### FEBRUARY 2024





Franklin Miller 2/3
Lanien Livingston 2/5
Charlie McNeill 2/6
Joe Krizek 2/8
Annika Swanson 2/8
Sarah Lanstra 2/11

Dan and Diana Solie 2/24

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

We get one of my favorite convergences this year: Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day. It gives us a chance to consider how God may be loving us and how we may be loving God as we begin the season of Lent. Celebrating both days simultaneously allows us to hold a common goal: renewing our passion for the ones we love – God and friends or family.

So, let's talk about what it might look like to nurture a romance with God beginning on Ash Wednesday, finding ways to renew and refresh our passion for God. Faith is made up of many things: hope, trust, connection, and *desire* for God! But faith is also God's desire for us. Sounds an awful lot like a romance, right? And like any romance, it needs to be nurtured and nourished if it's going to thrive and help both partners grow together in deeper intimacy and reliance on each other.

During Lent, many of us don new habits: the adding of a new devotional before bed or during breakfast, reading the Bible more, praying more, attending church more, limiting our consumption of certain foods or beverages, limiting our consumption of certain kinds of media or printed material, or limiting our interactions with certain kinds of people. Whether we limit or add things to our lives during Lent, the goal should be the same: creating space for more communication with God.

For some people though, there may be nothing you could take out of your life. And you may not feel like you have the bandwidth to add something new to your life. In this case, perhaps the goal of creating space for more communication with God could be achieved by doing an audit of your life and seeing what you spend most of your time on. Then explore how you might invite God *in* to that activity. How might your time cleaning, driving, typing emails, or cooking be a space for conversation with God?

I love what Roman Catholic bishop Thomas Tobin of the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island, says about Lenten prayer and fasting:

Lent should be a time of more intense prayer, and it is nothing more than communication with God. There are various types of prayer, of course: personal and public, liturgical and devotional. But whenever we speak to God in prayer, we share our hopes and fears, our disappointments and dreams. And we listen to God, seeking to know his will more clearly so that we can do his will more faithfully every day. Silence is such an essential element of the spiritual life, for it quiets the heart, mind and soul, allowing God to break through the incessant clatter of our culture.

Lent is also a time of sacrifice — of reasonable fasting and abstaining [...a]nd most of us 'give up' other little things too — dessert, coffee, alcohol, technology — those simple attachments that keep us tied to Earth and prevent us from lifting our hearts and minds to heaven. Our disciplines eliminate vice, increase virtue, purify our souls and strengthen us in our daily struggle against evil.

Creating space for prayer by eliminating something non-essential from our lives can help make our conversation with God more intentional. Leaning in to the Lenten practice of abstaining from something makes Lent the perfect time to develop that deeper intimacy with God. By giving up something that drains our time and mind away from God, we free up time in our day for conversation with God. Therefore, beginning Lent on Valentine's Day is perfect because it reminds us of our great love and need for God in some of our hardest places. It also reminds us of God's great love and care for us, even though we are imperfect.

Grace and Peace!

Rev. Erika Bergh



# February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 12 - 2PM Session lunch meeting (SL) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)	1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)	(CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR)	(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)	11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30 - 7:00PM Deacons Meeting (CR) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9PM Sweet Ade- lines (CE Basement)	Cyberlynx (S/N) 2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR)	12 - 4PM Valentine Heart Craft Day (FH) 1- 4PM D & D (HS)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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)	(HS) 5 - 6PM Sound Team Meeting (S)	,	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)	6:30 - 9PM Śweet Ade- lines (CE Basement)	Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)	11AM - 1PM Grace Church (SL) 1 - 4PM D & D (HS)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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)	1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 6 - 8PM FSAF (S) 5:15PM Finance (CR)	6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12 - 5PM Cello Charly (MR) 6 - 8PM FSAF (S) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)	4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 8PM FSAF (S) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band	(HS) 6 - 8PM FSAF (S) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM Session (SL)	2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6 - 8PM FSAF (S) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)	11AM - 1PM Grace Church (SL) 1 - 4PM D & D (HS)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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)	1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30 - 3:30PM Wom- en's Bible Study (N) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)	6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5 - 8PM Lenten Study/ Simple Dinner (SL) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)	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)	11:30AM - 4:00PM 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)		1 - 4PM D & D (HS)
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
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)	1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)	6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12 - 5PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9:00PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)		11:30AM - 4:00PM 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)	Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM	1 - 4PM D & D (HS) 2 - 4PM Cello Charly Recital (S)

The following is a summary of the January 2024 UCPC Session meeting minutes. If you would like to read the minutes in their entirety, including the various committee reports, they are available in the Church Office, or by request via email. Contact admin@ucpcfairbanks.org or call 907-479-6728.

# Minutes of Session of University Community Presbyterian Church (UCPC) And Board of Directors of University Community Presbyterian Church, Inc.

January 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Student Lounge

Opening prayer - Moderator Rev. Erika Bergh

Scripture and Devotion – Joe Krizek

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

Absent: Paula Long.

**Guests:** Elder-elect Jim Durst, Deacon Sarah Lanstra

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

Scripture and Devotion Joe Krizek gave a devotion on 2 Peter 1:3-8

#### A quorum was declared

It was moved and seconded to adopt the consent agenda, consisting of the following:

#### Adoption of Consent Agenda, consisting of:

Docket, as revised

Minutes of the December, 21, 2023 stated meeting of the Session

Reception of Written Reports (if received):

Pastor Interim Search Ad Hoc Committee

Clerk of Session Mission and Outreach

Building Stewards Personnel

Faith Development Nominating

Finance, Treasurer, & Stewardship Worship

#### Orders of the Day (7 pm)

Deacons' report was presented by deacon Sarah Lanstra. Deacons were thanked for their generous service. Comments from the Congregation. No in-person comments were received. Doreen related that Donita Lawhead will bring paper for people to doodle on, as users of the sanctuary are using pew envelopes, prayer and guest forms, and other pew notices to doodle on.

Discussion: *The Invitational Christian*. The session discussed chapter 2 of *The Invitational Christian*. Some good ideas included providing reminder cards like to hand out to people interested in up-coming events and to invite UAF students to the next potluck, dinners for small groups, café-style tables in the narthex instead of a large circle of chairs, conversation tables at a gathering so that we get to know each other better. We realized that we need to work at getting to know each other better, as well as welcome newcomers.

Clerk's Report was given by Doreen McNeill.

#### **Old Business**

Rental Rates update. Roger Smith presented a proposed 2024 rental rates. Rental rates have not been updated for 5 to 10 years. The proposed rates are an increase of 20% to 25% above the current rates, but are believed to be at the low end of comparable rental spaces. It was noted that some long-time renters do not pay standard rates, and those will be negotiated. For example, 12-step groups are not charged a fee because their use of the facility is considered a benevolence and Grace Church's fees have also been at a special rate. It was moved and seconded to use the proposed rates as a starting point for negotiating rental rates going forward. The rates will go into effect March 1, 2024. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 yes, 0 no.

#### **New Business:**

- We discussed election of the 2024 Elder Commissioner to Presbytery. The meetings are Feb 8-10 in Anchorage and October 10-12 probably in Fairbanks. It's preferred, but not essential, to have the same commissioner at both meetings. Matthew Bierer and Joe Krizek are considering their schedules for the February Presbytery meeting in Anchorage. Roger Smith volunteered to be the commissioner for the October meeting. Voting will occur later this month.
- Election of corporation officers. It was moved and seconded to elect the following slate of officers for the corporation: Joe Krizek, President, Matthew Bierer, Vice President; Doreen McNeill, Secretary; and Roger Smith, Treasurer. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Election of Clerk of Session. It was moved and seconded to elect Doreen McNeill as Clerk of Session. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Con	nmittee Assignments were drafted, b	ut not finalized. The following session elders are tentatively assigned as fol-
	lows: Building Stewards, Joe Krizek; F	Faith Development, Pat Babcock; Finance, Treasury & Stewardship, Roger
	Smith; By-laws review, Jim Durst and	Doreen McNeill; Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership,;
	Mission and Outreach;	Nominating, Roger Smith; Personnel, Matthew Bierer; Worship, Jim Durst.

Elder of the Month assignments were completed, as follows:

January – Joe Krizek July –
February – Roger Smith August –
March – Pat Babcock September –
April – Doreen McNeill October –

May – Matthew Bierer

June – Joe Krizek

November – Matthew Bierer

December – Doreen McNeill

The Worship committee recommended that we have a Lent series of study evenings with soup and salad. There are many constraints on building use and people to put this together. It was moved and seconded that UCPC has a regular Lenten series of study evenings with food, if the way be clear. Motion was approved by unanimous consent. Pastor Erika will work with worship committee and hospitality committee to find days and rooms where this is possible.

Finance committee seeks advice from Session on how these memorials should be managed if they persist unspent for a long period of time. By consensus, this item was moved to the February session meeting.

How to best provide committee reports to the congregation. By consensus, this item was moved to the February session meeting.

Faith Development requests that the young children bake communion bread with Marji Illingworth for March communion. It was moved and seconded to allow the young children to bake communion bread with Marji Illingworth, starting earlier than their normal "pray ground" time during the worship service and to possibly have some part in helping to serve. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

January 28 at noon, with food. Location TBA

February 15, 6:30 pm in the student lounge

February Devotional and Elder of the Month: Roger Smith

Adjourn Pastor Erika closed in prayer at 8:55 pm

#### **Minutes of the Called Meeting of Session**

#### January 28, 2024 at 12:15 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Student Lounge

**Opening prayer** – We asked God for a blessing on the food by singing the Gloria Patri at 12:15. Once we were settled, Moderator Rev. Erika Bergh opened the meeting in prayer at 12:15 pm,

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

**Absent:** Paula Long.

#### A quorum was declared

#### **Old Business**

It was moved and seconded to contract with Reverend Heather James (<a href="https://www.heather-james.com/">https://www.heather-james.com/</a>) to provide UCPC with her transition consulting services in assisting us in discerning God's calling for UCPC's next chapter. The contract for 20 hours of consultation should be completed within 1 year at an estimated cost of at least \$5,000, but not likely to exceed \$10,000.

Discussion: As a Session, we believe that we need help discerning what God wants for us in the next chapter. In fact, such discernment is required by our denomination. We, as Session will commit to taking great time in prayer and scripture to listen to God, but we believe we need help from someone with more ministry experience and group-discernment skills to help the Session and the congregation hear where God wants us to go next. This allows UCPC to employ a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastor who is highly skilled in supporting and leading churches through transitions such as ours.

The process of transitional discernment normally requires the church to pay moving costs for a full-time transitional pastor to come to Fairbanks to do this work with us and also to provide pastoral care. After a year or two, the transitional pastor leaves and the church attempts to call a new Installed pastor, which requires more moving costs. The Presbytery of Yukon's Ministry Commission has agreed that UCPC may instead do this transitional work using a consultant.

Although there was concern about the cost, and the work required of the Session and the whole congregation, it is important in discerning God's direction for UCPC's future calling, our mission, and our pastoral make-up. This scenario not only allows UCPC to continue with Rev. Bergh as our part-time pastor, but to also do the discernment required to embrace our future calling.

Motion was approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

It was moved and seconded that UCPC host the October 10-12, 2024 Presbytery of Yukon meeting, if the way be clear.

Discussion included inviting Fairbanks Korean and New Hope Presbyterian Churches to help us in providing housing and transportation for 40 to 60 people. Other creative ways to meet needs for the meeting despite smaller congregations in the North Star Borough and concern about last-minute changes were discussed. **Motion was approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.** 

It was moved and seconded to ratify the email vote to elect Elder Matthew Bierer as elder commissioner to the February 9-10 Presbytery meeting in Anchorage. Motion was approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

#### **New Business:**

An email vote during January 29–31 (4 yes, 0 no) confirmed that the next Session meeting will remain on the third Thursday of February, as scheduled.

Pastor Erika led the closing prayer at 1:33 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.



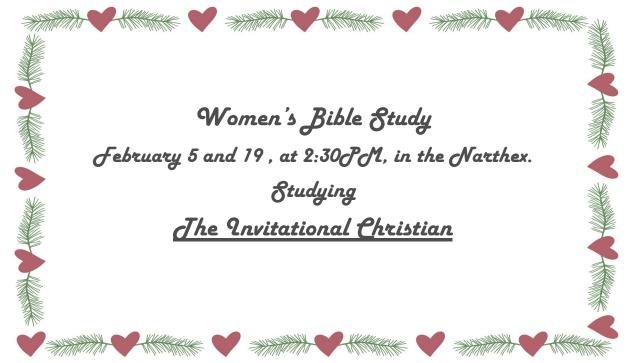




We Live Our Building Stewards!! Shout Out to
Our marvelous Building
Stewards for keeping
us warm through this
cold snap by dealing with
a boiler snafu!

See the Building & Grounds Update on page 8 for details.

February Elder of the month is:
Roger Smith
February Deacon of the month is:
Carol Nielsen



## Youth With A Mission: Northeastern Cambodia

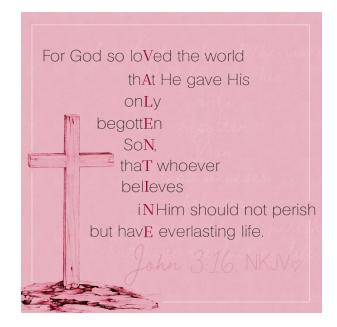
YWAM's mission in Cambodia makes a huge difference in the lives of the people it serves, and has an ongoing need for funding.

Please continue to keep Anne Thomas and her work in your prayers, and consider donating to this cause if it fits in your budget.

Donations can be made through UCPC—write "Cambodia" on your check or, if you use the PayPal link on our website, send an email to admin@ucpcfairbanks.org to let us know it is designated for YWAM.

Thank you!





**Finance Committee** 

Will meet at 5:15PM on Monday

February 12

In the Conference Room

#### Ash Wednesday Events

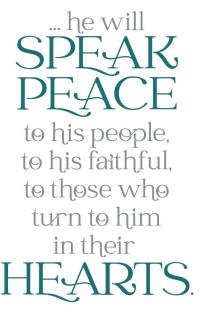
Ashes-to-Go: 11AM-1PM

UCPC Parking Lot—For this 5-minute church pitstop, you drive up, stay in your vehicle and Pr. Erika will ash you and pray over you.

Worship Service with Communion

**7PM February 14th, 2024** In the Student Lounge





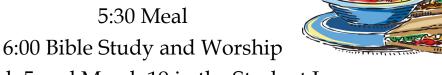


# Building and Grounds Upo

Due to the cold temps and the poorly insulated boiler building, on Saturday, 1-27, the boiler condensate pump on the floor at the back wall froze and condensate backed up in the boiler and caused it to shut down. The boiler condensate piping has been insulated and the condensate pump is kept warm with a battery blanket. The new gas boiler is operating perfectly. The old cast iron boiler is set to start if the system temperature falls below  $160^{\circ}$ F.



Join us from 5-7PM on Three Tuesdays during lent for Soup, Sandwiches and Scripture!



February 20, March 5 and March 19 in the Student Lounge

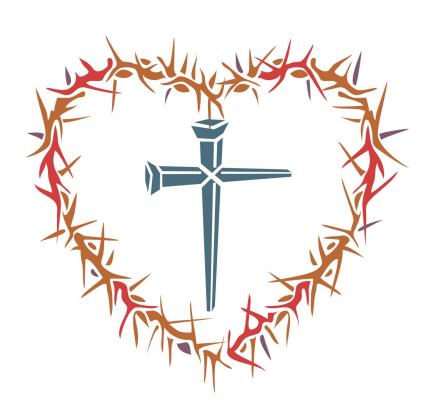
Souper Bowl Sunday



On February 11th, we will be collecting canned goods for the Food Bank, during the annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" event. According to Pastor Carson Montgomery (you may remember her as Carson Overstreet), the Souper Bowl of Caring began during the Super Bowl in 1990, when a Presbyterian pastor enjoying the game with his youth group offered these words as grace for the meal and snacks "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without even a bowl of soup to eat." That led to

churches across every denomination, businesses and even teams within the NFL collecting canned goods and money to go straight to food pantries in local neighborhoods to help tackle hunger and food insecurity. Since 1990, over \$150 million in addition to food has been collected! Pretty awesome!

Bring your donations of canned goods in on the 11th, and put them in either Taylor Swift's box (the Chiefs' box) or the box for the 49ers, as a vote for which team you want to win! (There will also be a box for those who have no team preference.)



# **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**

Carol Nielsen ('25)	388-8154
Sarah Lanstra ('25)	378-3929
Melissa Bierer ('24)	474-0106
Janet Johnson ('24)	687-7148
Will Haight ('25)	978-9679
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



