

# September 2023 FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

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4	<i>Dan Wells</i>	18	<i>Patty Greimann</i>
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7	<i>Josephine Papp</i>	18	<i>Jason Riggs</i>
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10	<i>Norman Klann</i>	20	<i>Kil Whiteman</i>
10	<i>Ben Logan</i>	21	<i>Anarrakaq Hoak</i>
10	<i>Sarah Logan</i>	22	<i>Adelaide Wietgreffe</i>
11	<i>Wanda Bowder</i>	26	<i>Hannah Denton</i>
12	<i>Alan Sims</i>	28	<i>Meredith Nava</i>
13	<i>Sandy Hoak</i>	29	<i>Scottie Klann</i>
14	<i>Rachel Perkins</i>	29	<i>Sage Gates</i>
15	<i>Qulvaq Hoak</i>	29	<i>Lorena Sims</i>
17	<i>Scott Marney</i>		

*The Front Office*



*Will Be Closed for Labor Day*

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### Director of Youth Ministry

Do you love serving youth and their families? Do you love to have adventures in God's creation? Are you willing to experience extreme temperatures in summer and winter? If so, we ask that you consider joining our ministry team in Fairbanks, Alaska! Your full-time job will be to care for our youth through Sunday and mid-week programming, provide outreach activities, and partner with our Children's Director and Head Pastor to build a system of Christian education from cradle to grave. See job description for more details and check out our church website: <https://fairbanksfirstpres.com/>

We are looking for someone who is, of course, passionate about working with teens. He or she should also be missional-minded and passionate about outreach. We would like to see our congregation and youth group grow through the conversion of new believers. Finally, an ideal candidate would be adventurous as there are many unique experiences about living in Interior Alaska.

### HOW You can HELP

Assist with handling phone calls regarding food boxes on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12noon.

Assist with unloading food truck and loading food boxes into vehicles from 1:30-4pm

Questions/concerns? For additional information, please contact Marta (front desk) at 907-452-2406

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center



**Hello Volunteers & Supporters!**  
We are very excited to share with you our big news that after over a year on the market, the building at 1402 Wilbur St has sold! We are very excited at this development and thankful to God for providing for FYNDout Free in this way after a long period of waiting and praying. Our new building is located at 4474 Pikes Landing Road, across from the Princess Hotel.

### So What's the Plan?

We need volunteers to assist with..

- Selling excess donations to reduce what needs to move into storage
- Inventory and organize Maria's Boutique into an online store format
- Move Maria's Boutique Inventory into accessible storage

If you are available to help for a few hours at any of these events, please contact the center at 907-455-8255

FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center is a faith-based non-profit organization committed to empowering your next decision and supporting your whole journey. The FYNDout Free Center is supported by Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church.

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the August 15, 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 Isaiah 30:15-21.. Moderator McConnell-Booher then 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 as presented.
- No correspondence was received.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Consent Calendar item, which included the approval of the Deacons June 17, 2023 meeting minutes.
- A verbal financial report was received from the church treasurer, Mikki Holt.
- Information on the upcoming Presbytery Meeting was presented. Elders are considering attending.
- Information on a Small Church Seminar, to be conducted via Zoom on Monday evenings, beginning on September 11th, and for the following three weeks. Elders were presented with information on how to sign up.
- Various aspects of Committee Reports were discussed, including the ability to keep an archive of previous reports, in order to be able to pass them on to incoming elders, to provide continuity.
- Session held a discussion on the upcoming revision of the church was discussed.
- Session reviewed the current and vacant Ministry Team Assignments. After discussion, new assignments were made.
- The update of the Church Directory was discussed and is still in progress.
- There was no update on REBOOT, the church revitalization program.
- Written and verbal Ministry Team Reports were received.
- committees to submit budget requests, a blank copy of the 2024 Budget will be emailed to each committee to be filled out and returned.

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- The Stewardship & Finance Committee has asked that the chair of each ministry team submit their preliminary 2024 Budget requests to the committee chair by September 12th. In order for committees to submit budget requests, a blank copy of the 2024 Budget will be emailed to each committee to be filled out and returned.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that the Session of First Presbyterian Church remove Loriann Quakenbush as Key Executive for our Wells Fargo accounts and replace her with Paul Reichardt.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that earnings from the Schlotfeldt Scholarship CD be transferred, on a quarterly basis, to the Schlotfeldt Scholarship Restricted Fund.
- The Stewardship & Finance Committee has asked that the chair of each ministry team submit their preliminary 2024 Budget requests to the committee chair by September 12th. In order for committees to submit budget requests, a blank copy of the 2024 Budget will be emailed to each committee to be filled out and returned.
- It was requested that the Clerk of Session provide, on the monthly Clerk's Report, weekly attendance numbers. The method of receiving the Sacrament of Communion was discussed.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by RE Brian Rozell at 8:50 pm.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on September 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.

## Men-In-Action

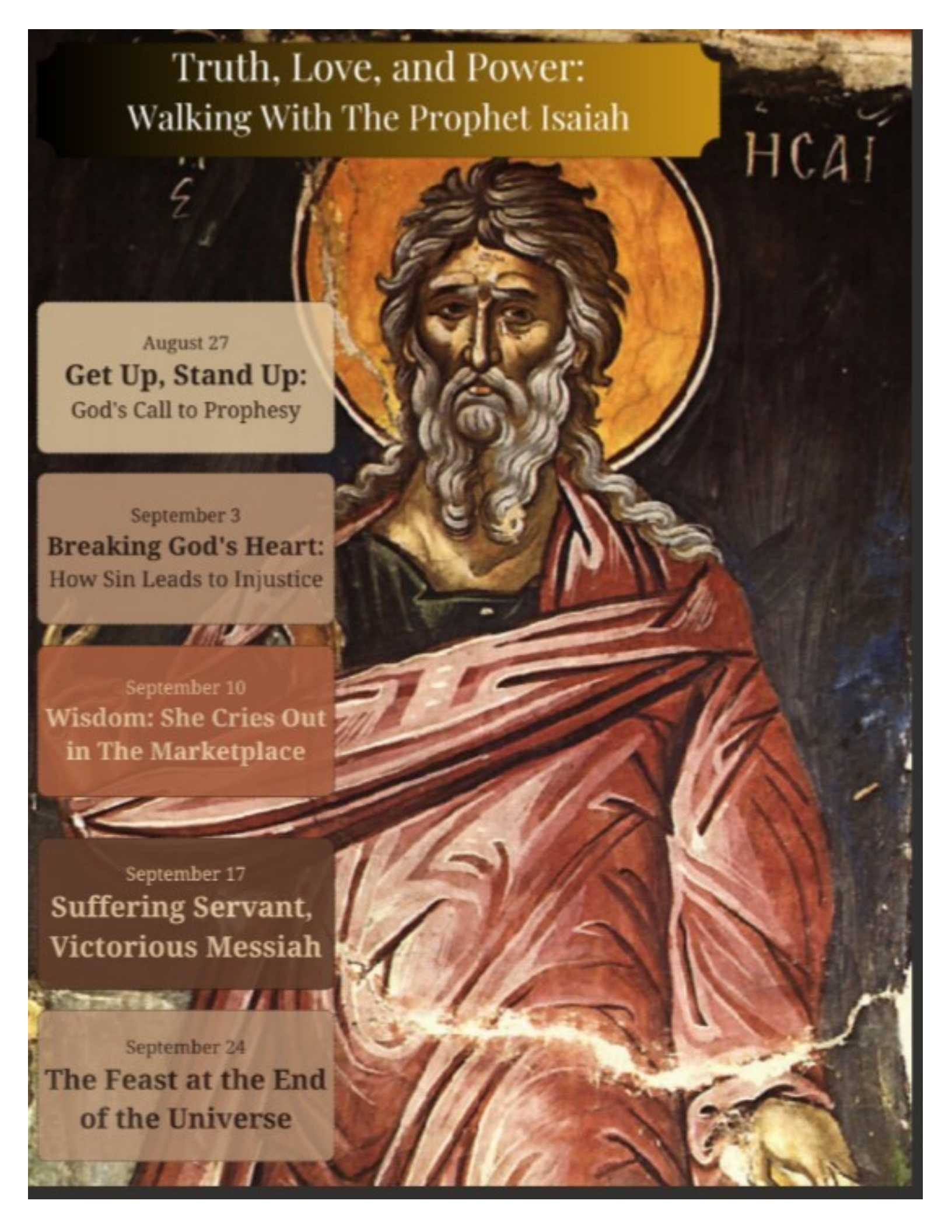
**Meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and to discuss upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us. For more info, contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582 or [jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com).**



FAIRBANKS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**MEN'S  
PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**

Saturday September 9th at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.  
Come fellowship with other Christian men. Bring your friends.  
For questions contact Jim Aldrich 907-378-2582.



# Truth, Love, and Power: Walking With The Prophet Isaiah

August 27

**Get Up, Stand Up:**  
God's Call to Prophecy

September 3

**Breaking God's Heart:**  
How Sin Leads to Injustice

September 10

**Wisdom: She Cries Out**  
in The Marketplace

September 17

**Suffering Servant,**  
Victorious Messiah

September 24

**The Feast at the End**  
of the Universe

# THE WELL

**When: Every Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM**

**Starts: September 13, 2023**

**Ends: May 22, 2024**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, both through our attitudes and our actions. In the Book of Matthew He goes on to say, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." In other words, providing food to those in need is, at the same time, serving Jesus. At 1st Pres, we do that in at least two ways: food box distribution and The Well.**

**For approximately 20 years, The Well has provided a free hot dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 PM each Wednesday from September through May for anyone who shows up. In the past we have fed 35-100 hungry neighbors each week while offering them fellowship and a brief message from scripture. Besides providing a healthy meal to people who are hungry, it provides fellowship to people who are lonely, prayer support to anyone who wants it, and clothing for those who need it to keep warm and dry. 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.**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## OPPORTUNITY

## TIME

<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Food Ahead of Time	anytime
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare or Heat Up Food the Day of the Dinner	Wed 2-5:30
<input type="checkbox"/> Set Up Fellowship Hall on Wednesday	Wed 3-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve Meal/Wash Dishes	Wed 5:45-7:30
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean Up Fellowship Hall	Wed 7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Food from Foodbank or Purchase Food (reimbursable basis)	varies
<input type="checkbox"/> Give Short Oral Testimony or Devotion	Wed ca. 6:15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

- Donate salmon, caribou, moose... (our guests love it!)
- Play background music during part of dinner
- Provide decorations for Fellowship Hall
- Maintain our clothes closet
- Join the "Roadkill Salvage Team"
- Provide haircuts
- Mend clothes
- Just come to dinner and engage with our guests
- My own idea:

Please respond to or ask questions of Paul Reichardt by email ([paulreichardt@gmail.com](mailto:paulreichardt@gmail.com)), text (907-347-3214), or a written note left in the office or Sunday collection plate.

**If you are interested in any of these opportunities, let us know how to contact you:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



**While The Well as it is presently structured expresses our love for our neighbors and meets many needs, if we had enough volunteers, we would love to expand what we have to offer. The information above invites you to join this ministry in a way that fits your schedule while making use of your interests and talents.**

## *A Word From The Pastor's Desk*

Happy Autumn!

A new season brings opportunities for reflection and planning. In this case, I am reflecting on the first three months as your Pastor and planning on what the next three months and beyond might look like.

We had a great summer season at First Pres, and it was a pleasure to see a wonderful mix of new and familiar faces every Sunday! FPC is particularly blessed with a great many musicians and worship leaders, and I know it brought joy to many people (myself included) to have them all take turns leading our worship music in a variety of styles and expressions.

I appreciate all your feedback (positive and constructively critical) on my first sermon series and I hope that our new series on the prophet Isaiah is both challenging and encouraging as we seek to follow Christ and further the will of God in our daily lives.

I am looking forward to our new season of Sunday School and I know both the children's classes and the adult class on prayer will be edifying and inspiring for our church. If you haven't already, I ask you to prayerfully consider making a commitment for you and your family to come to Sunday School at 9am every Sunday.

Finally, as we look ahead, I pray that God will continue to call and guide every one of us. Many of our church family are back to college or away for the first time. Some of us are starting new jobs. Some are closing chapters of our lives with joy and grief mingled together. May we continue to come together to love and be loved, to encourage and be encouraged, and to draw near to God as God draws near to us.

In Christ,  
Pastor David

## *Living By Faith*



### **OUR VISION**


**Our *VISION* is to see the world transformed to love, worship and serve Christ.**

### **OUR MISSION**

**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.**

### **OUR CONTACT**

**547 7th Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-2406  
fairbanksfirstpres.com  
facebook.com/fpc**





## **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!**

**DRAWING CLOSER TO  
HIM THROUGH HIS  
WORD**

**You Are Cordially Invited to  
Spend Time with God**

**Through**

**PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church

## **NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

**Beginning September 3rd at 9am**



### **"Building Your Prayer Toolbox, Part 1"**

Simply put, prayer is a conversation with God. However, when we look deeper we see that there are dozens of different styles of prayer that best serve what God is doing in us and through us. Not every physical problem requires a hammer. Not every spiritual problem requires the Lord's Prayer. Join us as we build up our prayer toolbox through Scripture Study, training and community. Taught by James Menaker.

## **COME JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP**

The first meeting will be on September 21 at 6:30 in the 1st Pres library. A light dinner will be provided; and we will get to know each other, pick a day/time for future meetings, and set the stage for our exploration of the II Samuel account of David as King of Israel.

For more information contact Paul or Terry Reichardt  
(907-455-6703 or 907-347-3214 3214  
[paulreichardt@gmail.com](mailto:paulreichardt@gmail.com)

**STUDYING  
AND  
FELLOWSHIP**



**First Presbyterian Church Newsletter September 2023**  
**Meet the FPC Deacons**

Happy September First Presbyterian Church! Blessings to all of you from your faithful “Sneakin’ Deacons!” I would like to introduce you to our awesome group of adults that are honored to serve you, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.

**Marta DeLeon** Marta DeLeon comes to FPC as a result of the COVID pandemic. She happened to have a week-long trip home planned the week before Washington State, where she was living, and shut down for COVID. Her full-time employer allowed her to telework from Alaska for the



duration of COVID, and thankfully, continues to allow Marta to telework from Alaska. Marta served in various roles at her previous church, including as the interim Children’s Ministry Director (which was also done remotely for most of COVID), until they were (finally) able to find someone to fill that role in-person. When Marta stepped down from her position at her previous church, she and her boyfriend, Charles, began searching for a local church family where they both felt God was calling them to be invested. The friendliness and genuine care they felt almost as soon as they walked in here at FPC convinced them both that this is where God wanted them to be. Marta has enjoyed connecting with the FPC kids’ ministry, Sunday School, life groups, and the many genuinely caring people she has met here at FPC.

**Debby Foster** has been a member of our church for over 30 years. She and her husband Marty were married in 1991 and together they have raised two amazing sons. She is a lifelong Alaskan, a retired teacher and because of her sons, is very involved in the autism community. Debby has previously served as a deacon and she felt called to join these faithful servants, again! She is excited to have a wonderful new pastor and to see the growth that we are witnessing at First Pres Church!



**Melissa Prince, Moderator**

**Nancy Dreydoppel, Secretary**

**Sarah Curtis, Treasurer**



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**Daniel Griggs**



**Joe LaMagna**



**Michele Marney**



**Barbara Nore**



**Kathy Rahmandar Halfhill**



**“ONCE A DEACON ALWAYS A DEACON”**

Your deacons are here to serve you and receive requests for services through the pastor, session, and the church office. We meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Each of us has a name badge and we try to greet new members and visitors at services each Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support to First Presbyterian Church and the deacons in our requests for food at memorial services, new baby arrivals, family hardships, and the angel gifts program. We are blessed and honored to serve in His great name.

Barbara Nore  
First Presbyterian Church Deacons

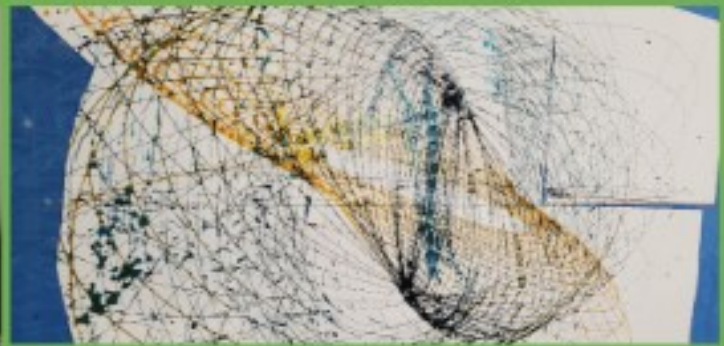


# CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres Folks,

On Sunday the 27th of August we opened our Sunday School year with a luncheon and devotion. The fellowship hall was full of happy voices as we reunited to eat, learn and play. Our devotion for that day reminded us that God's word and his creation are a joy to discover. As we learn more about his creation, we are able to co-operate with God and do beautiful things together. We practiced by remembering the powerful force of gravity, pulling us towards the earth's core. Using a pendulums swing, we painted a picture of that force pulling us to the center again and again. This year I pray that children will experience the pull of God's love, bringing them back, closer and closer to Him every day.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

Meet in the Fellowship hall at 9 a.m. to hear the days Bible lesson, then split into age groups for further study and fun!

## CLUBS ARE IN SESSION!

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

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

## MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

The next Children's Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for September 1.



bsalbert@hotmail.com .

Cash or checks can be put in the offering, taken to the office, or you can pay on the FPC website. We have 12 weeks left this year with no one who has signed up and we'd love to fill the sheet! Thank you!

### Available Dates

- Sept 3
- Sept 10
- September 17
- September 24
- October 1
- October 8
- October 15
- November 5
- November 12
- November 19
- December 10
- December 17

Did you know... after church every Sunday the deacons take the Communion Table Flowers and deliver to those who might need some extra cheer that week. If you've ever been a recipient of these flowers you know what a blessing they are!

Anyone can sign up to pay for flowers which are \$40 a week, and delivered by our florist. The sign up sheet is in the narthex, or you can email Sarah Albert to sign up,

## The Abundant Blessings of Flower Gifts

I planted,  
Apollos  
watered, but  
God gave the  
increase  
1 Corinthians  
3:6



### A Chance to Share the Gospel Gardening Class

Come to 1st Pres' Vegetable Gardening Class and bring a friend. It's a fun thing to do together! The class is top notch, recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service, and can even provide you with some easy opportunities to talk about God. Don't have any non-Christian friends? You could

make some in this class while you learn how to grow better tomatoes or broccoli. For more information or to sign up contact Marta at the church office 452-2406.

**Growing Veggies in Fairbanks**  
Mondays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
September 25 – November 13