

APRIL 2024



APRIL



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Janet Johnson	4/14
Kathy Dohner	4/22
Connor Bierer	4/30

Isa & Roger Smith	4/10
Bert Lanstra & Lois Hildenbrand	4/27

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

Happy April, UCPC family! This month's pastoral ponderings are from both of the Reverends Bergh and are based on Daniel 3:

Have you ever felt so overwhelmed by a cascade of life events coming your way, that even though you make do, every once in a while, something bubbles over and makes you scream "SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE!"

Well, Easter shows us that 'something' *has* changed. Christ has spoken light into the darkness. Christ, who lives so that none more shall die, has entered into the furnaces of our hearts, and has revealed something so life-changing that God's response to our cries of "something has to change" is: Something **HAS** changed!

In the book of Daniel, chapter 3, we hear the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (or Rack, Shack, and Benny if you've seen Veggie Tales) being thrown into the fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar, yet being saved by God through the presence of an angel.

For Nebuchadnezzar, seeing four men unharmed in the tempest of the furnace changed everything, so much so he starts hooting and hollering: "Get out of that furnace, you children of the living God! Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!"

So too does Jesus call to us from the furnace. In the Apostle's Creed on Easter Sunday, we said, "Jesus was crucified, died, buried, and descended into hell." This version reminds us that our savior Jesus Christ goes to the hellish places and transforms them with his heavenly presence. It's from the pit of nothingness (and fire) that Christ our God makes somethingness (and goodness).

Just as Nebuchadnezzar called Rack, Shack, and Benny out of the furnace, Christ has pulled us out of the furnace of hate and sin through our baptisms, and placed us on the dry land of grace. Our Lord did this by going into the furnace before us when he was crucified, died, and buried.

That's the message of Easter: Jesus took us with him into the grave, so that we may have no fear of it anymore. "O Death, where is thy sting?" "O Hell, you cannot scare us anymore!" Christ has been into the shadows, into the furnace, into the grave, and now he has left death behind like it was nothing but dirty laundry. If Christ took us with him into the grave, how much more surely will he take us into newness of life that we so long for? This Easter, we stand firm without fear, clinging to this promise: if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. His death and resurrection has changed something, not just for those alive 2,000 years ago, but for you and me as well. Something *has* changed. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

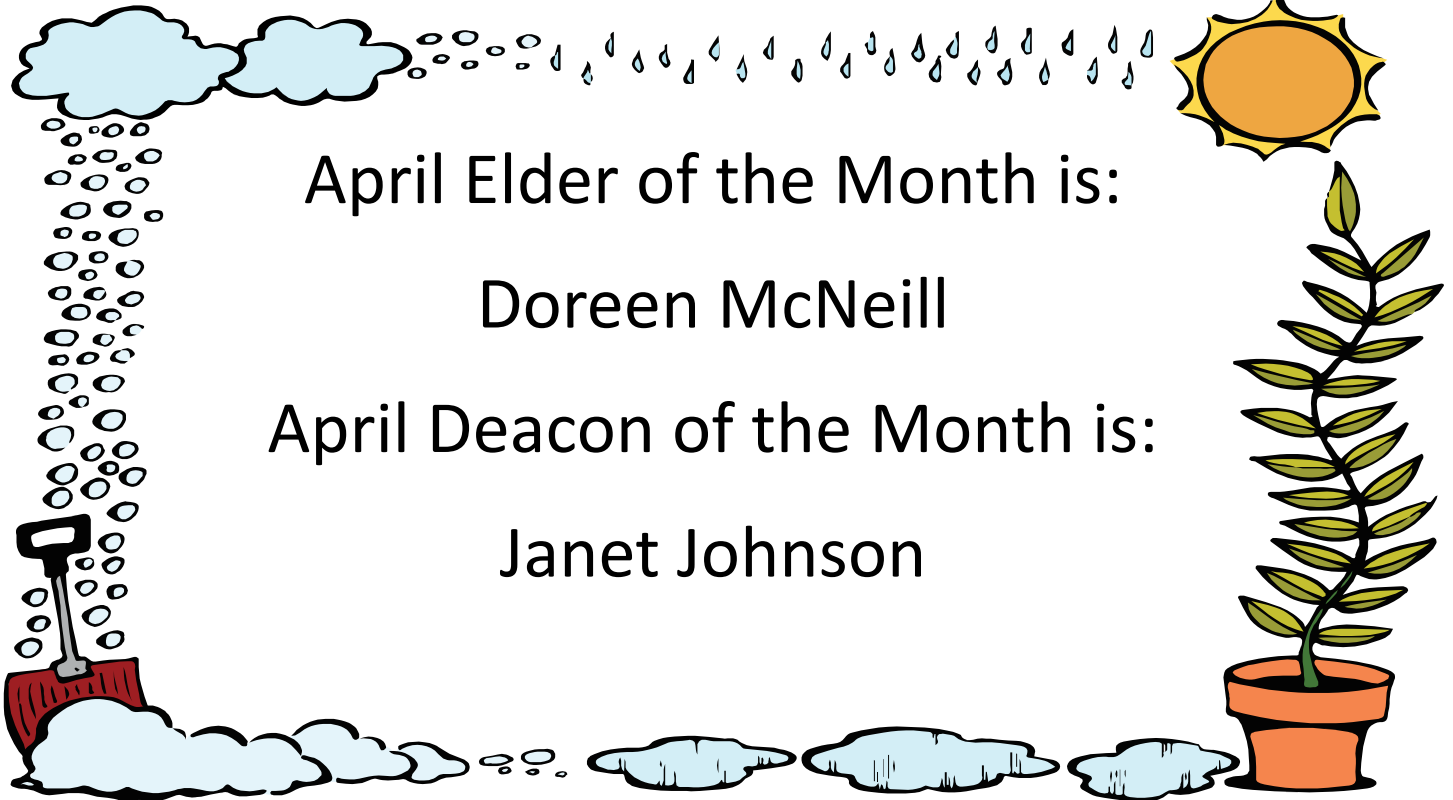
- By Pastors Ollie and Erika Bergh

Finance Committee

Will meet at 5:15PM on Monday

April 15

In the Conference Room



April Elder of the Month is:

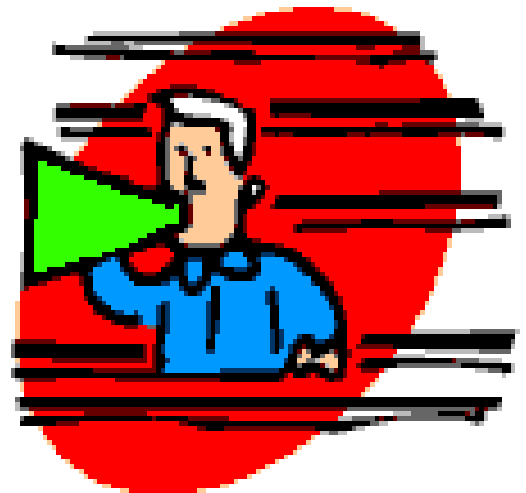
Doreen McNeill

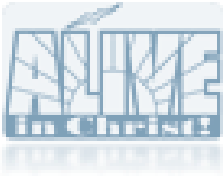
April Deacon of the Month is:

Janet Johnson

Shout Out to Cyndee Polzin and her friend Carla

**Thank you for creating a
beautiful, bright and joyful
bulletin board
in the Narthex!**





April 2024

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

The following is the draft version of the minutes from the March 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

March 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

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

Absent: Paula Long.

Guests: Deacon Sarah Lanstra

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

Scripture and Devotion Pat Babcock gave a devotion on Psalm 66:16–20

A quorum was declared

Adoption of Consent Agenda, consisting of:

Docket

Minutes of the January 18 and 28, 2024 meetings of the Session, as corrected

The following written reports from committees of session were received:

- Pastor
- Building Stewards
- Faith Development
- Finance, Treasurer, & Stewardship
- Mission and Outreach
- Personnel
- Nominating
- Worship

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda (above), and to discuss the finance committee report in more detail during old business. Motion was APPROVED by unanimous consent.

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report

Comments from the Congregation. No comments were received.

Clerk's Report. No report, other than a backlog of session business.

Old Business

The Finance Committee report was discussed. The account designated as a safe-guard to pay for the Pastor's Salary in hard times has been depleted from \$20, 000 to about \$11,000 and has not been replenished. Currently, we are able to pay a half-time pastor's salary that does not include benefits that are required to be paid for a full-time pastor. It was recommended that UCPC have a gift and memorial policy so that donors know what to expect, and the church can carry out it's financial responsibilities. Session agreed that this is a good idea.

Finance committee made recommendations to consolidate some of the designated giving accounts. **It was moved and seconded to consolidate the accounts, as recommended by**

Finance Committee in a manner consistent with the purpose for which the money was given, as follows:

Move the Buddy Break amount of \$879.20 to Bingle Camp;

Move the Kalen Memorial amount of unspent \$1,000 to Major Maintenance;

To use the Choir/soloist designated giving account (\$2,500) to purchase music, as needed, for the choir;

To use the Knox Bequest (\$7,179.88) in support of the Knox Organ Fund (\$1,531.79) as needed.

The motion was APPROVED by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

The session discussed to best way provide committee reports to the congregation. It is expensive and inefficient to print a lot of copies and it may be inappropriate to provide sometimes sensitive information to the many non-member groups who use the church building or peruse the UCPC website. **It was moved and seconded to email the committee reports as a separate document to members who receive the newsletter by email, and to include a notice in each newsletter that copies of committee reports are available from the administrative assistant upon request. The motion was APPROVED by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.**

Elder Committee and Elder of the Month Assignments were completed, as follows:

Month Session Elder

January	Joe Krizek	July	Roger Smith	January 2025	Roger Smith
February	Roger Smith	August	Doreen McNeill		
March	Pat Babcock	September	Pat Babcock		
April	Doreen McNeill	October	Paula Long		
May	Matthew Bierer	November	Matthew Bierer		
June	Joe Krizek	December	Jim Durst		

2024 SESSION COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Session – meetings 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Doreen McNeill (Clerk of Session, class of 2024)

Joe Krizek, class, of 2024

Matthew Bierer, class of 2025

Pat Babcock, class of 2025

Paula Long, class of 2026

Roger Smith, class of 2026

Jim Durst, class of 2026

Building Stewards – Meetings ad hoc; **Joe Krizek, Chair**

Faith Development – Meetings ad hoc; **Pat Babcock, Chair**

Finance and Stewardship – Meetings Monday prior to 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm; **Roger Smith, Chair**

Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership – Meetings ad hoc; **Paula Long, Chair In coordination with Deacons**

Mission and Outreach – Meetings 2nd Wednesday at 10am; **Doreen McNeill, Liaison**

Nominating Committee – Meetings ad hoc; **Roger Smith, Session rep & chair**

As approved at the November, 2023 congregational meeting, committee members are:

Muffie Durst

Cyndee Polzen

Donita Lawhead

Milt Wiltse

Deacon representative; with Carol Nielsen appointed by the Deacons

Personnel – Meetings ad hoc; **Chair Matthew Bierer**; in matters pertaining to family members, other committee

members will perform personnel functions

Presbytery Representative (Elder Commissioner) elected by the Session

February: Matthew Bierer

October: Roger Smith

Worship – Meetings 2nd Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.; **Jim Durst, Chair**

Ad Hoc Committees

Interim Consultant Coordination: Entire Session

By-laws review: Jim Durst and Doreen McNeill

Presbytery Meeting Host Chair: Session members will search for a member of the congregation willing to chair this committee. Volunteers will be gladly considered!

New Business:

Rock of Israel Ministries, a Christian organization that reaches out to Jewish people, has asked to speak to the congregation. The session decided to reach out to Messianic Jews and others to help determine whether this is an organization with which UCPC wants to be associated.

It was moved and seconded that the UCPC Narthex serve as a polling place for the May 7 Special Election. Motion was APPROVED by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no. Session decided to accept the \$100 facility use payment from division of elections. The usual polling places (Beaver Sports and University Baptist) are unavailable. Pastor Erika will let election workers into the building to drop off equipment.

The Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, who is the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Yukon (of which UCPC is a member church) will visit UCPC sometime during April, May, or June to greet members. The session welcomes Rev. Schultz on whichever Sunday works best for her.

The next session meeting with Interim consultant, Rev. James is April 4, which is before we present her video introduction to the congregation. Session agreed that Doreen should contact Rev. James to re-schedule.

Roger Smith will take minutes of action items and progress for the Interim process.

The October 8–12 meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon will be at UCPC. **We are in need of a chair of the hosting committee** and other volunteers to help host this meeting.

Finance committee recommendation to add David Swanson as a check signer. After discussion, **it was moved and seconded to authorize David Swanson to co-sign UCPC checks on behalf of session, as needed. Motion was APPROVED by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.**

Meeting Schedule

April 4 at 7 pm with Rev. Heather James (By Zoom), unless rescheduled

April 18 at 6:30 PM in person (regular meeting)

April Devotional and Elder of the Month: Doreen McNeill

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



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

*You care for the land
and water it;
you enrich it
abundantly.*

Psalm 65:9

