



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 7

October 2018

First Presbyterian Church

MISSION

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.



We're a community of grace where our good, true and beautiful God is worshipped and where questions about following Jesus are welcome, regardless of where you are in the faith.

VISION

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.

www.fairbanksfirstpres.com

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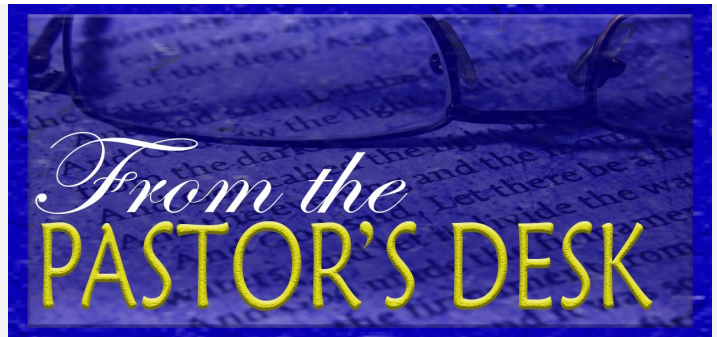
FPC Saints

On hunting for moose in the quiet of creation...

The morning was damp and cool. Something between a steady mist and a heavy fog had fallen on the Tanana flats the night before last. A deep silence pervaded the woods. The only thing punctuating this damp shroud was the odd squirrel scolding us as we passed through the woods. Surrounded by life, engulfed by silence. *Silence as presence.*

A marten (perhaps an otter?) scampering along the bank of the river, in and out of sight, doing whatever otter's and marten's do. Grayling swimming in the blue grey slough. A solitary duck, head a hunter green with breast white, announcing his displeasure at my presence slapping the river with his wings as he flew further upstream. The carcass of a dragonfly caught in grass, the carrion scent of high bush cranberry - life, mingled with death. *Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, so too is my fate.*

One afternoon the sun came out in all its glory, warming body and soul. Standing at the tree line of an open meadow scrapping an alder and watching, I was uncertain if I really wanted a moose to intrude upon such a glorious afternoon. I sit down- removing layers, absorbing the gentle rays of the sun. I read the Gospel. *"I come that you might have life, and have it abundantly."* I nap. I awake. The colors- iridescent yellow through shades of green against a brilliant blue sky. Not one tree- but varieties- spruce both white and black, birch



and aspen towering together painted in preternatural colors. Alone in the woods amidst dark green spruce a solitary tamarack, shining bright golden copper, uniquely deciduous, among its common coniferous neighbors. A silent symphony of color and sight singing *"Glory to God!"* over and over and over again.

Sitting around the campfire with good friends, the warming glow of the coals, the comforting crack and pop of the fire- stored sunlight, gathered by those green to iridescent leaves, flowing sap, building fibers, home for squirrels, a covering tent for martens, a feast for the eyes - released for our pleasure and warmth.

Grace is everywhere, silent and shy, weighty when noticed, easily missed. A man on a cross, a tomb empty, save for a silence permeated with life.

And just so you know, no moose were harmed, or seen, in the aforementioned camping trip.

By His Grace and For His Glory,

Pastor Dave



THE WELL

An outreach ministry that reaches out to the community each Wednesday by providing free hot dinners, fellowship, and prayer. Dinners are offered from 6-7pm. Your presence is welcome!

DEACONS

WHAT IS THE ANGEL TREE?

Ministry

Happy October First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful “Sneakin’ Deacons!”

It is time to begin 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 make the deliveries to the recipients on or around the 20th of December.

Many families and individuals struggle paying their electric bill, fuel bill, 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.

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; and by contacting one of the deacons, elders, or staff members in person or by phone or email. [Please submit name of recipients by October 20.](#)

The Angel Tree(s) are then erected in the Narthex, just outside of the sanctuary, and filled with tiny paper angels that have specific requests of needs printed on them. Afterwards, congregation members proceed with selecting “paper angel requests” to purchase the requested needs on each paper angel.

Angel gifts need to be at First Presbyterian Church not later than December 16th or 17th 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 Deacon



Current Events

WORSHIP



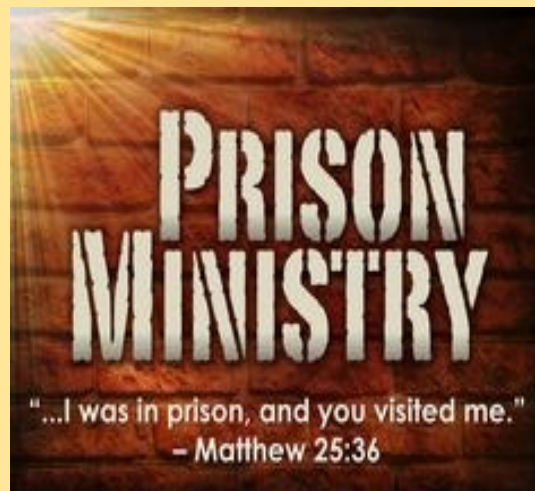
**FREE
CONCERT
OCT 9th**

Organ Virtuoso
Gert van Hoef

**Tuesday, October 9
7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church.
7th and Cushman.**

**Dutch organ virtuoso makes his
American Debut in Fairbanks.**
The public is invited to enjoy
an evening of great organ
music presented by 24-year-old
Gert van Hoef, featuring organ
music for people of all music
appreciation levels.

*Hoef will also play a concert at Davis Hall on the University's
pipe organ on October 10 at 7:30. Admission \$10.*



Prison Ministry Orientation

October 8

6-9:30pm

Conference Room

Training is led by

Reverend Bob Stephensen

Loving Families



FPC is hosting Loving Families September 30-October 7!

This is a Love Inc. Program where churches host families experiencing homelessness for a week at a time. We are looking for volunteers for hosting dinner and staying over at the church.

POC is Mikki Holt (mikaila.holt@gmail.com) or Emma Moody (ekathryne@gmail.com).

Current Events



How To Grow Vegetables

Terry Reichardt's Gardening Class

Each Monday

6-8pm

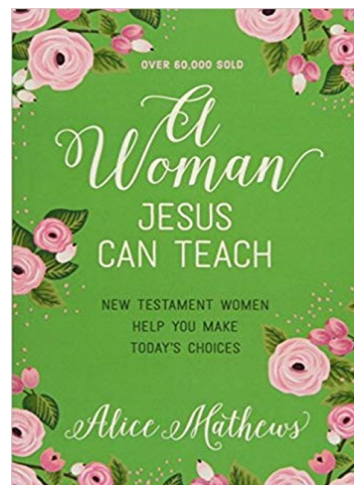
September 24

through

November 12, 2018

Women Bible Study *A Woman Jesus Can Teach*

Weekly bible study, each Tuesday, 10-11:30am. Childcare is provided. POC is Donna Brewer at 907-378-3351 or email at billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com



Change of Mailing Address? Please contact the front office to update records.

Church Keys. The church is in the process of updating the church key log. Please provide confirmation of keys provided to you.

Upcoming Events



Pack a Box.....Bless a Child!!

With your help, First Presbyterian will again participate in Operation Christmas Child. Boxes and directions for packing will be available in the Narthex after Sunday services in October. Anyone can pack a shoebox. Children and grownups alike enjoy filling empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls. **Please return completed boxes are due back by November 12.**

The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. POC is Joanne Klaver.

**The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift
Begins with You and Results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication**



The Annual Silver Tea will be held Saturday, November 24, 2018. For those of you who are crafty individuals, please plan to donate to sell at the mini bazaar. This would include home crafted items, as well as any baked goods, canned items, (honey is always a hit, too) and if you have items that are brand new that you might like to donate, please let me know. Home crafted items might include aprons, placemats, knit/crochet items, quilted items, etc. Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

Funds raised at the Silver Tea go the support local missions in the Fairbanks area. For additional information, please contact Jeanette Wrede at 479-5132 or text at 907-378-2843.



Please join us for

FPC ROOTS

Weekly Bible Study and Fellowship
For kids in Grades 4-6

Sundays 4 PM - 6 PM
Beginning on September 9

Dinner Provided

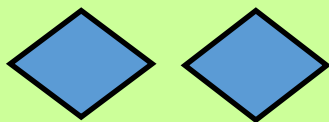
Led by Brion and Stephanie Rozell
907-687-9792 or 907-687-3730
brianrozell@gmail.com or stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com



Playground Fall Schedule

Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10-12pm at First Presbyterian Church for some adult conversation and kids playtime. Children of all ages are welcome with an adult. For more information, call or text Amber Sunderland at 970-497-9481.

Thank You!!



Thanks to Lyndsey and Jenna Dreydoppel for all of their dedication and help during the first service. I am still looking for helper(s) for the second service (11-12:40ish). Thanks to Rachel Johnson for helping out when needed. Please let me know if you would like to take items like blankets and soft books home to wash, and also are willing to assist with sanitizing toys. Nursery parents, thank you for sharing your little ones with us every Sunday. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Peggy Nicholas

Youth Ministry in October!



October seems to have brought sunny, cool weather and we are grateful! All our teenage students are invited to join us as we enjoy a few more weeks of warmish weather, play and pray with us, and

add all of these upcoming events to your calendar...

October 13 - Boys' Night! (Overnight event at David and Brenna's house - bonfire, axe throwing, cookout - all guys are welcome). Meet at church at 4pm

October 26 - Game Day (parent/teacher conference). Join us from 11am-6pm for a day of games and fellowship. School will be out, so enjoy lunch and time together with youth group!

Every Wednesday, 4pm-7pm, Youth gather to help serve at The Well, work on homework together, pray, and play!

Every Sunday, 12:30pm-4pm, Youth gather for lunch, Bible study, fun, fellowship, And the work of the church as young disciples seek to follow Christ with every aspect of their lives.

Spicy Mustard is the FPC Youth Group. We believe that Jesus calls us to follow him, abundantly blessing the world around us with the light and joy that only God can give. We have a mail chimp email update, a group and page on Facebook, an Instagram account, and GroupMe app conversations for both parents and youth.

To join and get updates from any of these media, please email David at

david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com

Many Thanks!

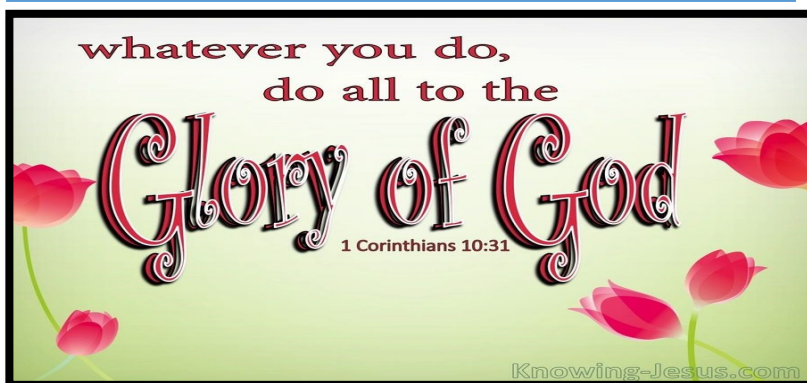
Each Wednesday, students and supervisors from the SMART Program at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District visit the church to assist with unloading the food truck and assisting with assembling food boxes.

Your Assistance is Much Appreciated!!!

Thank you for the strong participation in submitting articles for the newsletter each month!

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Articles are due by the 20th of each month.



Children's Ministry

This fall our children are enjoying a new adventure in Bible Literacy. Our kids are learning a new Bible Story each week and are have enjoyed some corporate worship at a kid level. Kids light candles, bring the Bible up to the front, sing a song, say the Lord's Prayer, and hear a Bible story. We meet as a group, and then break up in small "huddles" to discuss and, re-tell the story. The craft and games are intentionally chosen to have kids re-tell the story. So by the time they leave, they will have explored the Bible story three different ways.

There has been a learning curve as we switch from a thematic form of teaching, (Example "This week we will learn how to make wise choices.") versus a Biblical Literacy format. (Example "This week we will hear the story of Noah. What does this story teach us God? What does this story make you wonder about?) The Bible Telling method has open-ended questions that can reach kids hearts in a way that makes the story stick. Parents and church members, I encourage you to have the kids share or teach you the story they heard and ask them, "What did you wonder about in that story? What do you think this story teaches you about God?" You may be just as delighted as I have been, hearing some of these answers.

So how can you help our ministry? Pray.

- Prayer means praising. Praise God for our Children!
- Prayer Means Repenting. We need to admit the things we have done wrong or how we have frustrated people as God's Spirit brings them to our mind.
- Prayer Means Asking. Like a father who delights in caring for his children, our heavenly Father loves to give us good things. Pray for our future children's minister.
- Prayer Means Yielding. Yielding is the act of letting others have their way, and that is difficult. In prayer, yielding is choosing to let God have His way because he knows what's best for us and the health of our children's ministry.



Finally, you can volunteer. Sharing God's word and meditating on it with children is a rich experience. It doesn't matter if you are 5 years or 105 years old. We are all children of God!

Heidi Van Harper

Interim Children's Ministry Administrator





1 Adam Benson

Micah Rozell

2 Brenda Satterberg

Ray Karns

3 Lily Miller

Leah Mackey

4 Canon Cogan

5 Michelle Harpole

8 Cynthia Hoffbeck

9 Carol Gray

13 Dave Henry

15 Shawn Masterson

16 Bunnie Boykin

18 Stuart Young

21 Oki Albrecht

23 Randy Hoffbeck

24 Dawn Cogan

Marcus Cogley

27 Bill Brewer

29 Glenn Brummond

Emily Dreydoppel

31 Paul Newcomer

Lisa Johnson

George Repasky

