looking back, we can see generations of Christians discerning the heart and mind of Christ for First Pres, and then stepping out in hope and doing the often challenging work to make this Vision and Mission a tangible reality through worship, discipleship, and service. When strangers hear me speak about First Pres and her people, this historical impact is demonstrated as they share stories of how our church was a light for the Gospel and brought some blessing into their life.

As we look forward to the coming seasons of life in our church, we have a hope that is rich and vast! This is not an idle hope that merely wishes for a vaguely better future, rather it is an active investment of faith that works eagerly to be a part of God's Kingdom coming more and more into our present earth, so that all might see and join in God's will for us as it is in Heaven.

While our Vision and Mission are not changing, your opportunities to share more deeply in our Vision and Mission are growing! We have a New Members Class starting November 15th, there are opportunities to share your musical gifts with the worship team on Sunday mornings, we will be starting up our Street Outreach Sundays (SOS) for the winter season in November, you can volunteer (or just come!) at The Well on Wednesday nights and see our community coming together to break bread and give thanks to God, we have open spots for volunteers on nearly every committee, one of which definitely needs your gifts, and we will be starting several new Life Groups in January.

Join me and let us begin with grateful prayer to God for all that He has done. Join me and let us continue with diligent hope as we work alongside God in the good works that He calls us to do together as a church. Amen.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." -Romans 15:13

~ Pastor David

CHILDREN'S ministry





Dear First Pres Folks,

Thank you for making Pizza and Pumpkins such a fun event! It was beautiful to see both families new to our church and faithful members chatting and creating together! We prayed for safe kids and God's spirit to bring fun and joy to a season that can get dark and scary sometimes. It is good to belong to a Redeemer God who brings Love and light to our world!



November



Birthdays

1 Sophie Strong
1 Caxton Marney
3 Kendi Adams
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
24 Owen Bunch
24 Daniel Griggs
24 Henry Repasky
28 Kathi Stevens

Anniversary

1 Danny & Rosario Sheets

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the October 20, 2026 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:10 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 23rd to October 20th and the minutes of the September 22nd Stated Session Meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no email votes over the past month.

- RE Noelle Lyle voluntitnd the November Deacons Meeting as Session Liaison.

- Church membership remains at 169 as of October 20th. The average weekly church attendance over the last month was 133 per service. Average weekly attendance for 2026 year-to-date is 134.

- Correspondence was received from TE Andrew Ekblad of Beautiful Gates Ministries, thanking FPC for past support.

- Consent Calendar items included approval of the minutes of the Deacons Meetings from June 23, 2026 and August 11, 2026.

- Financial information was received from the Church Treasurer and the Finance & Stewardship Committee. As of the end of September 2026, Year to Date receipts have been $529,567.00 and Year to Date expenses paid are $424,613.00, resulting in an approximately $104,953.00 surplus.

- The tabled motion from the September meeting, forming a Safety Ministry Team was brought back for discussion. After discussion, the motion to **create a new session ministry team/committee** was passed. The team includes, but is not limited to Pastor David, RE's Brian Rozell, Charles Beaudreault, and Brian Sunderland. The full responsibilities of the team will be included in the minutes.

- The Host Packet for the May 2027 Presbytery Meeting, to be held here, was discussed again. Several committees have begun planning. Session decided to ask Ruling Elder Maggie Demers to consider acting as the point person.

- Ruling Elder Brian Rozell and the Personnel Team brought a draft Job description for the proposed “Director of Neighborhood Ministry” position. Session reviewed the draft document and made suggestions for revision. The document will be revised, reviewed and brought back to the November Meeting for approval.

- At the request of the Stated Clerk of our Presbytery, Session was notified of several vacancies for Presbytery Officers and committees. Session was asked to consider submitting nominations.

- It was passed to move funding for the Silver Tea from Special Ministries to a line item under Hospitality & Fellowship.

- Pastor David notified Session that planning for a New Members Class, scheduled for the month of November, during the Sunday School hour is underway. There are approximately 7 to 10 people who have expressed interest.

- Pastor David presented a report on the recent Presbytery Meeting.

- Ruling Elders Marta Beaudreault and Noelle Lyle volunteered to assist with Communion on November 1 st .

- Session held the third round of discussions on the 2027 Budget. Further factors affecting the budgeting progress were discussed.

- It was passed to extend the meeting to 9:30 pm.

- As part of the 2027 Budget discussion it was passed to move the line item funding the Deacon Ministry to “Other Administration”.

- Written reports were received from the Ministry Teams.

- Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland provided an update on the solar panels. Since the date of installation a savings of $7,200 has been realized. The savings have unfortunately been offset by a recent increase in utility rates.

- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 9:28 pm.

- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on November 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

NOVEMBER announcements

It's Blessing Tree Time!!!

The Deacons will put up the Blessing Tree(s) in the Narthex on November 7th.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to take an angel, purchase or make the item listed, & bring back the angel & item by Sunday, December 13th.

(Please wait to bring all baked goods until Dec. 13th.)

This is a wonderful way for our church to bless those in need, new members, young adults & others in our community!

RADICALLY DIFFERENT

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

"ADOPTION AND INHERITANCE"
EPHESIANS 1 ~ OCTOBER 18TH

"NOT YOUR OWN DOING"
EPHESIANS 2 ~ OCTOBER 25TH

"THE HIDDEN MYSTERY"
EPHESIANS 3 ~ NOVEMBER 1ST

"NEW LIFE, NEW ME"
EPHESIANS 4 ~ NOVEMBER 8TH

"SMELL LIKE JESUS"
EPHESIANS 5 ~ NOVEMBER 15TH

"THE ART OF WAR"
EPHESIANS 6 ~ NOVEMBER 22ND

Street Outreach Sundays [S.O.S.]

Providing...
- Warmth
- Safety
- Hospitality
- The Gospel

...to All Our Neighbors

Volunteer Training, Nov. 15th After Church



Daylight Savings Ends!
Sunday, November 1st

how to: Church

a brief class on the essentials of our faith

Sign-Ups

Sundays at 9am, Starting November 15th

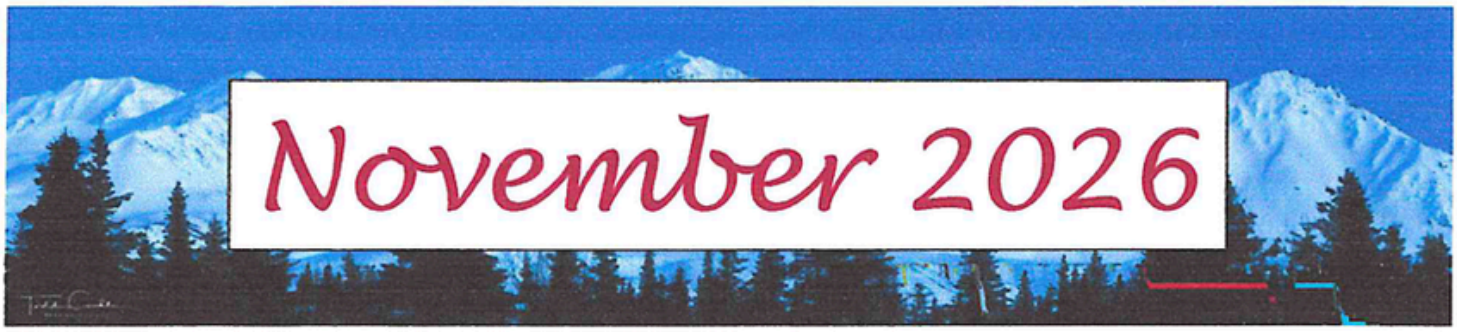
Are you considering joining the church as a member? Discerning a call to serve as a Deacon or Elder? Want to learn more about what we believe and how we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ in a presbyterian context? This class is a chance to learn and grow together as the church!

The Well is up and running for the season. Already there have been a lot of requests for warm clothing. And, this will continue to be a need for many people.



If you have items in usable condition that you can donate, please bring them by the church during office hours.

We have a special need for socks, boots & light/med weight gloves at this time.



November 2026

Prayer Calendar for FPC

1 Sunday FPC
2 Monday Geoffrey Beyersdorf
3 Tuesday Paul Bonnell
4 Wednesday Ellucia Boswell
5 Thursday Ronda Boswell
6 Friday George & Wanda Bowder
7 Saturday Daniel & Debra Brady
8 Sunday Billy, Stephanie, Liam & Oliver Brewer
9 Monday Shane Brice
10 Tuesday Glenn & Beth Brummond
11 Wednesday Matt, Marita, Owen, Blake & Trevor Bunch
12 Thursday Jerry & Janice Cleworth
13 Friday Johanna Coester
14 Saturday Bryan, Debbie & Cora Cogley
15 Sunday Sunday Schools
16 Monday Collin, Wendy, Marcus Sara & Christopher Cogley
17 Tuesday Aurora & Hunter Colasacco
18 Wednesday McKinley & Jaden Colasacco
19 Thursday Sam, Natalie, Isla, Silas & Maevis Cuidon
20 Friday Joy-el Culligan
21 Saturday Sarah Curtis
22 Sunday Our Pastor
23 Monday Molly DeLeon
24 Tuesday Chris, Maggie & Ridge Demers
25 Wednesday David & Nancy Dreydoppel
26 Thursday GIVE THANKS
27 Friday Austin & Lindsey Heley
28 Saturday Jenna Dreydoppel
29 Sunday Sunday Schools
30 Monday Steve, Ashley, Oak & Eve Dykstra

Please pray for 1st Pres Staff, Elders & Deacons

Healing Prayers for

Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
George Shoogukuwrk Kiana May
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels;