

A Note from the Pastor:

Continued from page 1

What does Lent mean for us today? Lent is still the church season in which we prepare for Easter Sunday. It is a special time of prayer and reflection, of confession and self-sacrifice. It is a time to remember the temptation, the suffering, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Most of all, it is a time to ready ourselves for the humble thankfulness and sheer joy of Easter morning – it is a time to ready ourselves to meet our risen Lord once again!

For Reflection: Read slowly each of these different kinds of fasting/feasting; be aware of which ones seem to challenge you; focus on those to which you are called to Fast/Feast during this Lent.

Fast from judging others... Feast on Christ dwelling in each

Fast from seeing differences...Feast on the Spirit in all life

Fast from apparent darkness... Feast on the reality of light

Fast from thoughts of illness...Feast on the healing power of God

Fast from words that pollute...Feast on phrases that support or confirm

Fast from discontent...Feast on gratitude

Fast from anger...Feast on patience

Fast from worry...Feast on trust in God's Providence

Fast from complaining...Feast on appreciation

Fast from hostility...Feast on non-violence

Fast from bitterness...Feast on forgiveness

Fast from self-concern...Feast on compassion for others

Fast from discouragement...Feast on hope

Fast from lethargy...Feast on enthusiasm

Fast from idle gossip...Feast on prayerful silence

Fast from suspiciousness...Feast on Truthful Relationships

It seems appropriate that during Lent we, as a congregation, have the opportunity to learn more about forgiveness. Please join us for a light supper on Wednesday nights. Please bring an appetite, open heart and a willingness to learn and put some new practices to work!

Grace and peace in the hope of our crucified and risen Lord

Blessings...Lois



2023 UCPC

UCPC events in Blue

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 5-7pm Grace Church (S)</p> <p>7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00pm - 6:00pm Cel-loCharly (MR) 1:00pm - 2:00pm Women's Bible Study "Love Carved in Stone" (N) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 1092 (CE)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sound (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm - 6:00pm CelloCharly (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE) 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Practice (MR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR) 5:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00pm - 3:00pm Cyberlynx Spelling Bee (S) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:00pm - 5:00pm D & D (HS)</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm - 6:00pm Cel-loCharly (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 1092 (CE)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sound (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am - 11:00am Mission & Outreach 12:00pm - 6:00pm CelloCharly (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE) 6:30pm Worship Committee (CR) 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Practice (MR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 4-5:30 Brooks Wedding Rehearsal 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00am-6:00pm Brooks Wedding (S, MR & N) (MR not 2-4pm) 11:00am-7:00pm Grace Church (FH & Kitchen) 2:00pm - 5:00pm D & D (HS)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 2:30pm - 3:30pm Garage Guys1606 Ivan's Alley 4-7:00PM Grace Church (FH & Kitchen) 7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00am - 4:00pm Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & Kitchen) 1:00pm Women's Bible Study (N) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cel-loCharly (MR) 5:15 Finance (CR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 1092 (CE) 6:00pm - 9:00pm GOSPEL CHOIR (S & FH)</p>	<p>14-Valentine's Day</p> <p>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 6:00pm - 9:00pm GOSPEL CHOIR (S & FH) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sound (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00pm - 6:00pm CelloCharly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:00pm GOSPEL CHOIR (S & FH) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE) 7:00pm - 8:15pm Choir Practice (MR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:00pm GOSPEL CHOIR (S & FH) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm Session (SL) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:00pm - 9:00pm GOSPEL CHOIR (S & FH) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2:00pm - 5:00pm D & D (HS) 6:00pm - 8:00pm Garage Guys1606 Ivan's Alley</p>
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The Sound team is looking for new team members. We provide individual training and dual operation with one of us before going solo. We meet once a month on the first Monday at 5pm to review the past month, set the next month's schedule, discuss any issues, equipment upgrades or training needs and pray for each other. It is challenging, fun and rewarding to be an integral part of the worship service. We each take on a schedule to be "on the board" once or twice per month. It helps if you have any musical background. If this interests you, please contact

Curtis McNeill.

Making Breakfast Burritos!



"His faithful love endures forever" ~Psalm 136

Finance Committee Meets Monday, February 13,

UCPC Finance Report

As reported by Sarah Lanstra-Amounts may differ from previous newsletters

2022	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year Total
INCOME	26,098.	40,381.	22,827.	20,851.	17,661.	25,320.	21,333.	13,492	17,371.	17,728.	23,986.	27,325.	274,373.
EXPENSES	21,478.	32,520.	20,155.	25,020.	24,013.	25,213.	13,404.	13,192.	11,638.	19,321.	27,003.	24,085	257,042.
<i>Keep in mind we are not paying a full time pastor's salary</i>													
Net	4,620.	7,861.	2,672.	-4,169.	-6,352	107	7,929.	300.	5,733.	-1,593.	-3,0147	3,240.	17,331.

Boiler Upgrade Fundraiser: Amount Raised: \$27,891.24

(Actual Donations-does not include grant amount)

If you would like to contribute to the conversion of the church boiler please mark your check or donation envelope "Boiler", All donations are greatly appreciated!

February Elder of the month is: Paula Long

February Deacon of the month is: Carol Nielsen

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 12

Souper Bowl Sunday is your chance to help Fairbanks Community Food Bank feed people in our community who are in need. This opportunity started many years ago and cans are collected throughout churches in the US on this day of festive watching of the football finale of the season. Bring cans of soup or any nonperishables to church that week, and place them in the box of your favored team, or in the box for those who do not favor either team. All those wonderful food drives before Christmas and Thanksgiving do not last all winter and this gives us a chance to replenish to supplies at our local food bank. Monetary donations will be accepted as well and will go to Stone Soup.

Minute Stated Meeting of Session University Community Presbyterian Church

January 19, 2023, Student Lounge

Roll call: CP Lois Hildenbrand, Roger Smith, Matthew Bierer, Joe Krizek, Paula Long, and Doreen McNeill (Clerk) were present. Jerry McBeath was absent. Guests Deacon Melissa Bierer, Confirmand Frederich Bierer, and prospective Member Kathy Taylor Yokel were also present. The clerk declared a quorum.

Moderator Commissioned Pastor Lois Hildenbrand opened with prayer at 6:35 pm.

Scripture and Devotion: Roger Smith led a devotion on the Lord's Prayer.

Orders of the Day:

At 6:15 p.m. Notices were posted on outside doors for members to call to be allowed into the locked building to attend the session meeting. No comments from members were received.

At 7:00 p.m., Confirmand Frederich Bierer, and prospective Member Kathy Taylor Yokel were examined and **approved for membership by unanimous consent.**

The following items were approved by unanimous consent via a consent calendar:

Session Minutes of the Stated Meeting of Session for December 15, 2022, special Session meetings for December 29, 2022, and January 15, 2023.

Reports from Building Stewards; Finance, Treasury & Stewardship; Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc; Mission and Outreach; and Worship committees.

Norma Wivoda's resignation from board of Deacons

Hackett's transfer of membership.

New Business:

Elder Training. Pastor Lois spoke on interpersonal communications and recognizing pitfalls. Jesus provided guidance in Matthew, chapter 18. Lois reminded us that the only person whom we can control what they learn and change is ourselves.

CP Lois Hildenbrand gave her pastor's report. Elders are encouraged (not required) to help staff a second committee. Chairs were reminded that it is their job to make sure work gets done, not to just do the work themselves.

Deacon Melissa Bierer gave the deacons' report. Deacons were commended on their extraordinary service to the congregation.

UCPC Session News

Reported 2 correspondences from members of the congregation. A request to reinstate passing of the peace during worship was referred to Worship Committee. A concern will be worked through as soon as possible.

The Call to the February 24-25 Presbytery Meeting in Eagle River.

Doreen McNeill was elected Clerk of Session.

Session members signed up for committee chair and elder of the month assignments. Some committees still do not have a Session Elder Chair.

Paula Long will be Elder Commissioner to Presbytery meetings in February and October.

CP Lois Hildenbrand remains our temporary pastor.

There are 2 parts to calling an Installed (called) Pastor:

Lois will start the required Mission Study with a Mission Study Team after she returns from vacation. A Mission Study typically takes 6 months and will allow UCPC to move forward with our pastor search, even though we have not secured an Interim Pastor who is normally tasked with leading a congregation through this process. Session will begin to select Mission Study Team members.

After the Mission Study is completed, a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed to search for an Installed (called) Pastor.

Meanwhile, the Interim Pastor search sub-committee continues (see attached report). Joe Krizek will replace Muffie Durst on the sub-committee.

Roger presented financial information:

We paid our full fair-share to Presbytery

Our mortgage payments are up-to-date

Financially, we are "in the black" for 2022, mostly because we are not currently paying a full-time, installed pastor.

Joe presented boiler project information. The bids were higher than expected, but we are hopeful that, with further fundraising, the costs can be covered. Total projected cost including boiler, accessories, training, Beckley's installation, permits, and other work will be \$91,085. The boiler will cost \$25,805 F.O.B. (and is subject to increase in 2023, so it should be ordered as soon as is reasonable.) Joe will have the agency providing the \$7,500 grant send a check directly to Proctor Sales to pay against the boiler. Electrical work will be done for the cost of materials only (an incredible savings) by UCPC member Brian Dixon of The Electrician.

It was moved and seconded to (a) execute the proposed contract with Beckley Mechanical Company for \$54,785 with a required completion date of August 31, 2023; (b) buy the boiler for \$25,805 directly from Proctor Sales in Anchorage (F.O.B.); and (c) continue to fundraise. Motion passed by Unanimous Consent.

Old Business

Tabled from December 2022 meeting:

Mission committee motion to do something about the homeless situation was tabled. Pastor Lois will contact the borough and city to find out if they have homeless liaisons who can help these people.

Building Fees – Roger will continue to work with building stewards to update fee structures and rules.

The Next Session Meetings:

Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m., with Devotional by Paula Long.

Thursday, March 9 (this is not the regular date) at 6:30 p.m., with Devotional by Matthew Bierer.

The meeting closed in prayer by Roger Smith at 9:45 p.m.

Doreen McNeill, Clerk of Session

PASTOR'S REPORT, JANUARY 2023

Since my last report I...

offered drama for our 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Day and 1st Sunday of Christmas worship services. Found actors and practiced with them for the Christmas Sunday skit.

participated in New Hope's Christmas Eve, eve program...now known as their Christmas Adam because Adam came before Eve.

orchestrated a wonderful, worshipful Christmas Eve celebration with the help of many people. Huge thanks to the choir and its director, bell choir and its director, the woodwind/brass ensemble, the liturgist, sound person, projectionist, videographer, Advent lighting family, our pianist, our Admin for multiple bulletins in one week, the fellowship committee for the cider and cookies, everyone who attended, and anyone I've forgotten to mention.

selected music for Prelude, Offertory, Communion, and Postlude for each Sunday worship for our pianist.

held a Special Called Session meeting 12/29.

introduced 'Star Sunday' to the congregation.

met with women of the church in the Women's Book Study.

met with Finance.

met with Mission committee member, Muffie Durst with Helping Alaska's Loving Family program director, Marta.

met with Deacons.

Arranged communion plans.

Brought traveling communion with Deacon Donita Lawhead.

participated in a Presbytery of Yukon Zoom meeting.

ordained and/or installed two Deacons and two Elders.

met with Mission Committee.

met with a prospective member who will be presented to Session.

met with Worship Committee and began plans for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

have started giving thought, planning and prayer for Lent. I ordered a study to do with a mid-week group, not a done deal yet as I haven't finished reviewing it.

have begun thinking about the Mission Study task, how to accomplish it and with whom.

Continued.....

I am pleased I finally got to do a bit of visiting but still want to accomplish more!

Reminder: I have arranged two weeks' vacation from Monday, January 23 through Monday, February 6.

Blessings...Lois

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk's Report:

Received a Christmas letter from the Hackett Family and a request to transfer their membership to a church in Michigan.

Received a letter from Deacon Norma Wivoda resigning from the board of deacons.

Building Stewards Committee: ~

Joe Krizek met with **Beckley Mechanical Inc.** for a pre-bid site inspection. **Slayden Plumbing & Heating** did not attend the pre-bid inspection.

UCPC has a new used **snowblower** with lots of power to blow the hardened snow piles and clear the yard between the buildings in the spring. It was purchased from Karl Kalen and donated to UCPC.

Design Alaska was paid \$2250 for work done to submit the boiler plans for inspection at the Borough and the Office of the Fire Chief.

The fire alarm system was tested and is up to specification except for the fire horns at the main entrance on the deck. Further work is scheduled to correct the problem.

~Respectfully submitted by Roger Smith.

Finance, Treasury & Stewardship: Sarah Lanstra, Jerry McBeath, Curtis McNeill, Roger Smith, and Pastor Lois Hildenbrand were present. The meeting began in prayer led by Jerry.

We discussed the pledge drive. By 12/31/22 approximately \$181,500 had been raised. Some 27 individuals/families have made pledges, and additional contributions are expected in the new year.

The boiler system replacement project is on target for completion in 2023, thanks to two large anonymous donations, a state grant, and many generous donations from the congregation.

We reviewed the December income report and reasoned that given the amount pledged for 2023, estimated loose offerings, and rental income, we are in a good position at this stage in recruitment of an Interim Pastor.

Due to uncertainty regarding financial terms for the person called to be the Interim Pastor, the committee considered it premature to discuss other issues of stewardship. We expect to be able to support a full-time interim pastor in 2023, but it might require a special offering to raise the required funds.

A check was sent to Presbytery at the end of December to pay the balance of UCPC's Fair Share.

Because Jerry is unable to attend the January 19th Session, Roger volunteered to address finance/treasury questions. The meeting closed in prayer led by Roger. ~ Submitted by Jerry McBeath, with addition to #4 & addition of #5 by Roger Smith

Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc Committee Report ~ Muffie Durst, Roger Smith, Paula Long, and Doreen McNeill spent many hours on the search. We had three serious candidates. One withdrew because the situation at his church required him to stay longer. Two more went through a more complete process, but both ended up deciding that a move to Fairbanks would be more challenging than they initially realized when they were asked. At this time, Lois Hildenbrand is still our temporary pastor, but the search for an interim will continue. ~ submitted by Muffie Durst

Mission and Outreach: ~ Present: Lois, Janet B., Donita, Muffie

We planned for Souper Bowl collection of food for the Food Bank on Feb.12.

We discussed the Agape Dinner for Helping Alaska. We do not plan on getting a table, but will have a slide prepared so people will know about the dinner.

We discussed making breakfast burritos on Sunday, January 29 after church. Burritos can go to the Door and for our Little Free Pantry.

We would like to know more about what is happening with the GAP (God Always Provides) ministry of our personal needs closet. It does not get a lot of use, but Jimmie gets an occasional call from Helping Alaska for items from there. We used to get much more frequent calls.

Cold weather clothing closet – We will put a few coats up on the fence one or two at a time to see if that fits the needs better. The idea of a specific time to get items does not seem to fit the schedule of those who need such items.

Focus on Mission schedule was set up until Feb. 12.

Worship Committee: ~ The committee met at 7pm Thursday, January 12th in the Conference Room. Present: Jim Durst, Patti Gallagher and Lois Hildenbrand. The meeting opened with prayer.

Choir has low attendance, but Patti continues to find music to accommodate. She would like to know sermon topics farther in advance so the choir has more time to prepare pieces. Various tools for that were discussed.

Special Music during worship: Soloists are encouraged, but not required, to be part of and rehearse with choir. 'Special Music' musicians must communicate in advance with leadership to coordinate with worship planners, and with the Sound Team so the right equipment is in the right place at the right time.

The Choir Room needs cleaning and organization. Patti will create an event where she can get help.

Worship Committee Tasks and membership

Lois agreed to email the current UCPC Committee Job Descriptions to committee members.

Obtaining "Prayer Persons" each week was discussed, including training and helping the congregation understand the intent.

Obtaining Liturgists each week was discussed, including training, and a list of potential liturgists.

Pulpit Supply for Lois' vacation. Rev. Ericka Bergh will preach 1/29 and 2/5.

Ash Wednesday will be 7pm Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Lois will obtain ashes from dry palms from previous years and "sins you'd like to be rid of" written on small slips of paper and deposited, anonymously, in a collection vessel in the Narthex. Jim will burn these (outdoors) and the ashes will be used for the service.

Maundy Thursday – if Lois is still at UCPC she would like to have a Seder. We discussed options.

Good Friday – Jim will talk with Sarah about the digital Stations of the Cross.

Palm/Passion Sunday - Choir will prepare two Anthems. A Palm Sunday celebration piece in the Anthem spot and a mournful, passion piece for the Offertory.

Easter - Lois will work on a brass/woodwind ensemble.

No action items for Session. The meeting closed in prayer. ~ Submitted by Pastor Lois.

University Community Presbyterian Church

3510 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Website: www.ucpcfairbanks.org

Phone: 907-479-6728



Organist ~ Kathy Dohner
Pianist ~ Kathy Dohner
Choir~ Patti Gallagher
Sound Manager ~ Curtis McNiell

Committee leaders

Worship: Roger Smith
Finance and Stewardship: Jerry McBeath
Mission and Outreach:
Faith Development:

Deacons

Donita Lawhead 455-6849
Melissa Bierer 687-5037
Sarah Lanstra 378-3929
Carol Nielsen 388-8154

Pastor

Lois Hildenbrand
Email: pastor@ucpcfairbanks.org
Office: (907) 479-6728

Admin Assistant

Jimmie Kaye Baldwin
Office: (907) 479-6728

Elders-Session

Doreen McNeill 388-0544~ Clerk of Session

Jerry McBeath, Class of 2023
Paula Long 687-7444 Class of 2023
Roger Smith 322-2595 Class of 2023
Joe Krizek, 460-4294 Class of 2024
Matthew Bierer 687-5037 Class of 2025

To be installed March 2023
Larry Johnson

Class of 2025

