

First Light

A Monthly Newsletter Publication
of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks



October 2022

What a Friend We Have in Jesus!



What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness-

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In His arms He'll take and shield you-

You will find a solace there.



Sunday Services

Sunday School | 9am

Adult Sunday School | 9am

Worship Service | 10am

ROOTS (faith-based club for
3-5th grade children | 4-6pm)

Spicy Mustard Youth Group
(High school youth group),
11:30a-3p

Come and learn more about
First Pres—greet family and
friends—bring a friend to
our welcoming family of
faith.

Prayer Time

Tuesdays, 12:15pm

All are invited to prayer
time each Tuesday in
the sanctuary. This is a
time for us to intercede
for our world, nation,
community, and our
church family and
friends.

rejoice



AS
HE
Calls
Us
Deeper
And
Deeper
Into
His
Love

Presbyterian Women

The distribution and purchase of *The Upper ROOM* is supported by the Presbyterian Women Ministry

During the months of September-October, the **UPPER ROOM** features an artist who “beautifully paints the scene from Exodus 34:29 where Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with two covenant tablets in his hand, Moses didn’t realize that the skin of his face shone brightly because he had been talking with God. The artist depicts divine energy radiating from Moses’ head, beard, and robes.

When we find ourselves in one of life’s many wildernesses, allow ourselves to be reminded of the beautiful relationship we have with our heavenly Father that invites us to open ourselves to the transforming power of God’s grace.”

Get your copy today!



Artist: Darius Gilmont

Life Group Bible Study
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, with a meal
First Presbyterian Church
Library (upstairs)

For additional information, please contact Paul or Terry
at 907-455-6703
Everyone is Welcome!

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

First Presbyterian Church Session

David Dreydoppel

Clerk

Keith Nore

Congregation Care

Worship

Barbara Page

Finance

Brian Sunderland

Facility

Jim Williams

Personnel

Mission and Outreach

Deacons

Janice Cleworth

Lindsay Dreydoppel

Nancy Dreydoppel

Daniel Griggs

Kathleen Rahmandar-Halfhill

Joe LaMagna

Jeanne Maddux

Michele Marney

Gayle Meurs

Barbara Nore

Melissa Prince

Staff

Peter Dembroski

Transitional Pastor

David McConnell-Booher

Director of Youth Ministry

Carina Menaker

Director of Children Ministry

Marta Conner

Office Manager

Paul Bonnell

Sound and Support Technician

Peggy Nicholas

Nursery Attendant

Pastoral Message

He was looking right at me. A bull moose that responded to my moose cow call stopped about 65 yards away from me. He came walking up to me shortly after I called him with a cow call. At this time of the year, moose are in the midst of the mating season. A cow call can lure in a full-grown bull moose to a potential partnership and I was able to do this.

I was given a blessing to go on eight-day long moose hunt at a remote cabin. This was my first time away at a moose camp. I have been preparing for this all year with sound instruction, practice and dreams of getting my first moose. I was determined to harvest a moose and especially when after my two hunting mates harvested their own bulls. My plans were to provide meat rations for FPC's wonderful ministry, "The Well", an outreach ministry to feed the poor and homeless. And as you probably found out, I missed the opportunity. This turned out to be the only chance I received that week, but I was very determined to get one and I worked very hard after that missed opportunity at trying to find and hunt "my" moose. I was never able to harvest a bull moose, but God did provide some moose meat for "The Well" from the other two harvested moose.

This failure of fulfilling my long awaited and planned dream could have clouded my whole week at the moose camp. I could have been discouraged, depressed, defeated and overlook all the different ways God blessed me. But instead, God was able to revealed to me all the other blessings that I experienced. There were so many: the rich fellowship of my hunting mates, the gracious goodness of our host, the many encounters of wildlife, the spectacular sunrises and sunsets, the quality times of personal prayer and devotion, the beautiful colors of fall and its transition, etc. God's plan was for me not to get a moose but to enjoy all the other blessings of that time at the moose cabin.

That is why I love the Lord's Prayer that reminds us "*thy Kingdom done; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" We can get so fixated on what we believe is what we want that we lose sight of God's grander plan and will for us and overlook the wonderful blessings that are a part of that experience.

How many times in our life have we planned so diligently and earnestly something that we believe on what God wanted in our lives and it turned out to not be God's will or timing? I know many have experienced this frustration and it has caused great depression or feelings of failure. BUT, God is so good at revealing His good and blessed plan to us as we reconsider the situation, release our plans and open our eyes to His grand plans for us. There is great Joy when our hearts are turned away from our failed plans and to consider and receive God's will for us.

I missed the moose but I experienced so many blessings within that experience as I excepted His will for me.

Pastor Peter Dembroski

CALENDAR

**W
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Y**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9a-Adult Sunday School	9a-Staff Devotion	9a-Staff Devotion	9a-Staff Devotion	12p-Staff Meeting	9a-Staff Devotion
9a-Children Sunday School	11:45-Men's Group	12:15p-AA	12:15p-AA	12:15p-AA	12:15p-AA
10a-Worship Service	12:15p-AA	12:15p-Prayer Time	12:30p-AL Anon	6:30 Life Study Bible Study	12:30p-AL Anon
11:30 Spicy Mustard Youth Group	12:30p-AL Anon		2p-Foodboxes		
4p-ROOTS	2:30 Youth Group		4p-CLIMB		
			6p-The WELL		

TERRY REICHARDT GARDENING CLASS

The class covers general information about soil and seed starting, and specific information about different vegetables including best varieties, growing methods, storage, and cooking tips.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

OCTOBER

8

OCTOBER

ALPHA DELTA GAMMA CHAPTER

Will meet in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and Kitchen to prepared and package meals to donate to The Door.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Training session in sanctuary to discuss Operations Christmas Child Project.

15

OCTOBER

What Are Angel Gifts?



Happy October First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful
“Sneakin’ Deacons!” **We bless people with Angel Gifts ALL YEAR LONG.**
It is time to think about our First Presbyterian Church Angel Tree

What is the Angel Tree?

What are Angel Gifts?

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?

During the season of Advent, the Angel Tree is a way that our church family members give back and “pay it forward” to those who 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 20th 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 also request home baked goods to share with our families and individuals.

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 Marta; 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 paper “Angels.”

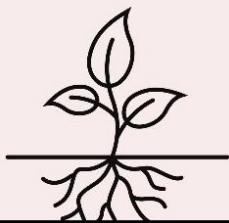
The Angel Trees will be erected in the Narthex on November 25th, just outside of the sanctuary, and filled with tiny paper angels that have specific requests of needs printed on them. As congregation members feel moved, they will select “paper angel requests” and then donate the requested needs on each paper angel and bring it to church not later than December 19th. 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 18th or 19th so that the deacons can prepare each delivery.

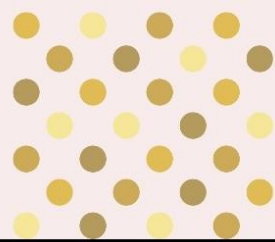
Thank you to all congregation members and our church family for continuing to support this important outreach mission of First Presbyterian Church.



Barbara Nore, Moderator
First Presbyterian Church Deacons



CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres Folks,

As the school year starts, we are well into our new curriculum for Sunday school and our Sunday school teachers are working with energy and love to engage our kids with the Gospel. Amber Sunderland and Marta Deleon are in the 3rd-5th classroom; Scott Gilbert, Brian Sunderland and Lonny Marney are in the Middle School room, Christy Repasky is helping with storytelling and George Repasky helps me in the our youngest class, Kindergarten through 2nd grade. We've had lots of fun making scripture more tangible for these youngest : we played with light and dark in our shadow room-- and learned how God created light and dark. We built a block city to illustrate the City of God in Revelation. We played a thankfulness game as we learned how ingratitude towards God can hurt us. **If you'd like to join in the fun, we could use another set of hands in that room. Contact the office or myself anytime!** This month I'd appreciate your prayers that God's word would go deep for our students, and that we would find ways to welcome more kids to our program. Please ask that God guides us as we consider our budget and how that reflects our priorities. Thank you for all the love you show our kids! Your love is a means of God's grace to them and to me!



CLUBS ARE IN SESSION!

Roots Club for Kids 3rd-5th meets Sundays 4-6

Focused on fun and Bible training, dinner is served at 5:00

Climb Club for Kids 6th-8th meets Wednesdays

Focused on Fellowship, Discipleship and Prayer. Contact Carina for up to date meeting times.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

In September, Children's Sunday school, we focused on God's perfect plan for humanity: we would live with him and enjoy Him forever. We studied the story of Creation, the early life of Adam and Eve, the expulsion from the Garden and God's vision for a new perfect place as described in Revelation. We also began our second 4 week unit that will focus on God's mercy in the midst of our sin.

We now teach one Bible story at 9:00 to all ages, then split into three classrooms:

- k-2--hands on Bible experiences
- 3-5--puzzles and team challenges
- Middle School--conversation and creating

MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

This month, the Children's Ministry team met to welcome our newest member, Meagan Smith. We reflected on last month's trial curriculum and approved another 4 weeks of the same. The team received a first draft of our new Children's Ministry Discipleship Plan. This plan should unify the goals of the Sunday School curriculum and our ongoing Club Ministry to Roots and Climb kids. We have also been in consultation with David to be sure that these goals compliment the goals of the youth ministry. refining a few things, but hope to present a finished copy to parents in October.

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Ministry Updates

September has flown by at what feels like warp speed! But as Fall lingers a little longer and we look forward to Winter and all the wonderful holidays and holy days like Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, here are a few updates on what is happening in Youth Ministry at FPC...

Middle School Youth Group - Our group for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meets on **Wednesdays at the church from 3-5pm**. We always have a Bible Study, Fellowship, Prayer, and fun activities like frisbee golf, team challenges, and board games. Join us as we look at what it means to grow in our faith and be a blessing to our families and our schools!

High School Youth Group - Our group for 9th-12th graders meets on **Sundays from 11:30am to 3pm**. We just started a new Bible Study walking through the Book of Daniel and learning how to stay strong and grow in our faith even when there are strong pressures to conform to the world around us. We also meet on Mondays (2:30-6:00pm) and Wednesdays (2:30-7:00pm) after school to hang out, work on homework together, and serve the church with work projects.

Seminary Updates - I just began what should hopefully be my final academic quarter at Fuller Seminary! I am taking courses on Child Psychology and Mental Health, Mission and Missiology, and Ethics of Creation Care. Your unfailing financial support and prayer have helped carry me through this journey and I cannot hope to express the proper amount of gratitude for all of your support! I plan to graduate with my Master of Divinity in December and complete my Ordination preparation and exams shortly after that.

David McConnell-Booher, Youth Director



Fall Banquet

Friday, October 14th ♦ 6-8:30 p.m.

At Lighthouse Church, 270 Fairhill Road, Fairbanks, AK

Homestyle Dinner
by Batter & Crumb

*"...we have this treasure
in jars of clay..."*

- 2 Cor. 4:7a

Scan QR code



to sign up:
FYNDoutFree.com/2022-fall-banquet

Speaker John Coghill
"The Value of Every Life"

A Fundraiser for
FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center

MUST READ BOOK

It was a cold winter day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly.

I noticed as I got out of the car that fellow church member were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church. As I go closer, I saw a man leaning against the wall outside the church. He as almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out. I assumed this mans was homeless, and sleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church.

We all fellowshiped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me. A few moments later church began.

We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors of the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit. He took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher. He was the “homeless” man. No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand. Folks, I don’t think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today.



Terence Lester calls us to see the invisible people around us. His personal encounters and real-life stories challenge Christians to become more informed about poverty and homelessness, and to see the poor as Jesus does. When we see people through God's eyes and hear their stories, we restore their dignity and help them flourish. And when we recognize our own inner spiritual poverty, we have greater empathy for others, no matter their circumstances.

Let love open your eyes. Discover how seeing leads us to act with compassion and justice—as God intends.

Excerpts from I See You

SESSION NEWS

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the September 13, 2022 Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Narthex at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 13th.

- Moderator Dembroski presented a devotion based on Psalm 23 and opened the meeting with prayer.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The agenda was approved as amended.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.
- A letter from Julie Benson was received, in which she requested that Session release her from membership; a letter was received from Brenna McConnell-Booher with information and questions on the efforts of the previous vision team and planning for the upcoming Vision Teams; and a letter from member Paul Reichardt with information on the upcoming plans for The Well.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Julie Benson's request to be released from membership.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Consent Calendar items, which included the review and approval of the Deacons July 2022 Meeting.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer.
- A verbal report on progress by the Pastor Search Committee was presented.
- A building use request from Samaritan's Purse was approved.
- Session developed plans and a process to choose the Vision Team for the upcoming GO Center revitalization process. It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Jim Williams and Stephanie Rozell to form a Vision Team from those candidates identified by Session.
- Session discussed and implemented plans for calling new leaders for FPC. Previous Session members will be asked to present a Minute for Ministry to speak about their experiences.
- Pastor Peter and David McConnell-Booher will be developing plans to create a more welcoming environment for visitors.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to extend the contract for Pastor Peter to the last day of December 2022 to allow for planning for Advent and Christmas.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve September 15th and 20th as vacation days for Pastor Peter.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on October 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

Wishing you a
VERY SPECIAL
day filled with love
and happiness!!

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

*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.*

*Each Wednesday
6-7pm
Fellowship Hall
The cost is free
Reservations are not required.*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PLEASE JOIN US!!

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!