

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, October 2025

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FATHER GREGORY BOYLE OF HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES IS COMING TO FAIRBANKS!

New York Times bestselling author Fr. Greg Boyle of **Tattoos On The Heart** and founder of Homeboy Industries is coming to speak in Fairbanks this fall with two former gang-members.

THANK YOU to First Presbyterian for taking the lead on this incredible opportunity for our community.

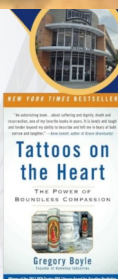
Homeboy Industries provides hope, training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, helping them to redirect their lives and rejoin the community.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday Nov. 21, 2025
6:30-8:30 PM



homeboyalaska.org



Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

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HOW IT WORKS

Learning to Live by Faith with Your Whole Life

- SEPT 21** The Work of the People
Liturgy for Life Beyond Sunday
Philippians 4:4-7
- SEPT 28** Magnify the Lord With Me
Standing in Awe and Wonder of God
Psalm 34
- OCT 5** Let All Creation Sing
Caring for Creation Like Jesus
Colossians 1:15-19
- OCT 12** A Sign and A Seal
Sacraments as the Promises of God
Luke 22:14-20
- OCT 19** Let it Cook
Patience and Trust as acts of Faith
Luke 13:18-21
- OCT 26** Tell Your Story
Evangelism in Daily Life
Acts 17:16-34
- NOV 2** God Sits and Looks at Me
Prayer as Relationship with the Lord
Matthew 6:1-21



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.

~~ From the Pastor ~~

At All Times and In All Places

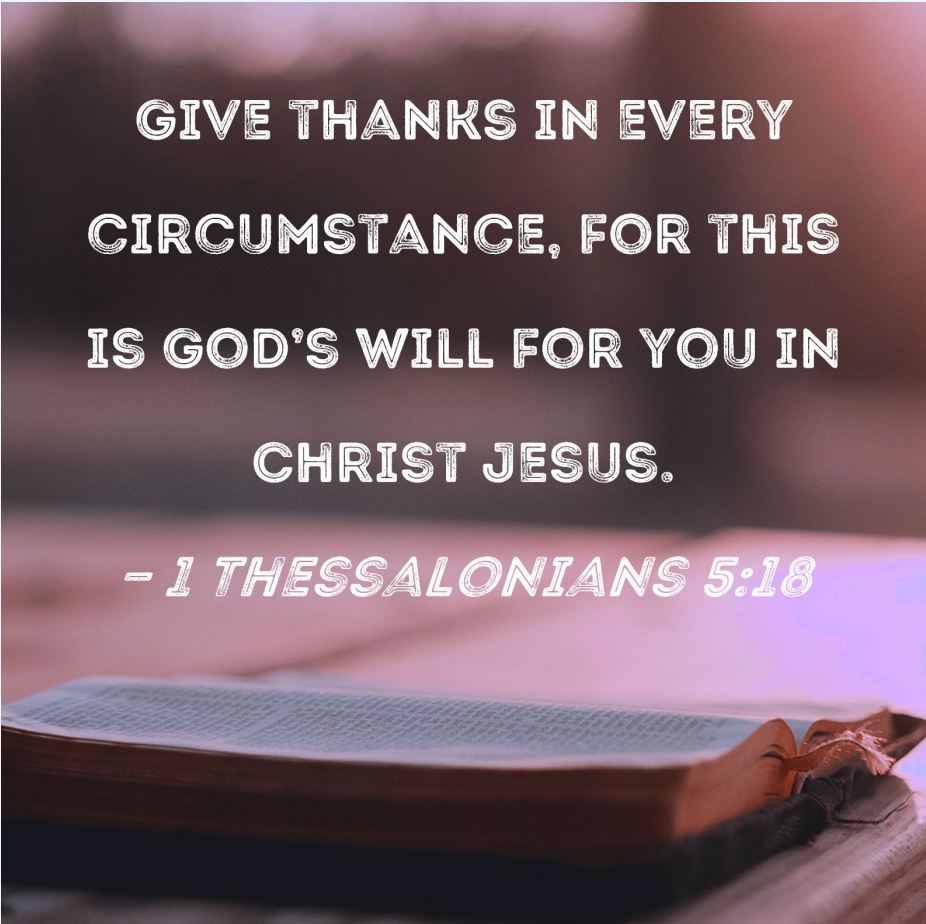
My recent sermons have been focused on the "how" of faith: exploring not just what we believe, but how we live out that faith with our daily lives.

As I prepared my sermon on "liturgy" or "the work of the people", I remembered one of the main pieces of Setting 1 for the Sunday Liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship, which I heard and prayed almost every Sunday throughout my childhood. After singing and giving glory and honor to God, the pastor would respond: "it is indeed right and salutary at all times and in all places to give thanks and praise to You, O God..."

I was recently discussing this on the phone with my dad, the same pastor who was usually presiding over the above liturgy for me. He pointed out that this liturgy does not affirm that we are to give thanks and praise to God for all things, which can be inappropriate or even downright blasphemous in some cases. Rather, we are to give praise and thanks to God in all things.

We recognize that we live in the midst of a world broken by sin. We often find ourselves suffering the consequences of sin, whether we did the sinning or not. While we should not (and honestly, cannot) give thanks to God for the evil we witness or experience in the world around us, we find ourselves facing a choice: will we grumble and moan about the state of the world and the apparent lack of God's goodness at work around us or will we humbly go to God in prayer, giving thanks to The Lord for our life and the blessings that we can name today, and praising God for the opportunity to step up and be a part of God's good at work in this broken world.

Liturgies are not meant to be empty rituals and bland piety. They are prompts for us to do the hard work of faith every day - rejoicing with God in all things and seeking to walk in the ways of God's Kingdom and to be agents of His Kingdom. Giving thanks to God and seeking to know and do God's will no matter what the circumstances may be. This is the "how" of faith, at all times and in all places.



**GIVE THANKS IN EVERY
CIRCUMSTANCE, FOR THIS
IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN
CHRIST JESUS.**

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

~~Pastor David

Covenant

Notes from Nicole

First Pres Families,

First Snow in September was not anything my southern heart thought it would ever get to see but here we are..... What a gift it is to grow through the new seasons with you.

October brings some special events and I hope you'll make plans to participate: October 5th is SERVE DAY. We'll serve during worship, usher, greeter, host Yoshi's Sweet 16, support Blessing of the Pets, and rake leaves at Noreen's (our office manager) house.

October 19th is one of my FAVORITE events of the year: Pizza and Pumpkins. NextGen is strongly encouraged to bring a baked good for our bake-off in addition to bringing a pumpkin to carve/decorate. Pizza will be provided for dinner. We can't wait to see you!

NextGen is in the book of John this semester. As we explore scripture my prayer is for your students to have a stronger desire to get to know their Creator and Savior.

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my commandments, you shall be MY treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine." Exodus 19:5

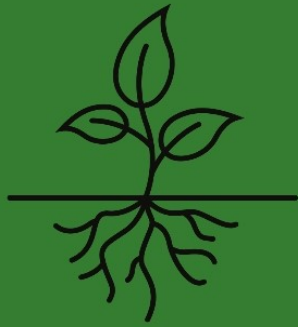
Let us continue to walk in obedience of the Father to reflect we are HIS.

For the Good and God,
-Nicole

October calendar

- **October 5th - Sunday Serve Day**
- **October 12th - Regular programming**
- **October 19th - Pizza and Pumpkins**
- **October 25th - Regular Programming**





CHILDREN'S ministry

Into the Future

We've started up ministry for the year, and I am focused on the future. I'm focused on the future of our children's ministry as it grows and makes room for new families and new kids.

New families join us every week and as I look at our Children's programs, I ask myself: what does it feel like to come here for the first time? How can our current children be good hosts? How can I make room for children with all kinds of needs and perhaps less familiarity with Jesus?

We are beginning to answer those questions with small steps:

- At our Robot Kickoff event, and during our opening day of Sunday school, we focused on the story of Zacchaeus, the outsider that Jesus welcomed in. That's why our robot buddy was named "Zach".
- On our second week of Sunday school, we focused on the beginning of Mark, where "the kingdom of heaven has come near", where God Himself came near to us through Jesus. It is our job to come near to others too!

I am so grateful for the families who step through our doors, looking for Jesus and His people. Please pray with me that we are faithful to receive them well!

Pizza
&
Pumpkins

Oct.
19

4-6
p.m.



BRING YOUR KIDDO
AND A PUMPKIN

YOU MAKE MEMORIES,
WE MAKE DINNER!

Sunday School
9-10 am every Sunday

Climb
4-6 pm every Sunday

Roots
TBD



Birthdays

- 
- 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
 - 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 Nicolai (Hoak)
 - 31 George Repasky

October

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the September 16, 2025 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.

- The Meeting was opened with a Devotion and Prayer.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Elders prayed for those needs.
- The minutes from the August 19th Stated Session Meeting and August 24th Special Session Meeting were reviewed and approved. The vital statistics from August 19th through September 16th were reviewed and approved.
- There were no E-Mail votes over the last month.
- There was no Correspondence over the last month.
- Items on the Consent Calendar were approved. This included minutes from the Deacons Meeting from July 29, 2025.
- Church membership diminished by 4, to 151 as of September 16, 2025, due to the transfer of the Romaneski Family. The average weekly church attendance increased over the last month to 145 per service. Attendance for 2025 Year-to-date remains at 148.
- A financial report was received from Church Treasurer Mikki Holt, who was in attendance to answer any questions. Because of internet problems this past month, specific financial details were unavailable, but the receipts and expenditures remain consistent with a projected deficit of \$16,000 by the end of 2025. The General Fund remains healthy with more than enough to cover any year-end deficit.
- One new Elder and 5 new Deacons were ordained and installed over the last month.
- Several motions from the Stewardship and Finance Team were brought forward, and were discussed and passed. The effect of these motions were to: 1) approve direct deposit for staff salary and any required EFT payments as required by vendors; 2) streamline the list of eligible categories for receiving Designated Gifts and the process for amending those categories; 3) take action related to Restricted Funds, by either retaining the fund intact, spending the fund down by the end of 2025, or rolling the balance into the General Fund or other fund account.
- With the 2026 Budget process beginning, Elders were asked to submit their Budget requests by October 1st.
- The final Deacon ordinations and installations were scheduled for September 21st.
- Ruling Elders Brian Rozell and Emma Snell volunteered to assist with communion on October 5, 2025.

- Session was reminded that Teaching Elder Andrew Smith will be preaching on Sunday October 12th.
- Several motions related to policy for the use of the entry area / Narthex during the week and on Sunday mornings have been tabled for further discussion at the October Session Meeting.
- A motion from the Administration & Personnel Team was also tabled until the October Session Meeting.
- A motion to combine the Specialized Ministry Team into the Adult Christian Education Ministry Team remains tabled until the October Session Meeting.
- Written reports were received from Ministry Teams.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator and he led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on October 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

First Pres. Financial Snapshot

January - July 2025

Income: \$333,831.20

Expenses: \$354,399.62

1st Pres Staff
David McConnell
-Booher
Nicole Matthews
Carina Menaker
Noreen
Harwood
Peggy Nicholas
Paul Bonnell

Deacons
Marta, Beaudreault
Aaron Evans
Bethany Evans
Debby Foster
Daniel Griggs
Emily Kohl
Kathy Libby
Shannon Riggs
Christy Repasky
Sarah Rozell
Joanna Weber
Elders
Sarah Albert
Charles Beaudreault
David Dreydoppel
David Henry
David McConnell
-Booher
Keith Nore
Paul Reichardt
Brian Rozell
Emma Snell
Brian
Sunderland

October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Healing Prayers for
Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
George Shoogukurwk Joan Riggs
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels

		1	2	3	4
		The Family of Kit Geissler	Jim, Sheila & Sean Williams	Jim & Jane Wisland	Stuart, Heather & Taylor Young
		The Well (every Wednesday)			
5	6	8	9	10	11
FPC Families and Pets	Sheng, Kay Wang, & Kiwi Zhao	Colleen Abrams	Brian, Sarah, Chloe & Cade Albert	Mark & Shirley Albert	Oki Albrecht
12	13	14	16	17	18
Children & Youth Ministries	Jim & Cindy Aldrich	Kristina Anderson	Linda Armstrong	Robert Askelin	Charles & Marta Beaudreault
19	20	21	22	24	25
Sunday Schools	Adam, Julie, Ainsley & Allyson Benson	Geoffrey Beyersdorf	Paul Bonnell	Rhonda Boswell	Steve & Katherine Bouta
26	27	28	29	31	
Our Pastor	Dan & Debra Brady	Billy, Stephanie, Liam & Oliver Brewer	George & Wanda Bowder	Bill & Donna Brewer	