

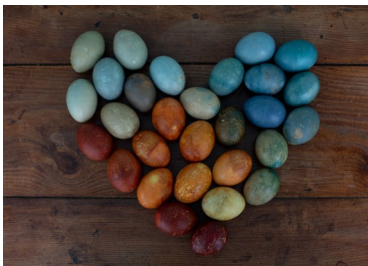
APRIL 2025



Janet Jahnson—4/14
Kathy Dohner—4/22
Connor Bierer—4/30

Isa and Roger—4/10
Lois and Bert—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.



Contents

1. Session Note, Birthdays & Anniversaries
2. New Mission Statement; Lenten Study
3. Calendar
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5. Upcoming events; Invite-A-Friend Stations of the Cross
6. Session Minutes
7. Session Minutes, cont.; Volunteer opportunity
8. One Great Hour of Sharing
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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 an Elder

Faith – a dynamic endeavor
Marji Illingworth, Faith Development Committee Chair

Faith is an active process
Faith can grow, if we intentionally pursue it.

So how do we go about growing our faith? We attend worship, we pray, we help the needy. Even if we do all these things, we can miss an important element of our faith development – study.

Traditionally, the first thought we often think of in Christian Education is Sunday School, children’s Sunday School. Unfortunately we don’t have a lot of children, but even the few we have deserve/need to learn about our Faith. We currently have an active Prayer Ground during worship where the children actively explore Faith, but maybe we need more. During April, we will be trying a short Sunday School class for children during Fellowship. It will be a short class -20 minutes or so, complete with snack, and Bible Story and an activity. All this while parents are enjoying Fellowship or attending the adult class.

Here at UCPC, Faith Development is an important part of our Faith journey for our adults as well. We have several activities for our adult members- Woman’s Bible Study, Men’s Bible Study, Garage Guys, two adult Sunday classes, along with special events during Lent and other seasons.

This year Milt Wiltse has lead a class before worship studying the book of Revelation. Ron Illingworth has led a class on the Reformation and the history of the Presbyterian Church, and is currently looking at the Creeds, Catechisms and Confessions.

Looking to the future, probably in the Fall, we are asking for suggestions for topics for the Adult Classes. What are you curious about? What would help you grow your Faith?

What books of the Bible would you like to study?

Old Testament books
New Testament books

What questions or topics would you like to explore?

Some suggestions are:

Who was Paul?
What was life like when Jesus lived in Palestine?
How to read the Bible
How was the Bible developed?

Email me with your ideas marji@northpolepeonies.com

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission and Vision Statement – 2025

MISSION

Alive in Christ, we invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in discipleship through Word, prayer, and service.

VISION

To accomplish this Mission, we will:

1. Faithfully share and teach the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world.
2. Joyfully worship and praise God with various styles of music, prayer, and teaching.
3. Study scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, incorporating lessons learned into our daily lives.
4. Through Christ, serve people inside and outside our church building by sharing our time, talents, and resources.
5. Provide a loving, caring, and supportive community, so all may experience an abundant life of hope, peace, and joy.

Adopted by the UCPC Session February 27, 2025

Lenten Book Study

*Everyone is welcome to join the group
during Lent.*

- The group meets weekly at 2:30PM, in the Narthex,
Studying

Lent In Plain Sight, by Jill Duffield

- *(This group will revert to Women's Bible Study, every other
week, after Lent.)*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	31 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	1 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	2 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	3 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:15pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR)</u> 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	4 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	5 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
6 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> After Worship Adult Bible Study (SL) <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	7 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:15pm - 6:00pm Sound Team (S) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	8 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	9 <u>10:00am - 11:00am Mission & Outreach</u> 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 4:00pm - 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)	10 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	11 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> 4:00pm - 9:00pm UAF Opera Workshop fundraiser (FH/K) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Sweet Adelines (CE) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	12 9:30am - 4:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE) 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom) <u>4:30 Richard Polzin Memorial (Tentative)</u>
13 Palm Sunday 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> After Worship Adult Bible Study (SL) <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	14 8:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH) 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	15 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 8:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (FH) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	16 8:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH) 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	17 Maundy Thursday 8:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH) 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 3:00pm - 9:00pm Seder - FH/K <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)</u>	18 Good Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm Stations of the Cross (S) 8:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH) <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	19 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom) 3:00pm - 5:00pm Easter breakfast prep (FH)
20 Easter Sunday 8:00am - 2:00pm Easter Breakfast (FH&K) 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> After Worship Adult Bible Study (SL) <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	21 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:15pm Finance (CR)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	22 Earth Day <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	23 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	24 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)</u> <u>6:30pm Session (SL)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	25 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> 4:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band CE <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	26 9:00am - 5:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band CE 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
27 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> 12:00pm - 4:00pm Invite a Friend Potluck tentative Narthex/FH&K/SL <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	28 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	29 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	30 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	1 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:15pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	2 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	3 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER AND A SEDER CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 5:30, FELLOWSHIP HALL

SEE JESUS IN THE MEAL!

The Seder is the traditional meal for Passover which is when Jewish people remember God releasing the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. Each element of the meal is symbolic of God's freeing of the slaves. Much of the symbolism in the Seder points to Jesus. The Seder is the meal Jesus was celebrating on the day we call Maundy Thursday, the day before his crucifixion. It is the meal at which he said, "This is my body given for you...this is my blood shed for you."

UCPC will celebrate the Seder on Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be included. Pastor Lois will lead us through the Seder and will incorporate Holy Communion as well. Please plan to join us...and invite a friend!

There will be a sign-up at Coffee hour to help us get a handle on numbers. We will also have a signup to help with the dinner and dessert portions of the meal. Recipes will be provided. Hope you will choose to attend.



Upcoming Events

February-May—Pastor Erika on leave

4/13—Palm Sunday

4/17—Maundy Thursday—Seder Meal

4/18—Good Friday—Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary

4/20—Easter Sunday Breakfast—9-10AM

- Easter Sunday Worship—10:30AM

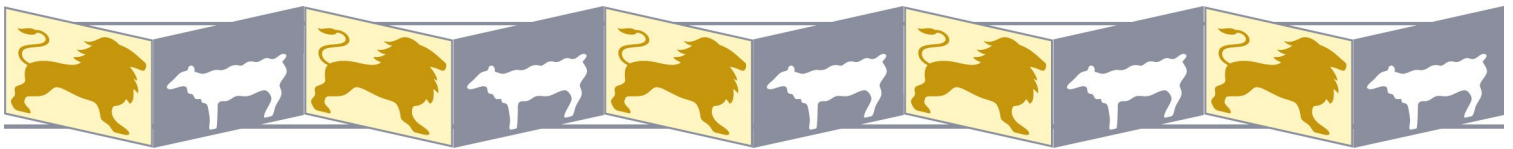
4/27—Invite a Friend to Church Potluck (TENTATIVE)

5/5—Pastor Erika returns!



Do you ever wonder what it was like to be there in person when Jesus went to the cross? You are invited to contemplate the Stations of the Cross during a 25-minute slide show in the sanctuary on Good Friday, April 18. Come any time during **7:30 to 9:30 am**, or **11:00 am to 1:00 pm**, or **4:30 to 6:00 pm** to view the presentation and privately contemplate and experience this pivotal time from Jesus' sentencing to his death and burial.

This is a powerful way to step into some of the most significant moments in human history and personally encounter Jesus. We tend to approach the Gospels as history and are tempted to distance ourselves, to approach what Jesus did for us on the cross in an impersonal way. But Christ's sacrifice for us is living and deeply personal. Contemplating the Stations of the Cross is one of the simplest, yet most powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus and encounter him like never before.



INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH MONTH

April has a focus of inviting a friend (or friends) to church. We encourage you to think about why you are here and why it is important to you. Don't you think you have a friend who might want to be a part of what we have – the love of Jesus – who might want to join us? Part of Rev. Curt Karns' sermon the last week of February touched on this. In March, we presented ideas of how one might want to invite someone. We thought April would be a good time to emphasize inviting someone, especially since Easter is in April this year. We will have cards for you to give as an invitation as well as flyers to post around the building and possibly on campus as well. There will be a follow-up luncheon later and other ideas of how to encourage people to continue attending UCPC. We hope that you find someone that you think will enjoy the fellowship that we share at UCPC, but more importantly, the fellowship and love of Jesus Christ.

The following are the *draft* minutes of the March 20, 2025, Session meeting. The various committee reports can be obtained by calling the church office at (907) 479-6728 or contacting admin@ucpcfairbanks.org.

March 20 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

Scripture and Devotion — Pat Babcock led a devotion based on John 15:1-9, and how Jesus is our gardener and we are the garden.

Opening prayer – Pat Babcock

A quorum was declared.

Present: Commissioned Pastor (CP) Lois Hildenbrand, Doreen McNeill, Matthew Bierer, Jim Durst, Roger Smith, Pat Babcock, Marji Illingworth.

Absent: Paula Long

Guest: Deacon Marijo Larson

It was moved and seconded to **approve the following Consent Agenda, consisting of:**

The Docket, as amended

The Minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting of the Session, as amended

Acknowledge receipt of Written Reports:

- Clerk of Session
- Building Stewards
- Elder Commissioner Report
- Faith Development
- Finance & Stewardship
- Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership
- Mission and Outreach
- Worship

Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report. Marijo gave the deacons report. Marijo was asked if the deacons are feeling overwhelmed, but responded that they are holding up. Deacons were thanked for their tireless service.

Comments from the Congregation. No comments were received by the clerk and no one was present to comment.

Clerk's Report. In addition to the written report, Doreen noted that she received an attendance survey from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but the deadline for response had already passed.

New Business:

Motion from Mission and Outreach Committee: To receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, April 20. One Great Hour of Sharing goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Report from the bulletin board working group (of Hospitality committee). Marji, Jim, and Pat met to review and inventory the bulletin boards, who maintains each one, and to make recommendations. Cyndee was out of town, so could not participate. The group will proceed with shifting the focus of the bulletin board at the entrance by the music room (where most outside groups enter) to focus on a public welcome and explanation of UCPC, including our Mission & Vision. Cyndee's input and ideas will be incorporated when Cyndee is available.

Finance Committee.

Yukon Accounting has not produced UCPC's W-2 forms. There seems to be a software issue and understanding between Yukon Reporting and UCPC staff. Roger hopes to resolve the issue this week.

The Deacons' fund currently has \$300, which the deacons can use at their discretion. This line item has been funded each year to maintain at least \$300, but deacons may fundraise to increase the funds available.

The pastor's discretionary fund has \$1,000 each year. This fund is used whenever someone approaches the pastor with an immediate need. The pastor can provide up to \$100 per event without asking permission from the ses-

sion.

It was moved and seconded to **create and maintain a designated account of up to \$5,000 per year. This will be called the Emergency Needs Fund (ENF). Money from this account for emergency needs of up to \$100 may be distributed from this fund by the pastor. Money from this account for emergency needs greater than \$100 may be distributed from this fund by a vote of session.** Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition. The intent of this account is to provide emergency assistance to individuals within the UCPC congregation.

UCPC is progressing in our Transitional tasks. Thanks to the Mission and Vision Committee, we have a new Mission and Vision Statement. Continuing on the tasks outlined for us, the session will focus on the following:

Personnel Committee will craft a new contract to offer Pastor Erika, based on the Presbytery of Yukon's new minimum terms of call (which now also apply to supply pastors like Pastor Erika) and the new Board of Pensions benefits packages. Her current contract ends on May 31.

The finance committee will project the costs of employing a part-time (25 hours/week) pastor and a full-time pastor, and an assessment of the financial viability of those options.

The session will provide a report to the Presbytery of Yukon's Ministry Commission for their April 11 meeting which will outline the following:

The progression of the transitional tasks, including congregational meetings

Summary of the meeting summaries

Joys of the congregation and the "letting go" service held on October 27 (charism and pain point), as outlined in *Phase Three* of Interim Contractor Pastor Heather James's *Mission Study Process for UCPC*.

UCPC's Financial situation (whether we can afford to employ a pastor, long term)

At the April 24 Session meeting (note this is the 4th Thursday), the session will consider the following

Discuss the logistics of creating a pastor-parish relations committee, and how it will operate. The session agreed that frequent, regular, and candid communication is essential in maintaining a good relationship with any pastor and that the time to set up such a committee is when relations are good.

Discuss items from *Phase Three* of Interim Contractor Pastor Heather James's *Mission Study Process for UCPC*.

Prayerfully discerning the next steps, including

When to form a Pastor Nominating Committee

How to proceed with engaging the congregation with the results of studying core values, vision, and neighborhood input (other than having already provided a summary of the meetings)

The Church Directory is almost complete. Session will encourage Melissa to complete and publish it, under guidance from the Personnel Committee.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

April 3 Deacon's Meeting @ 5:15 pm: Session representative is Doreen McNeill

April 24 at 6:30 pm: in-person regular Session meeting (**Note the change to the 4th Thursday**), Moderator is CP Lois Hildenbrand.

April Devotional and Elder of the Month: Doreen McNeill

ADJOURN at 8:35 with Lois leading the closing prayer.



**If you are able and willing to shovel snow,
There are still a few more weeks of likely need—
please sign up for a week or two on the sign up
sheet in the Narthex
(on the Garage Guys table).
Your help is greatly appreciated!**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



**WE ARE
THERE**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for justice, resilience, and sustainability.

**PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY.**

MARCH 5 – APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

PRESBYTERIAN

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

(PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- Receives 32% of funds

PRESBYTERIAN

HUNGER PROGRAM

(PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds

SELF-DEVELOPMENT

OF PEOPLE

(SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- Receives 32% of funds

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 - Thursday

Pastor Erika is on leave until May 5, 2025



Contacts

Supply Pastor . Rev. Erika Bergh (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 ('27)	388-0544	Clerk of Session
Pat Babcock ('25)	978-7187	Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership
Matthew Bierer ('25)	474-0106	Building Stewards; Mission and Outreach
Jim Durst ('26)	590-9024	Worship
Paula Long ('26)	687-7444	Personnel
Roger Smith ('26)	322-2595	Finance; Nominating
Marji Illingworth ('27)	378-2138	Faith Development

Board of Deacons

Judy Fowler-Morris ('26)	388-5629	President
Carol Nielsen ('25)	388-8154	
Sarah Lanstra ('25)	378-3929	
Marijo Larson ('26)	322-9425	
Janet Johnson ('27)	687-7148	
Lynn Krizek ('27)	460-4293	

Worship Service Leaders

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

