



First Light Newsletter

A monthly Newsletter Publication

Of the

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

September 2022

Dear FPC Family,

We had a really exciting time with Dr. Ken Priddy from the GO Center this past weekend. I want to thank all of you who prepared by praying daily and doing the corporate Bible Study on the Great Commission Alignment. Being in the Word and praying are the keystones of our relationship with God. I also want to thank those of you who were able to make it for part or all of the in-person training. We had about 35 people which was great for a fall weekend in Fairbanks.

As we head into fall, we all understand what it means to harvest: we're going out to gather our vegetables, berries, and meats. This year was a bit harder to find the treasure trove of blueberries, but I did see a remarkable number of low bush cranberries and expect that there will be no shortage of harvest out there!

In Matthew 9:35-38, it says:

“And Jesus went out throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were being harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.””

Dr. Priddy spent the weekend teaching us and encouraging us to take up the baton that Christ passed to us in the Great Commission to be laborers and to make more laborers for his Kingdom. Like the cranberries that we will be gathering, the world is not lacking in the harvest. Everywhere we go, we encounter people who are “harassed and helpless” with disease and afflictions -spiritually, mentally, and physically. In response to seeing them, our hearts should be moved by the same compassion as Jesus to gather them and share the Good News of salvation.

Over the next few months, you'll begin to see our church moving into being more intentional in outreach. Our goal is not to steal the harvest from other churches, but to seek and find the lost in Fairbanks. We don't have to ask God if this is what he wants - it's very clear that this is the work He calls us to do. He is just waiting for us to join him. It won't always be comfortable. It won't always be easy. But, together, let's picture what it will look like on a Sunday in the near future when we see our church full of new believers who are excited to learn more about Him and deepen their relationship with Him.

Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound,
Stephanie Rozell





ReBoot Now!

Next Steps for FPC Fairbanks

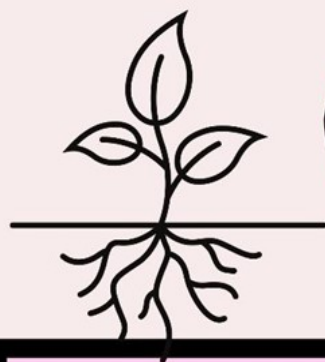
Our first action in the ReBoot Now program is to identify the Vision Team that will be driving this effort.

The vision team will be discerning God's vision for outreach at FPC. Each member of the Vision Team will be assigned a prayer team. Teams will meet weekly in person or over zoom to pray.

The prayer teams will meet regularly, but each team will decide the time on their own. If you would like to be part of a prayer team, please contact Jim Williams or Stephanie Rozell.

If you would like to be considered for the Vision Team, please contact Jim Williams by September 12. Session will be selecting the members of the Vision Team.

Jim Williams: (907) 978-3320, jimw101591@gmail.com
Stephanie Rozell: (907) 687-3730, Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com



CHILDREN'S ministry



CLUBS ARE IN SESSION--LET'S GO!

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

This year we have a new focus on Bible Training, and we hope to raise up kids who know how to answer the question: "What does God say about this?" These kids will spend the year becoming excellent Bible users and will receive a certificate to this effect and a Bible at the end of the year.

Climb Club for Kids 6th-8th meets **Wednesdays 4-6**

Climb Club (kids 6th-8th) meets Wednesdays from 4-6. This group is co-led by David M. and Carina. We plan to have a lot of fun together and to give kids tools they need to thrive at school. We are beginning this year with 4 weeks of training :

- how to pray for your school,
- how to bring scripture into your school,
- how to be a great friend,
- how to identify kids who could be great friends to you

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GROWING!

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

We hope that this new approach will engage the kids in more age appropriate ways, and unify the entire Sunday School by teaching one basic story.

The Children's Ministry Team will assess this approach in mid-September . Please let any member of our team know how it is impacting your family!



MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

A million thanks to Stephanie Rozell, who departs as our Elder of Children's Ministry and leaves our ministry team this fall. She has worked tirelessly for our kids for many years.. As she moves into a new season, we bless her to enjoy Jesus in new and wonderful ways!

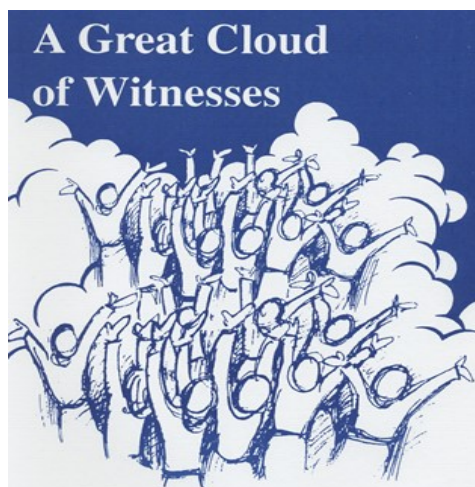
Our Children's Ministry team members for this year are:

- v Christy Repanski
- v Amber Sunderland
- v Brian Sunderland (Elder of Children's Min.)
- v Meagan Smith

As we head into the fall season, there are a lot of things that we can look forward to. If you were living in Pennsylvania, you will be looking forward to the beautiful colors of the leaves changing their colors. This is also true of Fairbanks; the hillsides are filled with beautiful bright-colored leaves. Also, it is the start of college and NFL football. When you connect with a team, you start to see them as a part of your family. They evoke so many emotions in you as you watch them. This is what makes being a fan. You will experience losses, discouragement, pain and struggles as well as victory, elation, courage and everything in between as you watch them faithfully. In a live game, the fans play a very important part to any team that they are watching. The players strive off of the noise, celebrations and encouragements that come from their fans.

Interestingly, we are given a similar scenario in scripture as Paul encourages the readers of Hebrews that there is a “cloud of witnesses” of heavenly Saints cheering and encouraging those believers that are still living on this earth. These heavenly Christians have lived on earth and have experienced the full scope of life. They have all experienced discouragement, persecution, suffering, and pain as well as love, joy, purpose, peace, hope and faith as disciples of Christ. In modern terms they have “been there, done that.”

This passage reminds us that there is a “cloud of heavenly witnesses” cheering and encouraging us on as they wait for the day when we join them in heaven. Knowing that they are cheering for us as we journey through this life can give us strength and courage to live for today as we meditate on this reality.



Several years ago, I experienced in an amazing way what it means to be cheered on by a crowd of 50-55,000 men. As a group from my church participated in the Promise Keepers event at Oakland Stadium, the pastors were asked to come down from the stadium, cross the playing field and onto the podium. As we were coming down, we were showered with high-fives and pats on the back. While we were all standing on the podium, the speaker directed the audience to cheer for us and yell

words of encouragement. It is one of the greatest experiences of encouragement and affirmation that I have ever felt. I continue to look back at that time as incredibly-affirming and powerfully –motivating as I went forward in ministry.

God wants to remind us that every day “a cloud of heavenly witnesses” is cheering us on, shouting to us to focus our eyes on Jesus as we continue to live our lives moment by moment. This picture should give us strength and encouragement as God helps us to live faithful lives as disciples.

Listen to your Father’s voice of encouragement as you read these words from Hebrews; imagine the roar as you are in the Heinz Football Stadium being cheered on by all your loved ones in Heaven... Pastor Peter

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2



You are invited.....

Our Prayer Team began when FPC was challenged to change denominations in 2011.

January 1, 2022, we were challenged to PRAY FIRST.....

August 26, 2022, Ken Priddy of GO CENTER challenged us to PRAY for the lost.

You are invited to join us in joyful prayer each

Tuesday in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m.

*to give God glory and thanksgiving

* to intercede for FPC staff, elders, deacons and congregants

* to pray for revitalization and personal needs.

For more information call:

Donna Brewer 907-378-3351

Anne Jones 206-518-0996

Joanne Klaver 907-479-7633

Ted Riggs, Sr. 907-371-9254

FPC also has a PRAYER CALENDAR that is sent out

monthly. If you would like to receive a copy, contact:

Marta 907-452-2406

DINNER IS SERVED!

THE WELL

Beginning Wednesday, September 14
6-7pm, Sit-down dinners

First Pres offers a free 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.

PLEASE JOIN US!!



SESSION

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the August 16, 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, August 16th.

TE Peter Dembroski was on pre-approved vacation. In his absence, and with his approval, Ruling Elder Jim Williams was Acting Moderator, and the opening prayer was led by David McConnell-Booher.

Acting Moderator Williams presented a devotion based on Jeremiah 12:1.

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 Jake and Rebecca Sirevaag was received, in which they requested that Session release them from membership, as they are worshiping with another local church.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve Consent Calendar items, which included the review and approval of the Deacons June 2022 Meeting, and approval of members Jake and Rebecca Sirevaag's request to be removed from the church membership roll.

A written financial report was received from the church treasurer.

The Finance & Stewardship Elder, RE Barb Page, presented an idea to have Elders take turns including a note in the Newsletter to express their gratitude for the giving and support of the congregation. The Mission, Outreach & Evangelism Team will submit an article for September and Worship for the October Newsletter.

Session discussed the need to develop strategies to identify and recruit new Ruling Elders, and to present ideas at the September Meeting.

Five building use requests from community groups were reviewed. Four were approved and one was declined.

Session members will be meeting with candidates for membership, after the worship service on August 21, 2022.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the extension of the contract with Pastor Peter to the end of October 2022.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve 1 day of vacation on September 18th for Pastor Peter.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to amend the 2022 Budget by increasing EPC Meeting Expenses by \$3,000, with funds transferred from the General Fund.

It was decided that the first draft of the 2023 Budget would be brought to the November Session Meeting for a first reading, and amendments to be made to the budget at the December meeting. To accomplish this deadline, ministry teams should have individual budgets submitted to the Finance Team by October.

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SESSION

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It was moved, seconded and passed to move the September Session Meeting to September 19, 2022, the second Tuesday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on September 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church

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 FRONT OFFICE WILL BE

CLOSED

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

IT'S ABOUT Worship

Have you ever wondered what happens to make Sunday mornings flow? Well here is a little insight as to what goes on behind the scenes.

Each Sunday we have faithful folks who call and make sure jobs are filled, for example:

- ♦ Ushers each Sunday morning,
- ♦ Worship leaders/reader,
- ♦ Music team for the morning worship,
- ♦ clean pews,
- ♦ banners hung on the walls and changed as needed,
- ♦ communion set up once a month,
- ♦ bulletins to hand out,
- ♦ mic checks,
- ♦ sound booth working, and
- ♦ a speaker (Pastor or guest each Sunday morning)

Have you ever wanted to be a part of this ministry at First Presbyterian Church? If you love to read, sing, play an instrument, would like to help check pews, be an usher, take offering on a Sunday morning, we would love to have you on our team.

If you are interested, please talk with Nancy Dreydoppel or Jerry Cleworth. You can also leave a message at the church office or fill out a pew card.

Worship Committee

VISIT US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://FAIRBANKSFIRSTPRES.COM](https://fairbanksfirstpres.com)



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter September 2022

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Happy September First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful Deacons!" We are reaching out to you, and we NEED your HELP.

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, we plan to share a MINUTE FOR MISSION during our worship service. During worship, we will give you a printed form to complete so that we can update our church directory. We plan to upload a Google Form on the church website, Facebook, and in our FPC Email Updates prior to September 11th so that you can complete this form in advance and submit it online. Please be checking your email in the week prior to September 11th for this important update.

Sadly, we are missing birthdates, phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, mailing addresses and even some of our precious newborns and new members that have joined our First Presbyterian Church family since the last directory was published in 2017.

We want to stay connected with you in as many ways as possible that you are comfortable with so we will be asking you the following questions:

- 1) Are you receiving mail or email updates from the church?
- 2) Do you want to continue receiving these communications? If yes, please confirm your phone number, email address, mailing address, and residence address so we can deliver flowers or angel gifts.
- 3) May we bless you and your family with a birthday card on your birthday? We want to update all birthdates (month and day) for all family members and add anniversary dates for all couples. We would like to confirm ages of children to make sure we send age-appropriate cards, too.
- 4) Since we are trying to update and create a new church directory, may we have your permission to include your name, address, phone number, and email address in the directory?
- 5) With the Covid pandemic – many church members have not been able to attend church, but they have been viewing services on Facebook and/or the FPC You Tube channel. Do you wish to stay on the rolls for First Presbyterian Church? If you are not a member, would you like to join?
- 6) For those wanting to learn more about FPC, please call the FPC Office and let Marta know that you wish to attend a new discovery session.
- 7) How may we pray for you and your family?

Thank you for being a part of the First Presbyterian Church Family! We love you. "Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!" Psalm 66:5

Barbara Nore

Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church Deacons

The Great Commission— Our Faith in Jesus Christ, in Action

Jesus commanded His followers to put their faith into action. His final instructions prior to ascension was for all of His followers to go and make disciples. Disciples making disciples – this is the foundation of why we engage in missions locally and abroad. Sharing the Gospel with someone who's never heard *The Good News*, or evangelizing a new believer can be scary if we're not prepared. Understandable.

So, what CAN you do in the meantime? Pray for unreached persons to be found, pray for our missions teams, pray for our leaders. Prayer is essential and powerful. Volunteer your time through FPC, another church, local non-profit or pay a visit to a lonely person. Be a Godly example – in your work, parenting and relationships. Give financially to the church, local non-profits or global outreach efforts. There are infinite numbers of ways to mobilize!

On behalf of Session, thank you for putting your faith into action and fulfilling the Great Commission. We are blessed to serve the Lord and see His mission fulfilled!

To His Glory,
Jim Williams

Thank You!



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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The group meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex at FPC. Come and enjoy a time to fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and to discuss upcoming events. Bring a lunch! For more information, contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582 or jwaldrich@gmail.com.