

FIRST LIGHT NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter Published by the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church, Sept. 2026

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THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU

STUDYING THE EPISTLES OF PETER

Blessed Assurance
2 Peter 1 | August 30

Interlude 1
How Many Times?
Matthew 18:21-35 | September 6

Interlude 2
At The Well
John 4:4-42 | September 13

Bad to Worse
2 Peter 2 | September 20

The Patience of God
2 Peter 3 | September 27

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FPC NEXT GEN SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 4PM - 6PM

**AT THE CHURCH FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
AGE STUDENTS**

Sunday, August 2, 2026
James 1:1-18

Theme: Trials, testing, and real faith

Sunday, August 9, 2026
James 1:19-27

Theme: Hearing vs. doing: pure religion

Sunday, August 16, 2026
James 2:1-13

Theme: Favoritism and loving your neighbor

Sunday, August 23, 2026
James 2:14-26

Theme: Faith without works is dead

Sunday, August 30, 2026
James 3:1-12

Theme: The power of the tongue

Sunday, September 6, 2026
James 3:13-4:12

Theme: Wisdom from above vs. earthly wisdom

Sunday, September 13, 2026
James 4:13-5:20

Theme: Humility about the future, patience, prayer

Sunday, September 20, 2026
Full book review

Theme: Recap & application. What's next for the Fall/Winter

*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~~

You Get What You Give

A rough paraphrase of karmic retribution, an encouragement to seize the day, or a 1998 hit song by "The New Radicals"?

"You get what you give" is a dangerously simple statement, but one that bears some consideration. Your pastor is not endorsing the Hindu doctrine of Karma, to be certain: the circumstances and consequences of our actions and the actions of those around us and those who came before us are far more complicated than a system of perfectly meted out justice for past sins.

For me, "you get what you give" is an imperfect reminder that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we must be walking in the disciplines that Jesus Himself provides for us. As James Menaker will be preaching soon, Jesus says in Matthew 18 (and Matthew 6, and Luke 6) that as we forgive, so too, we are forgiven. Throughout all of our recent Sunday readings, Simon Peter has been calling upon the church (us included!) to live in Christ by taking part in the hard work of imitating Christ in our interactions with fellow Christians, strangers, neighbors, spouses, children, and even those who hate us! We are called to "Seek peace and pursue it" (1 Peter 3:11), to "suffer for doing good" (1 Peter 3:17), to "Show hospitality without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9), to "use [your] gift to serve one another, as stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10), and to "above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

In doing this, we walk fully in the promises of God, "so that through [these promises], you may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

What miraculous Good News! We take part in the very divine nature of God when we walk in the disciplines that Jesus teaches us! When we walk in ways of forgiveness, humility, peace-making, and self-giving love, we receive forgiveness, love, and boundless treasure from THE Divine Source!

So, to correct the old saying, you don't get what you give, you actually get more! When you take Jesus at His word and follow Him with more than a casual agreement, but with your whole heart, you begin to think about how you might honor and follow Christ with your daily choices, your relationships, and the pursuits of your life. When you do that, you walk in these divine ways, and you find divine blessings welling up to overflowing in your life. It is indeed easier to experience forgiveness and to rest in the peace of God when you pour out forgiveness on others and release long held grudges from tightly gripped fingers. You feel loved and cherished by God when you ponder how you might ensure that people in your life know they are loved and cherished by God and by you. You will be surprised by the radical hospitality of God in your life when you extend radical hospitality to those in need. Over and over again, we experience these confirmations that The Kingdom of God is wealthier than we could possibly imagine (Matthew 13:44-46) and that God's math is far more generous than any worldly budget (Ephesians 3:16-20).

When I pay attention to a movie, and I mean really pay attention (put my phone down, take in the soundtrack, appreciate the actors' performances, and consider the director's framing of the scenes), I enjoy the movie that much more! When I take a class and ensure that I have done the homework, gotten enough sleep, and dive into the subject matter of the class, whether or not I particularly like the teacher or the subject, I find that I have gained knowledge and wisdom that I was not expecting, and that this knowledge and wisdom has some application for me today.

There are so many things in this life where we only get out what we put in. But when it comes to following Jesus Christ, we get infinitely more.

~ Pastor David



CHILDREN'S ministry

Dear First Pres Folks,
It's time to start again! FPC Kids are back to school and our regular programs are starting. If you have a kid from preschool through 8th grade, we have plans to learn and play together!

All school age kids through **Middle school** are invited to attend Sunday school starting September 13 at 9:00. They'll hear Bible stories and act out, draw out and play out those adventures in classrooms tailored to their age group. **Middle schoolers** will be gathering for "Doughnuts and Discussion" on Sunday mornings. On Sunday nights, **Middle schoolers** are invited to a group just for them. We will share dinner, Bible Study and some Drama too!

3rd through 5th graders have their own group: "Roots Club". Roots Club meets after school on Wednesdays and is all about building confidence in Bible knowledge and a community that loves and serves each other like Jesus.

These groups are full of fun and energetic kids. I hope your kids will join us!



Quinn

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

SUNDAYS
9-9:55

STARTS
SEPTEMBER

13

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

SUNDAYS
4-6

STARTS
SEPTEMBER

20

ROOTS CLUB

WEDNESDAYS
4-6

STARTS
SEPTEMBER

23

September

Birthdays

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

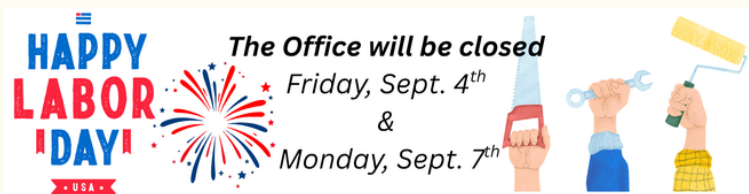
Anniversaries

10 Brian & Amber Sunderland
17 Daniel & Dawn Cogan

What follows is a short summary of the discussions and actions of the Session, at the August 18, 2026 Stated Session Meeting, which began at 6:10 pm in the Church Conference Room. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.

- There were no Session Meetings held in July.
- 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 vital statistics from June 30th to August 18th and the minutes of the June 30th Stated Session Meeting were reviewed and approved. There was one email votes conducted, to approve two baptisms scheduled for August 9th , after morning worship, in the Chena River.
- Church membership remains at 169 as of August 18th . The average weekly church attendance over the last two months was 121 per service. Average weekly attendance for 2026 year-to-date is 135. There were two baptisms, 5 ordination of new officers, and 7 installations of new and returning officers.
- Correspondence announcing the schedule for the October Presbytery Meeting and an update on the fires in the Spokane area were received from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest.
- The Consent Calendar items (an Omnibus Motion) were approved. These included approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2026 and May 19, 2026 Deacons meetings, and approval of Vacation Leave for Pastor David, from September 4th through September 18th .
- A motion was passed that Elders will strive to have committee reports and the Meeting Agenda uploaded to the meeting google drive by the Friday before the Session Meeting on the following Tuesday.
- An update on the current planning for a downtown warning center for the upcoming winter was presented by Pastor David. Initial plans are for the Northern Hope Center to provide the space in their facility, with staffing to be determined. There will be a Faith-Based Coalition meeting on the topic with the Mayor on September 29th . A motion was passed that Pastor David will develop talking points on the results of the recent Narthex Ministry Survey and share them with the Session by Friday August 21st . After review and input by Session, the results will be presented to the Congregation on Sunday August 30th .
- Financial information was received from the Church Treasurer and the Finance & Stewardship Committee. As of the end of July 2026, Year to Date receipts have been \$453,309 and Year to Date expenses paid are \$335,448, resulting in an approximately \$115,834 surplus.
- Session began initial discussions on the 2027 Budget. It was determined that factors affecting the budgeting progress will include employee benefits and compensation and staffing.
- A motion on how to handle reinvestment of the Seminary Expense Reserve Fund to maximize fund growth until a time when it is needed, was tabled until the September Meeting. The intent of the fund is to provide reimbursement of costs expended by an FPC member attending Seminary.

- Assignments to Session Ministry Teams were made. The included: Administration & Personnel (Brian Rozell), Adult Christian Ed & Specialized Ministries (Noelle Lyle), Children's Ministry (Maggie Demers), Diaconal Liaison (Rotation of Elders), Facilities (Dave Henry), Hospitality & Fellowship (Charles Beaudreault), Mission, Outreach & Evangelism (Stephanie Rozell), NextGen (Steve Hurtle), Nominating (Stephanie Rozell), Stewardship & Finance (Paul Reichardt), and Worship (Marta Beaudreault).
- A motion was passed to hold a Visioning Retreat on Saturday, September 19, 2026.
- A motion was passed to move monthly communion from September 6th to August 30th because of Pastor David's vacation.
- Ruling Elders Stephanie Rozell and Dave Henry volunteered to assist with communion on Sunday August 30, 2026.
- A motion was passed to ordain and/or install remaining church officers on August 23rd at morning worship.
- A procedure to receive non-liquid assets as a donation was discussed, the Financial Controls Policy were reviewed and it was determined that the Finance Committee and RE Marta Beaudreault would review and advise.
- A motion was passed to extend the meeting for 30 minutes.
- The Host Information Packet for Spring Presbytery 2027 was provided to Session.
- Elders were reminded that the next Presbytery Meeting will be held on October 1st to 3rd in Corvalis Oregon, and Commissioners need to be elected as soon as possible.
- RE Paul Reichardt volunteered to provide snacks for the August Meeting.
- Written reports were received from the Ministry Teams.
- The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 9:22 pm and Pastor David led the closing prayer.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on September 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room.



1st Pres Staff

David McConnell-Booker
Carina Menaker Noreen
Harwood
Peggy Nicholas
Paul Bonnell

Deacons

Aaron Evans
Bethany Evans
Debby Foster
Daniel Griggs
Rick Halfhill
Violetta Knight
Theresa LaMagna
Kathy Libby
Kiana May
Kathy Rahminder Halfhill
Shannon Riggs
Christy Repasky
Sarah Rozell
Joanna Weber

Elders

Charles Beaudreault
Marta Beaudreault
Maggie Demers
David
Dreydoppel
David Henry
Steve Hurtle
Noelle Lyle
Keith Nore
Paul Reichardt
Brian Rozell
Stephanie Rozell
Brian
Sunderland

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Autumn Prince	2 Melissa Prince	3 Kathy & Richard Rahminder-Halfhill	4 Paul & Terry Reichardt	5 Michael, Christina, Henry & George Repasky
6 Youth & Children's Ministries	7 Ted, Sr. & Joan Riggs	8 Ted Jr., Shannon, & Karson Riggs	9 Dennis & Fara Roe	10 Jonathan, Jessica, Adlai, Grace & Anna Romaneski	11 Brian, Stephanie, Jacob, Toby, Sara & Micah Rozell	12 Ben, Katie, Anna & Noah Sanders
13 Our Pastor	14 Bill & Brenda Satterberg	15 August, Savanna & Alaska Schaefer	16 Jack Schurr	17 George Shoogukunwrk	18 Evelyn Sites	19 Travis, Megan, Holly & Allison Smith
20 Music Ministry	21 Emma Snell	22 Dave & Linda Stephenson	23 Kathi Stevens	24 Rick & Peggy Stovarsky	25 Brian, Amber, Kyle, Caleb, Lily & Luke Sunderland	26 Sarah Susook
27 Elders & Deacons	28 Joyce Tapper	29 Richard, Andree, Sean & Toby Thies	30 Kevin & Cindy, Turnbough			

Healing Prayers for

Pat Fink Joy-el Culligan Sarah Curtis
George Shoogukunwrk Kiana May
Joyce Tapper Deanna Morris Mike Bartels