

First Light

OCTOBER 2021

In This Issue

FPC Clothes Closet

Lectionary Readings

A Word From the Pastor

The WELL

Online Giving

October Birthdays

Silver Tea

Invitation to FYNDout Free
Virtual Fall Banquet

Children Ministry

Youth Ministry

Deacon Ministry

Bible Studies

FPC Angel Tree

SESSION Summary

Food Box Distributions

CLOTHES CLOSET

~~~*Serving From the Heart*~~~

As cooler weather has descended on Fairbanks, First Pres staff and volunteers have fielded numerous requests for warm clothes. In response, we intend to set up a clothes closet equipped with warm coats, jackets, sweaters, socks, caps, gloves and mittens. If you have items to donate, please contact the front office (452-2406) for assistance.

## Daily Lectionary Readings

Lectionary readings can be found at  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/lectionary/>

If you would like to receive a personal copy, please contact Marta at the church office (452-2406)

## Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church



547 7th Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-2406 (office)

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.



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## ~~~ A Message from the Pastor ~~~

“Gruss Gott!” Is a German phrase meaning “May God bless you.”

A couple of years ago, I took a vacation to the Bavaria part of Germany. I had a wonderful time revisiting Germany and my relatives. The last time I was in Germany was about 6 years ago, and I felt a great need to go back to see my six cousins and their children again. The trip was amazing, and there so many things I can say about the trip but I want to focus on some of the things that I experienced at the cathedrals and churches of Germany.

Walking into an ancient medieval cathedral completely takes your breath away as you walk between its massive pillars and look at all the ornate and intricate design of Christian symbols and images. This is not only true with the Catholic cathedrals but it was also true with evangelistic, Protestant, cathedrals as well. There were pictures and statues that bring out the gospel message of Jesus who came into the world and died on the cross. It was a way for the people to relive the wonderful story as they look upon all the pictures, symbols and images of our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and many of the people

that were influenced by this story. Many people were illiterate and they could not read about the story, but they could definitely see the story.

Also these icons, images, pictures and symbols were a way to help people to worship. As they gather together on those sacred days in which they focus on God’s presence, these sacred symbols gave them a sense of God’s real presence in their lives.

These German cathedrals were visited by many people and tourists throughout the day. I am pretty sure that most of them were amazed at the beauty and historic factor that these cathedrals gave them, but overlook the beautiful symbols that help them worship.

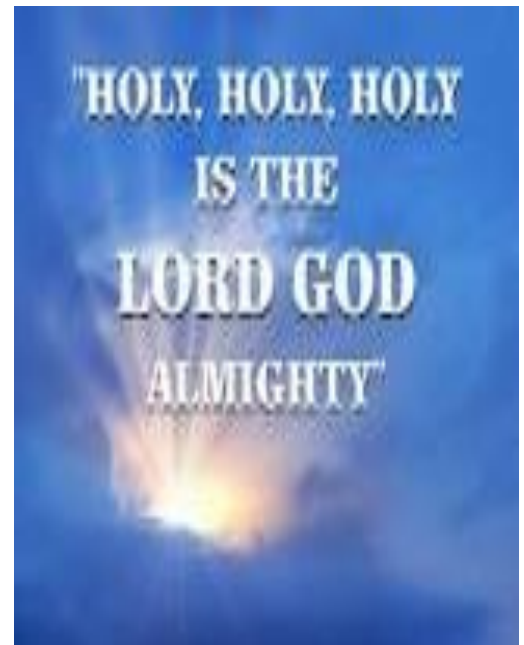
This can also be true of our worship services. We do have many things that remind us of God’s real presence which helps us to worship God. Nonetheless we can allow distractions, a preoccupied mind and indifferent attitude that take the powerful reminders of God’s presence away from our need to worship. That is why one of the most important parts of our worship service is the “preparation of our hearts.”

It is the time that we allow God to prepare our hearts to receive the symbols that remind us of His real presence and to respond to His living word.

Worship is a blessing that God gives us to remove us from the ordinariness of lives into the reality of His Kingdom.

Gruss Gott,  
Pastor Peter Dembroski

*Ps 100:1-3, Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. NIV*



# THE WELL



FIRST Pres offers a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God’s work in the lives of His people, and an invitation to prayer

## WEDNESDAYS, 6-7PM

## ONLINE GIVING



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

At the right hand top of the screen, select Give. Follow Directions to sign up.

NOTE: 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.

The following is a list of local missions supported by FPC:

Youth Mission Trip  
The Door  
Love INC  
Fairbanks Rescue Mission  
CareNet Pregnancy Center  
Food Bank

## Happy Birthday!

|    |                   |    |                  |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Adam Benson       | 18 | Stuart Young     |
|    | Micah Rozell      | 21 | Oki Albrecht     |
| 2  | Brenda Satterberg |    | Jenna Dreydoppel |
|    | Ray Karns         |    | Linda Wells      |
| 3  | Leah Mackey       |    | Rebecca Sirevaag |
| 5  | Michelle Harpole  | 24 | Marcus Cogley    |
| 9  | Carol Gray        |    | Luke Sunderland  |
| 11 | Adam Kohl         | 27 | Bill Brewer      |
| 13 | David Henry       | 29 | Glenn Brummond   |
| 15 | Lynn Hull         |    | Emily Kohl       |
| 17 | Norah Kohl        | 31 | George Repasky   |



## THE SILVER TEA

A different look for this year!

Saturday, November 28, 2021

The purpose for our annual Silver Tea has been two-fold:

- to raise funds for missions within our community, and
- to reach out to the community to enrich our social interactions.

We missed being able to do these things last year when we had to cancel the event.

With the continuing Covid-19 issues in the community, we have planned something a bit different for this year. In lieu of our usual tea, we will hold a **COOKIE SALE** and **MINI-BAZAAR** after church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The hope is that we will be able to fund some of our missions as well as uplift our connections with each other. Look for more information to come in the November newsletter.



*Save the  
Date!*

*Rise Up  
on firm foundations*

*"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the  
purposes of his heart through all generations".  
Psalm 33:11*

You are invited to join FYNDout  
Free's Virtual 2021 Fall Fundraiser  
featuring  
**MC Mayor Jim Matherly!**

**Friday, October 15th**  
**(from the comfort of your home)**

Following the main event, the  
FYNDout Free Team will be taking  
you through a virtual tour of the  
center and sharing the many  
opportunities offered to clients.

Prior to the event a streaming link  
will be sent directly to you.  
Main Event & Speaker: **6:00 - 7:00P**  
Virtual Open House: **7:00 - 7:30P**

Your ticket is **FREE of charge, but does require sign-up**. All attendees registered by October 5th will be entered into a giveaway! All donations made directly support the FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center. It is recommended that viewers be 16 years of age or older based on the content of the event. To register, log onto <https://fyndoutfree.com/2021-fundraiser>.

**FYNDout is an affiliate of Care Net Pregnancy, a nation-wide, faith-based, non-profit organization committed to assisting with empowering women and men during their reproductive story, and is one of the local missions supported by FPC. For additional information, please contact Marta Conner (board member) and/or Cindy Aldrich (a long-term volunteer worker).**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



This month in Children's Ministry .....we are off to a great start! Our faithful volunteers were ready to cover our first 3 Sundays of Sunday school and we began our Roots Kids Club for grades 4,5 and 6 just this week! Roots kicked off with catapult building, a pizza feast and time to look at the creation story. Our most important lesson? God is a Creator who made men and women in his image and found his creations "very good".

As I settle in, I am surprised by how much and how little there is to do. I am surprised by **how much** in that these kids are fantastic and fertile ground for God's word—each one of them has gifts and passions that God wants to grow. The potential is AMAZING, and so exciting to me as a leader! I feel like I've been handed God goggles and I can just see how he wants to love them and grow them this year. This coming month I will be looking for small service projects that the children can work on together. If you have an idea—please let me know!

I am also surprised (and delighted) by how little there is to do. The volunteer team at 1st Pres. has done an outstanding job of keeping the children's ministry going while juggling other jobs, households, and a pandemic. There are faithful attenders, a curriculum in place, loving volunteers and so much affection for these kids. Thanks to all those who have lent a hand but a special thanks to Stephanie Rozell who has put in many, many hours of service and leadership as your Elder of Children's Ministry. I feel well cared for as the incoming staff!

## Our Prayer Requests for the Month

- That each child would feel safe and loved when they come to our church—as if God welcomed them with a hug.
- That these capable Roots kids would find joy in service.
- That I would pray and listen to God before I trust my own plans for this ministry.
- Many thanks to you and Him for trusting me with this amazing job!

**Carina Menaker**  
**Children's Ministry Director**

## ROOTS

**ROOTS is a faith-filled kids club for 4 through 6th grade kids.**

**We meet Sunday afternoons at 4-6 to have fun and share a meal. We study scripture, serve our community and discover God's fingerprints in us and the world.**

**For additional information, please contact Carina Menaker.**



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Youth Updates!

### Parent and Student Meeting October 10

All parents and youth are invited to a special planning meeting at 11:45am in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing curriculum, special youth events, and the Summer 2022 Mission Trip. Lunch will be provided, please plan to attend!

### Confirmation Class Begins October 17

Beginning Sunday, October 17, Confirmation Class will be offered as a component of Sunday Youth Group. This class is for all young people interested in learning about the Christian faith, preparing to be baptized, or affirming their baptism and becoming full members of our church. More information will be shared at the parents meeting October 10.

## Seminary Update!

David continues to study at Fuller Seminary through online courses. He has completed over half of the courses for his Master of Divinity degree. A new academic quarter just began and he is enrolled in Hebrew, Practical Theology/Church Leadership, and Social Ethics. Thank you for your prayers, donations, and encouragement as he continues his studies in preparation for ordination.



## Harvest Time – The Fruits of the Spirit



This is the time for harvest in most parts of the world. We learn to harvest many things in life, and we learn the importance of these things in our individual lives. My husband, Keith, and I are unusual in the fact that we are the reverse of most retired



“snowbirds.” We, in fact, go South in the summer and come North in the winter. We spent our summer in Skagway, Alaska again and we were blessed with the opportunity of sharing our musical gifts every Sunday during worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Skagway. Sheryl Dennis, their regular worship leader, was on vacation at the beginning of June and the first weeks of September, which left us on our own to be creative and learn to harvest what we had to offer on the piano, guitar,



and violin. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, all three of us united and participated in a community worship service in the streets of Skagway with another church congregation. During the entire summer, I joined the Skagway Women’s Prayer group that met weekly, and I learned to harvest skills of praying for one another from a terrific group of 3 local women. I was in awe of their ability to share praises, intercessions, health, travel mercies, mourning concerns, cancer warriors, and even prayers for the unborn and expectant parents and families. It was empowering to me, and I learned that I

truly am a *Servant* in God’s family. As the summer progressed, Keith and I used our landscaping, tree, and lawn maintenance skills to beautify the two RV Parks in Skagway. I harvested crab apples from the trees to prevent bears from endangering the residents. We spent valuable time with family and elders in Skagway helping them to preserve precious history. We harvested knowledge for future generations. We harvested bounty from the sea with Pastor Ryan Mandeville and his young family. Upon our return to North Pole on September 15<sup>th</sup>, it was time to harvest our 7 rows of potatoes that we—the Nore’s and Dreydoppel’s-- planted before we drove to Skagway on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day, and God blessed us with a glorious crop that was cared for by our family all summer in our absence. Days later we harvested our carrots, too. The fruits of the earth and the fruits of the spirit mold us into the servants that we have become. We prepare others, like Kelsey and Jenna, to harvest new skills wherever they may go, to spread the good news of Jesus and grow as unique children of God.

In His Service, Barbara Nore  
Moderator of FPC Deacons



# Drawing Closer.....

**Adult Sunday School.** The Adult Sunday School class began a new series on Sunday, September 12. Please join us as we spend just six weeks on a study of Peter 1:3–11 by bestselling author Dr. David Jeremiah. This video series and our conversation will give you everything you need to walk life's trail with resilience and strength. Each Sunday at 9 am in the Fireside Room, downstairs.

## PRAYER TIME

All are invited to prayer time each Tuesday in the sanctuary at 12:15pm.

This is a time for us to intercede for our world, nation, community, church family and friends.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Men-In-Action.** The group meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex at FPC. We meet for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and to discuss upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us.

For additional information, contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582 or [jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com).

*The  
Effective Fervent  
Prayer  
of a Righteous  
Man  
Avails Much*

*James 5:16*



## Paul and Terry Reichardt's Liferoup Study Thursdays, via ZOOM

The study is based on *Seven Things I Wish Christians Knew About the Bible*, a book by evangelical professor and author Michael Bird. Some topics the book deals with are: Is "our" Bible the only one used in Christian churches? The Bible is God-inspired, but what does that really mean? Is there a difference between taking the Bible seriously and taking it literally? If you are interested in

questions like this and in examining what you believe about the Bible, please join us for weekly study and fellowship.

For additional information  
Paul or Terry Reichardt (455-6703,

**Join Us For Worship Service (in-person) each Sunday at 10am.**

# WHAT IS THE ANGEL TREE?

Happy October 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 20<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. Each year we have a 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 the Sunday service; and 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 26th, 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 20<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or given to any deacon, elder, or pastor during the Sunday service.

Angel gifts need to be at First Presbyterian Church not later than December 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> so that 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**



What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the September 21, 2021 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record. The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church conference room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 21st.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer. Pastor Peter provided a devotion, the Great Model for Being Led by the Holy Spirit, based on Acts 8:26-40

Session examined Elder-Elect Rebekah Vander Lugt for ordination and installation as a Ruling Elder. The examination was concluded and she was approved for ordination and installation.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed**, to set the date of Elder-Elect Vander Lugt's ordination and installation for Sunday morning September 26, 2021 at the morning worship service.

Vital statistics for the past month and recent session minutes were received and it was **moved, seconded, and passed**, that they be approved.

A written financial report was received from Church Treasurer, Christy Repasky. Minutes from the June and July 2021 Deacons Minutes were received and reviewed. Session continued its initial planning on the 2022 Budget, including the amount to be set aside for mission. The decision on the amount for mission was postponed until the October Session meeting.

The Session's policy on conducting email votes was discussed, but no action was taken. The church's policy concerning the Office of Elder and Family Employment was reviewed, and a decision on its revision was postponed until written clarification from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery was received.

Written and verbal ministry team reports were received.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** that Session approve Carina Menaker's attendance at the PCA Children's Ministry Conference and her use of study leave and mileage reimbursement funds for that purpose.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** with regret, to receive Ruling Elder Jenna Dreydoppel's resignation from Session, which is effective on September 29, 2021. Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Moderator Dembroski prayed for the elders and for First Presbyterian, and then adjourned the meeting in prayer.

**The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on October 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.**