



# Happy Thanksgiving!

## HARVEST

*Giving Thanks to God for His Gracious and Sufficient Provisions*

*Therefore let us be grateful for  
receiving a Kingdom that cannot  
be shaken, and thus let us offer to  
God acceptable worship, with  
reverence and awe.*

*Hebrews 12:28*

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### COMMUNION

SUNDAY

November 10, 2019



### OFFICE CLOSURES

In honor of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the front office will be closed Thursday-Friday, November 28-29

## Message from the Pastor

Awhhh, Thanksgiving...Pilgrims, turkey, stuffing, masked potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and family gathering. Some of my favorite memories flow out of the word "Thanksgiving." I pray that it will be the same for you this year.

Yet, some of my more painful memories also flow out of that word, "Thanksgiving." Like the time I was in college and the food service was discontinued for the holiday, the campus was closed down and the student body went home. I couldn't afford to travel the 700 miles to my home so I stayed on campus. The campus was two miles from the nearest fast food outlet or Ma/Pa store, so I hunkered down in my dormitory room on Thanksgiving Day, snacked on a granola bar, thinking about the family I was not with.

I wonder if there are any people like that, here in Fairbanks, who will be looking at a similar Thanksgiving Day for them this year. Possibly some student up on the hill on the University campus, or a soldier out at the fort, or an older member of our congregation or maybe you. It is a difficult situation and I faulted no one for my college experience. That was just what it was. But I have also come to the conclusion that was not the only way it had to be. Possibly there is another way. Let me suggest that you let the church know. If you would be willing to host a student, soldier or member of the church at your Thanksgiving table, call the office. Just call and we will make a list. Then we will invite anyone in the community who would like to join a Thanksgiving table to let us know of their interest. Then we will try to make a match.

Having a "stranger" at your table and/or your mini-family reunion would be different I know. It would probably change some of the normal dynamics. It might also add a bit of the "Thanksgiving Spirit",

that same spirit that was with the Pilgrims when they invited their native American neighbors, the Wampanoag, to share a winter's meal of celebration in 1621 in their small struggling village they called, "Plymouth." In a letter from

"E.W." (Edward Winslow) to a friend in England, he says: "And God be praised, we had a good increase.... Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling that so we might after a special manner rejoice together...." Winslow continues, "These things I thought good to let you understand... that you might on our behalf give God thanks who hath dealt so favorably with us." The Psalmist put it this way,

Give praise to the Lord, call on His name;  
make known among the nations what He has done.

Sing of Him, sing His praises;  
tell of all His wonderful acts.

Glory in His Holy Name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and His strength;  
seek His face always." [Psalm 105]

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Dr. Donald Baird



*May the Good Things in Life be Yours in Abundance that Stay With You All Year*



# November Calendar

FPC Children Christmas Pageant  
Adult Sunday Bible Study  
Women's Bible Study  
Prayer Group

Dress Rehearsal every Sunday, 10-11am  
Every Sunday, 10am  
Every Tuesday, 10-11:30am  
Every Tuesday, 12:15-1:15pm

## November 2

Spicy Mustard Youth Group

### Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 2, 10am-4pm  
In the Narthex

Over 20 vendors,  
handmade and homemade goods,  
sweets and food!



All proceeds will be  
donated to the Spicy  
Mustard Youth Group  
2020 Mission Trip

## November 4

Men's Fellowship Luncheon

HOMETOWN RESTAURANT  
South Cushman Street

We will start at 11:30 in an  
effort to beat the lunch crowd. POC is  
James Aldrich at  
479-2582.

## November 10

### GAIL ARCHER

#### International Concert Organist



First Pres is once again being blessed with the talents of an internationally-known organist. Dr. Gail Archer, from New York City, will be in playing at the 8:30 a.m. worship service and then give a concert in the sanctuary at 3 p.m. She has performed in many locations around the globe as well as giving a series of concerts throughout the United States. Dr. Archer is currently teaching in the Barnard Music Program. Her concert will feature works by a variety of composers including Bach, Ostrova, Kolessa, Mary

Howe, Max Reger. This free-will offering event provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy organ music from someone at the top of her field.

# November Calendar

## Life Study Groups

Ted/Joan Riggs  
Brian/Amber Sunderland  
Paul/Terry Reichardt  
Music Life Group

Thursday Nights, 6pm, light dinner  
Thursday Nights, meal provided  
Friday Nights, 6:30-8:30  
Thursday Nights, devotion, studies, music

## November 16

### *In Loving Memory*

Please join us for  
a memorial service honoring

**Marcel Colp**

November 16th at 1:30pm  
First Presbyterian Church

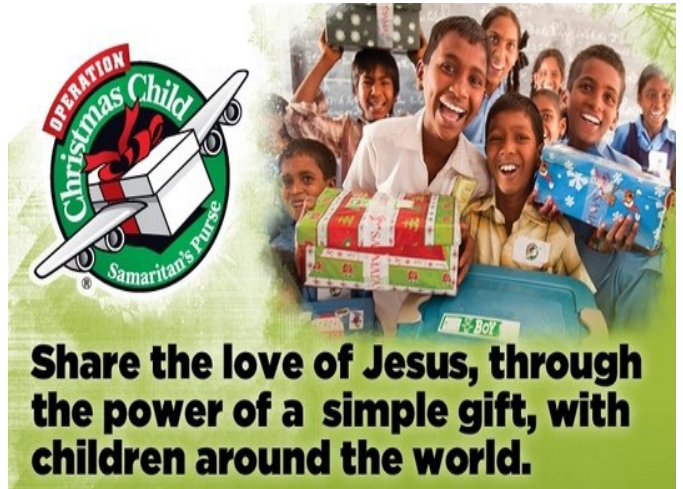
## November 24

### **Deck the Halls! Greening of the Church**

With the holidays quickly approaching it is time to consider decorating the church for the festivities. Due to conflicting schedules on the customary day, Session has designated, Sunday, November 24 at 1pm the appointed time to set up the tree, hang holly, spread color around the sanctuary and enjoy pizza.

If you can stay following the Contemporary Service or return after the Traditional Service, your help will be greatly appreciated sprucing up our church for the holidays. The youth will be helping with hauling the large boxes from storage. Many hands make for light work, so come and join the fellowship and see how quickly the narthex and sanctuary can be transformed from the mundane to the festive.

## November 18



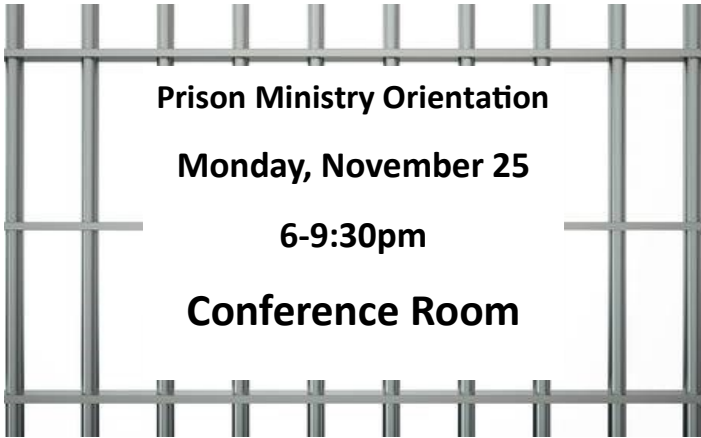
The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world, and this year, again, FPC will participate in this ministry. Boxes and directions are located in the Narthex. Anyone can pack a box. Please return gift-filled shoeboxes by November 18. The POC is Patricia Fink and JoAnne Klaver.

# November Calendar

The WELL  
Playgroup

Every Wednesday, 6-7pm  
Meets in the Nursery every Thursday, 10am-12pm

## November 25



## November 28

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

## November 29

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

## November 27

### Thanksgiving Food Boxes

FPC will continue its 30+ years of partnering service with the Food Bank on **November 27th** 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 [jimw.101591@gmail.com](mailto:jimw.101591@gmail.com) so he can plug you in.



# November Calendar

AA meets in the Conference Room M-F, 12:15-1:15pm

Al-Anon meets in the Library MWF, 12:30-2pm

NA meets in the Conference Room on Wednesdays 6-7pm

## November 30

The Women of First Presbyterian Church will be hosting its

### Annual Silver Tea Holiday Bazaar

and invite you to be a part of our church's heritage! This tea has been a part of our history since the early 1900's, carried on by the women of First Presbyterian, with proceeds donated to various local Christian missions and charities. Please, invite your friends, and plan to attend this beautiful event. Sip some tea, enjoy delicious Christmas cookies, and shop our craft bazaar while giving back this holiday season.

We'd love your help with the tea!

Please consider helping in the kitchen, serving tables, setting up or cleaning up, or donating items for sale. This year, our theme is The Gift of Christmas, and centerpieces for sale will be gift boxes of different themes (coffee lovers, game night, cookie decorating, etc).



Mrs. Jeanette Wrede (479-5132) is heading up our craft bazaar, so if you have any handmade items or new items for sale, please let her know. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex, and Janice Cleworth can answer any questions. We thank you for your participation, and hope to see you there!



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the October 15, 2019 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The meeting was opened by Ruling Elder (RE) Jim Aldrich with a devotion on the Story of Sarai and Hagar. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Pastor Don presented a "Pastor's Study" on Stewardship, based on 2 Corinthians 9:10-12.

RE Jim Aldrich and RE Mikki Holt presented a report on the recent meeting of Presbytery in Squim, Washington.

Session has been working on new drafts of the Vision and Mission Statements. The draft of the New Vision Statement was referred to a working group, made up of Ruling Elders Stephanie Rozell, Mikki Holt, Jim Aldrich and Youth Director David McConnell-Booher.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to keep the current Mission Statement as is.

The Chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee (PSC) presented a brief report. The Church Information Form (CIF) has been completed and has been submitted. The committee has received several Personal Information Forms (PIF) from interested parties. Also, copies of the CIF has been sent to several Seminaries.

Reports from the Ministry Teams were received.

It was decided that each Elder / Chair of a Ministry Team will update the responsibilities of their team and submit them to the Clerk of Session, prior to the November Session Meeting.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to hold the Children's Christmas Pageant on either December 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the First Service of the day being a Traditional Service, and the second service being the Pageant. The Children's Ministry Committee will make the final selection of a date.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to hold two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm.

The Worship Committee will be organizing the "Greening of the Church" for Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Session discussed plans for day two of the Session Retreat on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian.

**The next Session Meeting will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room.**



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2019	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	398,339
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>388,212</u>
NET	<u>10,127</u>



## WHAT IS THE ANGEL TREE?

Happy November First Presbyterian Church!

Blessings to all of you from your faithful

“Sneakin’ Deacons!”

It is time to think about our First Presbyterian Church Angel Tree. What is the Angel Tree? Who decides who will receive blessings from our congregation in the form of angel gifts? What type of gifts are requested or needed from our church family?

The Angel Tree is a way that our church family members give back and “pay it forward” to those that are struggling in different ways. Your deacons are the ones who organize this project, identify possible recipients each year, and the deacons will make the deliveries to the recipients on or around the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

Many families and individuals struggle with paying their electric bill, fuel bill, medical bills, food bill, and providing the basic needs for their families. Our church family tries to assist those in need by making a monetary donation or product donation to contribute to those angel recipients. This year we have a great need for cash donations to support these difficult bills.

We need your help in identifying members of our congregation that may be in need this year. Your suggestion of families or individuals can be made anonymously to the church office by phone call to Marti; by placing the request in the offering plate at first or second service; by contacting one of the deacons, elders, or staff members in person, or by phone or email. 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 Trees will be erected in the Narthex on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, just outside of the sanctuary, and filled with tiny paper angels that have specific requests of needs printed on them. As congregation members feel moved, they will select “paper angel requests” and then donate the requested needs on each paper angel and bring it to church not later than December 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or given to any deacon, elder, or pastor during 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

Angel gifts need to be at First Presbyterian Church not later than December 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> so the deacons can prepare each delivery.

Thank you to all congregation members and our church family for continuing to support this important outreach mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Barbara Nore, Moderator  
First Presbyterian Church Deacons

## Wednesday Food Boxes

There is a dire need for volunteers to assist with unloading food boxes from the truck each Wednesday. Please consider assisting with this ministry. Just show up to assist at 12:45pm each Wednesday.

BLESSED

GRATEFUL





## Upcoming Events for December

**Sing-A-Long Messiah**

**December 14, 2019**

**Christmas Caroling**

**December 15, 2019**

**Northland Choir Rehearsal**

**December 16, 2019**

**Northland Choir Concert**

**December 17, 2019**

**Children Christmas Pageant**

**December 22, 2019**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**December 24, 2019**

*Did you know that FPC offers online giving?*

**To set up online giving go to:  
<https://fairbanksfirstpres.com/>**

On the menu across the top of the screen, **select Give.**

Follow Directions to sign up.

If you select use of a debit or credit card, before your gift is transferred to the church, a percentage of your donation is deducted for the credit card transaction fee.

If you select a checking or savings account the entire amount is transferred to the church.

**please note**

**Marta will be on vacation**

**November 18-30, 2019**

## **Advent Sermon Series**

### **CHRISTMAS DISCOVERED**

Christmas comes again, as it does every year, yet for it to be the celebration of the birth of Christ there is the need for us all to “re-discover” Christmas. We need to make it ours again. We need to walk this journey of discovery. Down through the ages Christians have established traditions to help us do this. One of those traditions is the Advent Wreath with its four candles; Faith, Hope, Love and Joy. This wreath is a brilliant progression of themes, each one leading to the next until we arrive at the birth of our Savior. This Christmas we are going to make this tradition our Advent Sermon Series. Each Sunday we will focus upon one these themes. As we do this in worship it also opens up the opportunity for each of our families to do the same in our homes, lighting one of the candles each week, remembering its name, letting its message burn all week long.

**1      David McConnell-Booher      Luke 1:26-38; Heb 11:1      Faith Discovered**

Christmas is built on the necessity of faith...faith in Jesus Christ, the One born in a manger to be our Savior. Without this faith, Christmas becomes just another crazy, hectic and confusing secular holiday, without any point or purpose. With faith, Christmas becomes a celebration of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ and the beginning of our salvation.

“Good Christian men rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!”

**8      Dr. Baird      Luke 1:46-55      Hope Discovered**

When we trust that God has actually come into this world through a baby in a manger we suddenly discover the renewal of hope in spite of a seemingly hopeless world. God’s answer of Himself to our challenged lives gives us a hope that cannot be overcome by any of the world’s worst efforts.

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

**15      Dr. Baird      John 3:16-21      Love Discovered**

With the Hope that can only come from God we can love ourselves and one another again. Hope gives us something to love and know that it is not a futile or risky endeavor. To love is to be exposed, but with God’s Gift of Life in Christ we are protected and enabled to be lavish in our loving. His love, physically displayed in a vulnerable and helpless baby makes our love possible.

“Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.”

**22      David McConnell-Baird      Luke 2:1-20      Joy Discovered**

Because of God’s Christmas gifts of Faith, Hope and Love, we have something to celebrate, a reason to buy presents for one another, a song to sing and an event to celebrate.

“Joy to the World! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King.”

Merry Christmas,  
Dr. Donald Baird

# **Do You love Solving Puzzles?**

## **There are 30 Books of the Bible in this Paragraph**

### **Can You find them?**

**This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.**

**God Bless.**





1	Sophie Strong	16	Jeanette Wrede
2	William Mullen	20	Katrina Nore
5	Brian Albert	21	Deanna Morris
	Jack Morris		Pam Hennessey
	Sue Ault	22	Vincent Eldridge
7	Dave Dreydoppel		Dawn Curtis
	Barbara Schneider	23	Bobbie Johnson
9	Joanna Jagow		Don Marsh
12	Hannah Ekblad-Porter	24	Owen Bunch
13	Jason Huffaker		Daniel Griggs
	Johanna Coester		Henry Repasky
15	Ridge Demers	28	Kathi Stevens

