



Hello Autumn!

First Light Newsletter

PRAYER

A No-lose Proposition

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they **should always pray and not give up**. Luke 18:1 (NIV). Rejoice always, ¹⁷ **pray continually**, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's Will for you in Christ Jesus.

1Thessalonians 5:16-18(NIV)

"When it comes to prayer, persistence is important. We can give up or hang on. We can let go or pray through. We can get frustrated with God or choose to live unoffended. Prayer is a habit to be cultivated. It is a discipline to be developed. It is a skill to be practiced. Who you become is determined by how you pray. Ultimately, the transcript of your prayers becomes the script of your life." (Mark Batterson's book *"The Circle Maker"*)

The purpose for this article is to invite and encourage you to join others in our church's intercessory prayer time each Tuesday afternoon at 12:15pm. During this prayer time, we pray for the needs addressed during the Sunday morning prayer time, our nation, Session, deacons, church staff, youth children ministries, and other needs

the group shares. We can pray at home and I know that many of us do every day, but it has been said there is an intimacy that takes place when we pray together. Intimacy with the one we pray for, with those we pray with, and with the one we pray to (our All-powerful and loving God). Maybe why we don't feel the community or unity we should, and what Christ prayed in John 17 is because we spend so little time in



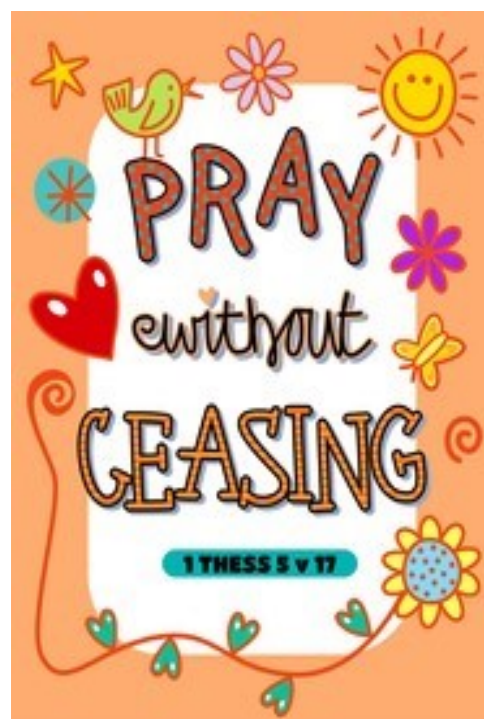
church-wide prayer. We are all familiar with II Chronicles 7:14, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. But verse 15 is often not shared; "Now my eyes will be opened and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." Think about it! If we humbly

approach God, He has stated His eyes will be opened and ears attentive to our prayers.

Prayer is one of the greatest gifts God has given us. What a marvelous thing to be able to speak directly with the creator and guardian of our lives and our world. "Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!" Psalm 103:1

Hope, you will consider joining the Tuesday afternoon church prayer time. (When my people).

Ted Riggs Sr.
Prayer Team Member



"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

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.



~~The Well Is Back~~

Summer is over, and The Well will start up again on September 8. We had anticipated returning to sit-down meals this Fall. However, the recent surge in COVID cases in Fairbanks and the uncertainty about where the situation is headed has prompted us to follow CDC and State of Alaska guidelines to minimize potential exposures and employ a take-out format

for at least the first month. We intend to follow those guidelines with the hope of returning to sit-down meals as soon as conditions warrant.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and The Well is one of the main ways we do that at 1st Pres. In the past, we have fed 35-100 hungry neighbors each week while offering them fellowship, a brief message from scripture, and the opportunity for prayer. Our guests react to this in various ways; but they all recognize that it is our way of saying to each of them that we love you and, more importantly, God loves you.

With all that in mind, here are volunteer opportunities for anyone who wants to be part of this outreach to our neighbors:

- While we are in take-out format, we could use one—or possibly two—volunteers each week to help with meal distribution and cleanup. Once we go to sit-down meals each week, we will need three or four volunteers to help with serving and cleaning up.
- Our guests always appreciate homemade desserts, so that's a great opportunity if baking is your thing. You can whip up a tray of cookies, brownies, etc. and leave them in the church kitchen with a note that they are for The Well.
- While we are in take-out mode, you or your group could prepare a main dish (either preparing it at home or in the church kitchen). Expenses can be covered by food from the Food Bank or reimbursement from the church budget for The Well.
- If we can get a group of a half-dozen or more volunteers for a "Moose Gang" and a place to store a moose carcass until we can set up a butchering night at church, we will sign up for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers Roadkill Program. If there is enough tentative interest (we have two volunteers already), we will call a meeting to discuss the conditions prescribed by the program and if we want to sign up.

If you want to volunteer for any of these opportunities or if you have questions, please contact Paul Reichardt by phone (455-6703, 907-347-3214), text (907-347-3214) or email (paulreichardt@gmail.com).

The Front Office will be closed on Monday, September 6 to observe the Labor Day Holiday. The office will resume operations on Tuesday, September 7.

Announcements

NEW SUNDAY MORNING

SERVICE TIME



BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12
SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:00AM



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 more information, please contact Jim Aldrich at 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.



Youth Group

sundays, 11a-4p, Youth Room (downstairs), lunch included.

wednesdays from 4-7pm



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

LUVR

Listen, Understand, Validate, Resolve (LUVR) is a process in which Jesus responded to those that are trying to express their heartfelt needs. We see this at work when Jesus addressed the Samaritan woman at the well in the Book of John, Chapter 8. Jesus always had a reason for the ministry he gave us.

Jesus went through the region Samaria, a land in which Jewish people would purposely avoid, to minister to an adulteress female outcast to whom no one would give respect - especially on spiritual matters. She was considered an unclean person in a country that was considered unholy by the Jewish people. The disciples tried to warn him of this, but Jesus had a greater plan-as he has a greater plan for all of us. Jesus addressed the Samaritan woman knowing that she was greatly broken, desperately needing the waters that would quench her spirit. Jesus knew her most vital need and put her through a process in which he listened to her, communicated an understanding of her need, validated her need and demonstrated her value. Jesús went ahead and resolved her needs. This process completely transformed her, giving her value, purpose and joy in which, she shared to the very neighbors who treated her as an outcast. They received and responded to the message of Jesus Christ that she shared. Their lives transformed as they became sons and daughters of our Father in heaven. God continues to use this process with his people all the time, resolving our greatest needs.

LUVR is a God-given, Christ-modeled way to help resolve conflicts and disagreements and help us to better know a person's heartfelt needs. But before we go through this process, we have to establish the most fundamental truth that God wants us to embrace. God wants us to value the people and relationships so strongly that we do whatever we need to resolve a broken relationship. If we don't value the relationship, we will not take seriously the opportunity to resolve, repair and restore fellowship. The social sins that were revealed in Galatians 5 shows us the awful consequences of responding to our flesh, which devalues people and destroys relationships. God gives us no option about this. He commanded us to love and value people and relationships.

When we are struggling with a conflict or disagreement, God wants us to listen and hear their needs. Helpful way to demonstrate that you have listened and truly understood what you have heard is to repeat the need that you have heard the person express. This is critically important-we need to validate the person and their needs. If we don't, we sabotage the process in resolving the situation. But when we move through his process, it helps us to know how to provide a process in which we can meet those needs and find resolution and healing. I encourage us as a church and the body of Christ to follow in Christ's example, shining as a light to the world.

John 4:39-42, Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. ESV

Pastor Peter Dembroski



KIDSNEWS

Carina Menaker

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!
FPC NEW
CHILDREN ADMINISTRATOR

Sunday, Sept 12
Sunday, Sept 12

Sunday School resumes at 9am
Children Ministry Picnic,
after church service, Growden
Park. Parents, bring your lawn
chairs, blankets, etc. Bottled
water and Subway sandwiches
will be provided PLEASE RSVP.
You are welcome to bring a
dessert. Also, parents, this will
be your first chance to visit with
Carina!

Do you have friends who've never set foot in a church? Who don't understand why we need a gospel?

Our gardening class is a great way to invite them here. It has top-notch growing information with just a touch of God thrown in here and there to give you opportunities for conversation. Even if you never talk about your faith, your friends will leave with a positive view of the church. If you don't have non-Christian friends, come by yourself. You can meet numerous ones and develop some potential relationships as you learn to grow food. **Growing Veggies in Fairbanks:** Sept 27 through Nov 15, Mondays, 6:00pm– 8:00pm. To enroll and for more information, call the church office at 452-2406. A \$20 donation will help cover expenses but is not required.

Gardening Class
Hosted by Terry Reichardt



Thanks,
In Christ,
Terry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Sept 4	Dan Wells
6	Mark Lawson
7	Josephine Papp
7	Shannon Riggs
9	Vern Canada
10	Norman Klann
10	Ben Logan
10	Sarah Logan
11	Wanda Bowder
12	Alan Sims
13	Sandy Hoak
14	Rachel Perkins
15	Qulvaq Hoak
17	Scott Marney
18	Patty Greimann
18	Rick Stovarsky
18	Jason Riggs
19	Nancy Dreydoppel
19	Mark Wartes
20	Kil Whiteman
21	Anarrakaq Hoak
22	Debra Lynn Bush
22	Adelaide Wietgreffe
26	Hannah Denton
28	Meredith Nava
29	Scottie Klann
29	Sage Gates
29	Lorena Sims

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the August 17, 2021 Stated 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, August 17th.

The logo for the Elders of the church, featuring the word "ELDERS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark rectangular box with a thin white border.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

The meeting began with a request to follow CDC guidelines, and wear masks for the meeting. It was **moved, seconded and passed**.

Moderator Dembroski led a devotion based on Matthew 22:34-40 (Great Commandment), Matthew 28:16-20 (Great Commission), Acts 1:8-9 (Great Witness), Luke 19:9-10 (Great Mission), and Matthew 24:14 (Great Multiplication).

The Elders present recited the Vision and Mission Statements of FPC.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the agenda as presented.

Vital Statistics from July 21, 2021 to August 17, 2021, as well as Minutes from the July 20, 2021 Stated Session Meeting were received. It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the minutes as presented.

Correspondence was received from several members with suggestions related to Sunday School classes, worship and facilities maintenance. These letters will be forwarded to the proper committee of Session. Correspondence was received from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest outlining a new procedure for calculating financial support to fund Presbytery's operating budget. Also, information was received on the upcoming October meeting of Presbytery.

A letter from the members of the Pastor Search Committee was received, requesting that they be allowed to be dissolved. Because the Session has voted to follow through with Phases Two and Three of the Transitional Process, and because information gathered for the Pastor Search Process is out of date, the Committee has requested that this action be taken.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to receive the request of the Pastor Search Committee and notify the congregation.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to elect Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland and Clerk of Session David Dreydoppel as Commissioners to the October Presbytery Meeting.

A written financial report from Church Treasurer Christy Repasky was received. Ruling Elder Barbara Page mentioned that the Seminary Reserve Fund is running low and would benefit from additional gifts.

A letter was received from those who organize the Well, looking for guidance in determining the format to be followed this fall. It was **moved, seconded and passed** that the Well would resume in person, sit down, operations, with a to-go option and volunteers wearing masks.

Session has been working on implementation of suggestions that resulted from the SWOT Analysis conducted by TE Peter Dembroski.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that the Clerk of Session will provide a summary of the actions of Session to the front office to be included in the newsletter, bulletin inserts, and slides to be displayed at the beginning of services. Furthermore, that on the Sunday after the monthly Session meeting, the Clerk will announce the actions of Session.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that Ruling Elder Jenna Dreydoppel and Deacon Barbara Nore will be installed at the morning worship service on August 22nd.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that Session approve the policies and procedures for First Presbyterian Church regarding allegations of sexual misconduct submitted by the Administration and Personnel committee.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that Session call a Congregational Meeting for August 29, 2021, for the purposes of the election of officers and to present the dismissal request of the Pastor Search Committee.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that the contract submitted by the Administration and Personnel Committee between First Presbyterian Church and TE Peter Dembroski, beginning July 25, 2021 and continuing to July 25, 2022, be approved by the Session.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to add Ruling Elder Brian Sunderland to the list of authorized check signers for FPC checking accounts.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian, and the meeting was adjourned, in prayer by Moderator Dembroski.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.