

First Light

A Monthly Newsletter Publication

Hello
October!

PRAYER

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.

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!

Happy Birthday!

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



Pastor's Appreciation

Did you know that ever since 1992, October has been designated Pastor Appreciation Month? The 2nd Sunday of the month, (October 8th, this year) is officially Pastor Appreciation Sunday. These are times that have been set aside to thank and honor pastors. Since we here at First Presbyterian Church Fairbanks have been so blessed these past four months to have Pastor David McConnell-Booher as our new pastor, we want to encourage everyone at FPC to find ways this October to let Pastor David know how thankful we are for him.

Choose to bless Pastor David in any way that God leads you.....but if you need some ideas, here are just a few suggestions: pray for him and let him know you are praying, write a heart-felt note or send a card, verbally express your gratitude, take him out for lunch or coffee, invite him to your home, give a gift card to one of his favorite stores or restaurants, make a special dessert or treat, offer to help or serve in whatever way would be helpful to him, etc.

Our pastor's wife, Brenna, is a wonderful gift to him and to us! To bless her, will be a great way of honoring him, too! So, let's think of ways to show thanks to Brenna in combination with our expressions of gratitude to Pastor David.

*FYI: **Pastor David will be gone Oct. 3-6,** attending a pastor's retreat and Presbytery. **He will also be away on a brief trip Oct. 26-30,** so he won't be available to connect with at the church office on those days, however, there will be lots of other days this month to shower him and Brenna with extra love and appreciation!*

FPC Personnel Committee

Enjoy Blessing Them!



SESSION

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the September 19, 2023 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record

- Moderator McConnell-Booher presented a devotion based on Matthew 11:25. Moderator McConnell-Booher then opened the meeting with prayer.
- The meeting began with an Information Technology workshop presented by Jim Williams. New ways of managing church communications and file storage were presented, and elders began experimenting with the new methods.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for those needs.
- Those in attendance recited the Vision and Mission Statements.
- The agenda was approved as amended.
- Minutes from the last Stated Session meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved as presented.
- No correspondence was received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Consent Calendar item, which included the approval of the Deacons July 25, 2023 meeting minutes, and approval of leave for Pastor David on September 21, 2023 and from October 27 to October 31, 2023.
- A written financial report was received from the church treasurer, Mikki Holt.
- Commissioners for the upcoming fall Presbytery Meeting were elected. Presbytery is from October 5, 2023 to October 7, 2023 in Jacksonville, OR.
- Session is in the midst of a discussion on how to implement ways to optimize seating in the sanctuary.
- The first reading of the 2024 Budget was conducted.
- The development of church policies on requests for personal use of the church website and electronic updates (mailchimp) were discussed. At this time the practice for handling such requests will be to refer them to the Pastor for a final decision.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to allow Adventures in Mission to use FPC facilities next summer, from July 25th to August 5th.

(continued on next page)

- It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team to restructure FPC's bank accounts in a way that will maximize earned interest and services provided.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to add \$1,000 to the 2023 Budget for the purpose of bringing a candidate to Fairbanks for an in-person, late stage interview.
- There was no update on REBOOT, the church revitalization program.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator, with prayer at 9:40 pm.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on October 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room



Join Us... **for our next**
WOMEN COFFEE CONNECTION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
10AM-12NOON



Alaska Coffee Roasting Company
West Valley Plaza
4001 Geist Road

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY
6-7PM**



**THE
WELL**



**Free
Community
Meals**





1	Sunday Schools	2	The family of Eleanor Marsh	3	Joe & Joanna Weber	4	Dan & Linda Wells <i>The Well (every Wednesday)</i>	5	James & Kil Whiteman	6	Seth, Liesel, Adelaide, Gretchen & Cora Wietgreffe	7	Jim & Jane Wisland
8	FPC	9	Jim, Sheila & Sean Williams	10	Stuart, Heather & Taylor Young	11	Sheng Zhao, Kay Wang & Kiwi	12	Brian, Sarah, Cade & Chloe Albert	13	Mark & Shirley Albert	14	Oki Albrecht & Kristina Anderson
15	Music Ministry	16	Jim & Cindy Aldrich	17	Sue Ault <i>Session Meeting</i>	18	Timothy Beck	19	Adam, Julie, Ainsley & Alyson Benson	20	Geoff Beyersdorf	21	Dan & Debbie Brady
22	Indonesian Mission	23	Paul Bonnell	24	Rob & Elucia Boswell	25	George & Wanda Bowder	26	Billy, Stephanie, Liam & Oliver Brewer	27	Bill & Donna Brewer	28	Matt, Maria, Gwendolyn, Owen, Blake & Trevor Bunch
29	Women's Ministry	30	Chris, Amanda, Trapper & Wylie Carr	31	June Champion	Healing Prayers for Roland & Joyce Tapper Pat & Sig Fink June Champion Joy-el Culligan Chris & Maggie Demers Jacob Rozell Deanna Morris George Shoogakawik							

1st Pres Staff
David McConnell-Booker
Carna Menaber
Marta Conner
Peggy Nicholas
Paul Bonnell

Deacons
Marta DeLeon
Nancy Dreydoppel
Debby Foster
Daniel Griggs
Joe LaMagna
Jeanne Maddux
Michele Marney
Barbara Nore
Melissa Prince
Kathy Rahmander

Elders
Sarah Albert
David Dreydoppel
Keith Nore
Paul Reichardt
Ted Riggs, Sr.
Brian Rozell
Bill Satterberg
Brian Sunderland

**Monthly Prayer Calendar
Created by Joanne Klaver**

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the front office



Blessed Are...

The Poor

Those Who Mourn

The Meek

The Hungry for Justice

The Merciful

The Pure Hearted

The Peacemakers

The Persecuted

The Reviled

**Join Us for Nine Weeks with Jesus as
We Learn What It Truly Means To Be
Blessed**



CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres Folks,

Children's Ministry is in full swing for the year-- and bursting at the seams! Sunday school and club attendance has grown by 25% or so. Please consider attending our BASIC TRAINING to become a regular helper, or an occasional pinch hitter, covering for regular volunteers when they are ill or away.

This week, Roots kids will dive into building replicas of the Ark of the Covenant and study each of the items held sacred by God's ancient people (Thank you Dreydoppels for donating supplies!). Climb kids volunteered in addition to their studies. They made fluffy blankets for the FNSB Animal shelter dogs (see my pound puppy Fiona modeling).

Join the fun, and help strengthen God's future leaders.



Quinn



CLUB NEWS

Climb Club (for Kids 6th-8th) has been shifted to Wednesdays 3-5 in order to accommodate fall sports schedules.

Roots Club (for Kids 3rd-5th) meets Sundays 4-6 and provides dinner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will now begin each Sunday at 9 in the Fireside Room. We are so happy to begin meeting in this cozy space! After the Bible lesson, we will split into age groups for further study as usual.

BASIC TRAINING:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15,
FIRESIDE ROOM.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE CHURCH SERVICE.



Counting Our Blessings



We will be starting the month of October with a nine week sermon series on the Nine Beatitudes that Jesus teaches as a bombastic introduction to what is known as “The Sermon On The Mount.” Many of these nine “Blessed Are...” declarations were provocative for Jesus to teach at the time, and continue to provoke us in our culture today. Jesus challenges us to consider what it truly means to be blessed; to be happy, to be successful, to carry divine favor the way we carry our keys in our pocket.

While all but the heartiest of your garden’s vegetables will already be harvested by the

time you read this newsletter, we are still in the midst of the traditional harvest season for the northern hemisphere. Oktoberfest, fall festivals, pumpkin patches, these all speak to a season when we gather up that which has grown all summer, count our harvest, and prepare for winter.

Of course, many of us did not grow one green tomato this summer. Most of us swing by the grocery store on the way home if there is something we need for dinner that night or breakfast the following day. All the same, why not take this seasonal moment, this annual prompting, as an invitation to count our blessings? How have we been blessed by God in the last year? As individuals? Families? As First Presbyterian Church? How can we be sure to enjoy these God-given blessings and never take them for granted? How can we ensure that such blessings are never wasted, but are instead put to good use? How we can we respond to God’s abundant grace and mercy with joy for today and bright hope for tomorrow?

All of this starts by counting our blessings.

Pastor David ~~






It's the
return of FPC's

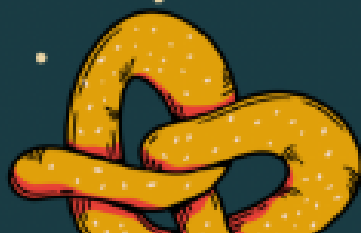


Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 15



Join us after church for a
semi-pot luck - church will
provide the
BRATS, HOT DOGS, and
ROOT BEER.

You bring sides and
desserts.





WHAT ARE ANGEL GIFTS? WHAT IS THE BLESSING TREE?

*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 Blessing Tree. What is the Blessing 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 Blessing 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 18th 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” that will go on the Blessing Trees.

The Blessing Trees will be erected in the Narthex, hopefully the week of November 19th, 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 17th. 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 17th or 18th 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.

Melissa Prince, Moderator
First Presbyterian Church Deacons

