

MAY 2024



MAY



BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Bierer 5/8
Kathy Taylor Yokel 5/9

If your Birthday or Anniversary is missing, incorrect, or if you do not wish to have it posted in the Newsletter please contact the UCPC Office.



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UCPC Community Care Line

We invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in Discipleship through Word, Prayer, and Service.

A Note from the Pastor

I imagine some of you may be wondering what I was doing this past week while I was out of town with the Lutherans. So I'll tell you! But first we're gonna need some definitions:

Alaska Synod - A Lutheran synod that comprises the entire state of Alaska - from Ketchikan to Shishmaref. Lutheran synods are equivalent to a Presbyterian presbytery and are gathered into Regions our region is Region 1. Regions are similar to Presbyterian synods. ...not confusing at all lol.

Rostered Leader - A rostered leader is an individual who has gone through theological training and has been ordained to the roster of the ELCA either as a person ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament i.e. pastors or a minister of Word and Service i.e. a deacon. Lutheran Deacons are not totally different from Presbyterian Deacons since they focus more on service than pastors often do. However, they are paid with the same benefits and compensation as pastors; have their own style of stole; and are often called to preach, lead various aspects of worship, and have various programming/outreach projects they are in charge of as church staff. Not all Lutheran churches have deacons; mainly it's the larger ones who also tend to have multiple pastors.

Synod Assembly - The yearly gathering of all rostered leaders and lay delegates representing the 30 congregations of the Alaska Synod, making up the voting body of the synod. The number of lay delegates a congregation sends is determined by the membership size of each congregation. The entire voting body of the Synod has about 106 voting members. This year, we also had about 20 or so non-voting guests: representatives from various colleges and seminaries, insurance boards, workshop presenters, bishops from other synods, etc.

Collegium - Rostered Leaders gather twice a year at Spring and Fall Collegiums other Lutheran synods call them Bishop's Conventions/Conferences for support, learning, and spiritual renewal. Fall Collegium tends to be done in three groups: the Seward Peninsula churches, the road system churches, and the Southeast Alaska churches. These three gatherings are done at different times so the Bishop can attend all three. For Spring Collegium which is always the week before Synod Assembly we all are together.

Bishop - A Lutheran Bishop is somewhat similar to the Presbyterian Executive Presbyter in that they serve as a focal person for the synod/presbytery and as go-between for church-wide and region-wide communication. However, there are some differences: the Bishop plays a larger role in any disciplinary actions and discernment for rostered leaders or congregations and they rather than a committee oversee call placements within the synod for pastors moving to new congregations. They are the only ones allowed to ordain people to new ministries. And they chair the Synod Assembly. Bishops are elected for a term of 6 years and have a limit of two terms.

SO. Now that you have some Lutheran terminology: this past week, the first three days we spent at Camp Maranatha in Big Lake near Wasilla for Spring Collegium. We had about 30 rostered leaders + the Bishop, three toddlers, and two guests. We learned about ways to support Congregational Vitality by engaging in values-based conversation, reflection, and prayer from a guest presenter from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and it was awesome!!

The next three days we spent in Anchorage at Synod Assembly. This Assembly we had a Bishop Election which only happens every 6 years. Typically, bishop elections take place in five rounds of voting. Sometimes more or fewer rounds are required. The first ballot is kind of a free for all. Voting members each get to write down ONE name of ANY Minis-

ter of Word and Sacrament in the entire ELCA. Often there are dozens of people with one vote. Everyone who has been nominated (and is therefore on the ballot) has five hours to either withdraw their name or fill out and turn in paperwork with some biographical information and some short essay questions. The voting body then has the evening and morning to read through the paperwork before the second ballot early the next morning. Prior to the second ballot the candidates have a chance to speak and then we vote. If no candidate receives enough of the votes then we move to the third round of voting later in the day with another chance to hear from the candidates. This pattern continues until someone receives enough of the votes and is therefore elected.

This year's final results of the fifth ballot took everyone by surprise. Close elections (like this one with a margin of two or three votes) are hard. I am happy though that the native delegates who remember our new Bishop Elect from his time on the Seward Peninsula had tears of joy. It's not often in predominantly white occupied rooms that the native voices in our midst are heard *and prevail*, so it's cool to see an example of that happening.

Please pray for the new Bishop-Elect: Rev. Timothy Oslovich. He will be moving back here this summer, beginning on July 1. He will be installed on August 24th. Please also pray for our outgoing Bishop, Rev. Shelley Wickstrom, whose last day in office is June 31st. She is very much looking forward to a year of rest after 12 years of service. And lastly, please pray for me and my colleagues in this synod. Only 3 or so of us have ever interacted with our bishop-elect, so we are readying to meet him once he arrives from Connecticut.

I am curious to see where the Spirit is leading the Alaska Synod and it is so good to be home and once again in your midst. Much love to you all!

- Pastor Erika Bergh



Earth Care Certification

UCPC was recertified by PCUSA for its progress on taking better care of the earth. Making the switch to a gas boiler, which is cleaner than the old boiler, was one major part of this. Thank you for all those who contributed to this new boiler, and those who worked on getting it in. Special thanks to Joe Krizek who has helped not only with getting it installed, but with fixing the various problems that came up this winter. Other aspects of our earth care certification include using reusable plates, utensils, communion cups, and other ways of not using one-time use disposable plastics. Our recycling bins for aluminum, plastic bottles and paper are another part of this. Brian Dixon, Curtis McNeill and others have helped greatly with putting in many LED lights around the building. There are many ways members of the congregation are taking the time to be more responsible with the resources we have. Thank you for being a part of this!



May Potluck

The next Mission Study potluck will be May 19, immediately after worship, in the Fellowship Hall.



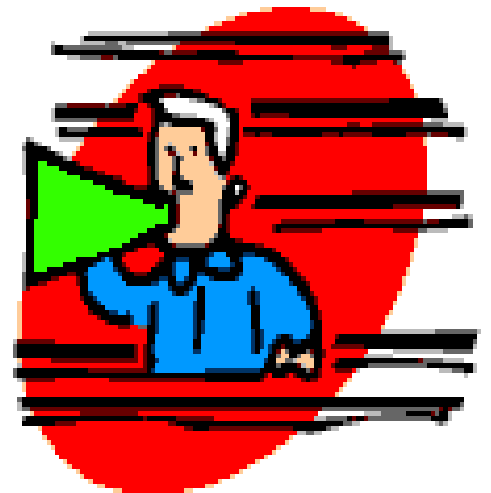
June 1, 2024, is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of Darkness Walk at 10:45 AM at Griffin Park.

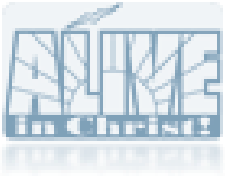
I have again formed a team, Diving with Andrew. I thank you for your generous support in the past. You are welcome to walk with me again which does not require a donation. More than that, pray for those who have been affected by suicide (a staggering number) and those who find themselves suffering with depression or other mental health issues which can lead to suicide.

Thank you,
Kathy Dohner

For more info about the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, visit <https://afsp.org/>

Shout Out to Matthew Bierer, for the faithful effort he puts in to making sure those who can't make it to church on Sundays can still participate in worship by watching online!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 12:00PM - 3:00PM UCPC April Potluck (FH) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 7:00PM - 8:00PM 12 Step (MR)	29 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30PM - 3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS)	30 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8:00PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step AA (L)	1 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	2 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30PM - 7:00PM Deacons Meeting (CR) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	3 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	4 10:00AM - 1:00PM Emily Vockerth recital (S) 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)
5 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 7:00PM - 8:00PM 12 Step (MR)	6 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:00PM - 6:00PM Sound Team Meeting (S)	7 Voting/Polling place? (N) 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8:00PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step AA (L)	8 10:00AM - 11:00AM Mission & Outreach 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 4:30PM - 5:30PM Worship Committee (CR) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	9 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	10 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	11 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)
12 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 7:00PM - 8:00PM 12 Step (MR)	13 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30PM - 3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:15PM Finance (CR)	14 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8:00PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step AA (L)	15 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	16 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM Session (SL) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	17 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	18 10:00AM - 12:00PM UCPC Leadership Quarterly Meeting 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Cello Charly Recital (S)
19 Pentecost 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 12:00PM - 3:00PM UCPC May Potluck 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 7:00PM - 8:00PM 12 Step (MR)	20 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS)	21 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8:00PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step AA (L)	22 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	23 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	24 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	25 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)
26 Trinity Sunday 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 7:00PM - 8:00PM 12 Step (MR)	27 Memorial Day 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30PM - 3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS)	28 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8:00PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step AA (L)	29 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	30 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	31 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	1 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)

The following is the draft version of the minutes from the April Session meeting. If you would like the committee reports, let me know by email at admin@ucpcfairbanks.org or by phone at 907-479-6728

April 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

Present: Rev. Erika Bergh, Doreen McNeill, Roger Smith, Joe Krizek, Pat Babcock, Matthew Bierer, Jim Durst.

Absent: Paula Long.

Guests: Deacon Janet Johnson

Prayer: Moderator, Rev. Erika Bergh opened in prayer at 6:35 pm.

Scripture and Devotion Doreen McNeill gave a devotion on 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 and Acts 2:42

A quorum was declared

The following Consent Agenda was ADOPTED with no opposition:

Docket

Minutes of the March 18, 2024 Session meeting

Receipt of written reports from Session committees and the Pastor

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

A verbal Deacons' report was given by Deacon Janet Johnson. Pastor Erika gave details of the Presbytery meeting and discussed it with them. Deacons hope that the Hospitality committee will meet with them about Presbytery. Communion was April 14. Meals are being delivered. Session has not sent a representative to deacons' meetings for 4 months.

Old Business

The Invitational Christian discussions will be paused to focus on the Mission Study. Session members are encouraged to finish reading it.

Transitional Work/Mission Study.

Dates for Mission Study group gatherings/potlucks were set: April 28, May 19, and June 9, right after church (noon). We will discuss more with Rev. James on what this should entail and how to go about it.

Questions of the week (2 per Sunday) are being compiled by Pat Babcock. We will ask Rev. James more about what to do with these.

Committee Chairs. Session agreed that Doreen will ask Paula if she will chair the Faith Development Committee. Pat agreed to chair the Hospitality, Fellowship, and Membership committee if Paula agrees.

New Business:

New Windows for the main floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. About \$16,000 is available from a grant and appropriate accounts. Session decided that Building Stewards will order all 8 matching windows and have a minimum of 4 windows installed, which exhausts funds on hand for this purpose. Remaining funds will be requested from the congregation. If adequate funds are not received, remaining main-floor windows will be installed in 2025.

Finance Committee **moved that the remaining fuel oil fund of \$6,806.47 be transferred to the Pastor salary line in the Designated account. Motion was APPROVED, 6:0.**

Budget. UCPC finance committee is working off of a 2024 spending plan. A budget must be approved annually, and will be presented at the May session meeting.

Worship Committee **moved that the outdoor UCPC worship service be held June 16 (Father's Day) on the church patio. Motion was APPROVED, 6:0.**

Vacant leadership positions. As chair of the nominating committee, Roger will convene the committee to begin filling empty or soon-to-be empty session elder and deacon positions.

Session will have **Quarterly Planning meetings**, with the first on **May 18 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.** The purpose is to plan events well in advance.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

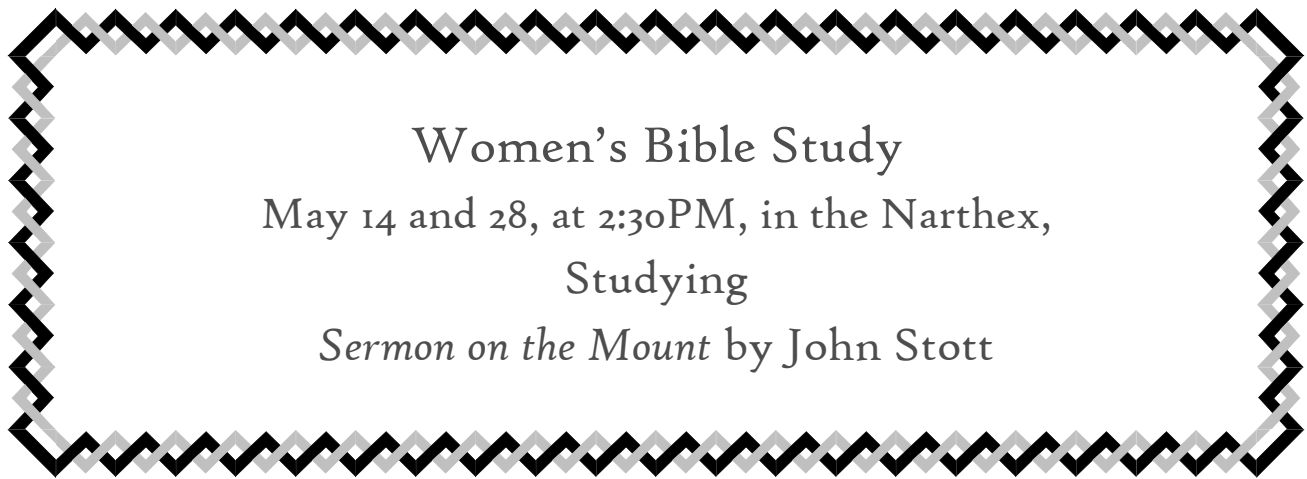
April 25 at 7PM with Rev. H. James (By Zoom)

May 2 at 5:30PM Deacon's Meeting (Matthew Bierer)

May 16 at 6:30PM in person (regular meeting)

May Devotional and Elder of the Month: **Matthew Bierer**

Adjourn Pastor Erika led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:50PM



Watch for information on the upcoming
Spring Clean-up Day!

The date and time are to be determined.

If you want to participate, bring something to eat or drink, rakes, large trash bags, window cleaning supplies, etc. The tasks that need to be accomplished are: picking up all trash on the church grounds; cleaning out the flower beds; cleaning windows inside and outside; cleaning the roof and gutters; cleaning/organizing kitchen cabinets.

PENTECOST OFFERING – MAY 19

CHILDREN AT RISK · YOUTH · YOUNG ADULTS

Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Christian church. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come. We support ministries for children, youth, and young adults by building a life of faith. Some programs that receive funding from this include “¿Cuándo te vimos?” “When Did We See You?” a bilingual program in North Carolina focused on mental health; DREAM, a program focused on an afterschool program for homeless youth in Champaign, Illinois; Young Adult Volunteers all over the world; and Youth Triennium. For more information on these programs and more, visit pcusa.org/pentecost. We get to keep 40% of this offering here in Fairbanks. We have chosen to give our portion to the Bone Building Program of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, which helps feed kids in need over the summer.



I AM COMING TO YOU

Hospice Services 2024 Plant Sale



Saturday, May 25

9AM—2PM

2000 Turner Street

Hospice Services is owned by the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation. All proceeds and monetary donations go directly to hospice to better serve the patients and families in our community. Thank you!

Now accepting donations and volunteer help!

Vegetable starts

Annual starts

House plants

Shrubs

And more!!

Perennial starts

Hanging baskets

Trees

Rhubarb



University Community Presbyterian Church



3510 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Website: www.ucpcfairbanks.org

Phone: (907) 479-6728

Office Hours

9:00AM to 1:00PM, Monday - Friday

Pastor Erika is in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10AM-2PM



Contacts

Supply Pastor . Rev. Erika Bergh 1-(907)-717-5015 Email: rev.erikabergh@gmail.com

Admin Assistant: Melissa Bierer (907) 479-6728 Email: admin@ucpcfairbanks.org

Session Elders and Committee Leaders

Doreen McNeill	388-0544
Joe Krizek ('24)	460-4294
Pat Babcock ('25)	978-7187
Matthew Bierer ('25)	474-0106
Jim Durst ('26)	590-9024
Paula Long ('23)	687-7444
Roger Smith ('23)	322-2595

Board of Deacons

Will Haight ('25) President	978-9679
Carol Nielsen ('25)	388-8154
Sarah Lanstra ('25)	378-3929
Melissa Bierer ('24)	474-0106
Janet Johnson ('24)	687-7148
Judy Fowler-Morris ('26)	388-5629
MariJo Larson ('26)	322-9425

Worship Service Leaders

Matthew Bierer	Video Manager
Kathy Dohner	Organist/Pianist
Curtis McNeill	Sound Manager
Theresa Reed	Choir Director

