

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:

January 2023

Special Points of Interest

- Pastor’s Note
- Birthdays
- Monthly Calendar
- Announcements & Events
- Session Minutes and Reports



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★ Sue O'Bryan 3rd ★
★ Roger Smith 6th ★
★ Cyndee Polzin 15th ★
★ Janet Brower 16th ★
★ Sally Murphy 21st ★
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

No anniversaries to report

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

Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30-31

As we begin the New Year, I think we all are hoping for more peace and joy in our world and in our lives. This begins, as we know, with what Jesus called the greatest commandment: loving God and loving others. Jesus IS God’s love incarnate ~ in the flesh ~ and we are called to spread that love, faster and farther than the spread of the corona virus in 2020! God chooses to show forth God’s love and light that was made known to the world in Jesus Christ though those who love and follow Christ. This is our calling as the Church, as the gathered people of God. Let us do so with joy and exuberance in 2023!

The new year begins with Epiphany which means “manifestation” or “appearance.” For our Christian faith, epiphany refers to God appearing in flesh in Jesus and, over the years, has become connected with the visit from the Magi. The feast of Epiphany (January 6th) also marks the close of the Christmas season, the Twelve Days of Christmas. I pray all the many, many blessings of God for you throughout the season of Christmas and in the coming year. Know that you are loved deeply by our good and gracious God!

Blessings...Lois



2023 UCPC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Year's Day 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S) 2:00pm - 5:00pm D & D (HS) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Russian Church (S) 7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR) 	2 UCPC OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm - 6:00pm CelloCharly (MR) 1-2pm Women's Bible Study "Love Carved in Stone" (N) 5:00pm Sound Team Meeting 5:45 Finance (N) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 1092 (CE)	3 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	4 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)	5 5:30pm Deacons Meeting (N) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Russian Church (FH classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	6 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30-9:30pm Russian Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	7
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12 Days of Christmas Food Drive

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me ... a can of food to give to the Food Bank.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ... two cans of food to give to the Food Bank.

You get the idea. The Fairbanks Community Food Bank uses up a lot of their food during Thanksgiving and Christmas. This food drive is designed to help replenish their stocks. The twelfth day of Christmas is January 6 (the Epiphany). We will be making a special collection of items for the food bank during these 12 days (really until January 8, the Sunday after Epiphany). Any amount of nonperishable goods will be appreciated and can be placed in the Food Bank wagon in the narthex.



Winter Clothes Closet

The Mission Committee is looking to start the winter clothes closet this coming winter. We are looking for donations to supplement the items that we already have. We are looking for boots, coats, mittens, gloves, and hats, so we ask people to look through their closets for anything that you do not use. Our plan is to advertise and make these items available to those in need a couple of days a week.

In order to avoid putting this responsibility on Jimmie in the office, we are also looking for congregation members to be available to help during the times we make these items available. If you have things to donate or would like to help please contact Muffie Durst or Theresa Reed.

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.

Boiler Upgrade Fundraiser: Amount Raised: 27,591.24

(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!

Finance Committee January 2, 5:15 pm, in the Conference Room.

2022	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Pledge & Loose	\$16,254.	\$ 26,395.	\$18,031.	\$19,436.	\$19,694.	\$16,427.	19,931.	14,489.	15,540.	9,710.00	11,115.00	9795.00
Other	\$1,275.	\$1,775.	\$1,592.	\$1,415.	\$775.	\$1,035.	1,285.	1,082	1956.	2841.	7,936.13	14,475.41
INCOME	\$17,529.	\$ 28,170.	\$19,623.	\$20,851.	\$20,469.	\$17,462.	21,216.	\$15,571.	14,656.	15,330.	19,746.13	24,270.41
EXPENSES	\$21,478.	\$ 32,662.	\$16,780.	\$23,469.	\$23,977.	\$25,041.	15,320.	11,480.	Not out yet	Not out yet	Not out yet	Not out yet
Net	\$(3,949.)	\$(4,492.)	\$(2,842.)	\$(2,608.	\$(3,507.)	(\$ 7,579.)	5,896.		\$4,000.00			
									<i>Because we</i>			
									<i>are not</i>	<i>Not out yet</i>	<i>Not out yet</i>	<i>Not out yet</i>
									<i>paying a full</i>			
									<i>time Pas-</i>			
									<i>tor's Salary</i>			

UCPC Session News

Minutes
Stated Meeting of Session
University Community

December 15, 2022, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Moderator Commissioned Pastor Lois Hildenbrand opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 pm.

Scripture and Devotion: Patti Gallagher presented a devotion on Matthew 7:1-5.

Present: CP Lois Hildenbrand, Patti Gallagher, Roger Smith, Paula Long, Jerry McBeath, Muffie Durst, and Doreen McNeill.

Absent: Janet Johnson.

Guests: Deacon Lynne Krizek, deacons-elect Carol Nielsen and Sarah Lanstra, elders-elect Joe Krizek and Matthew Bierer.

The clerk declared a quorum, the amended docket was approved and minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Orders of the Day:

Notices were posted on outside doors for UCPC members to call to be allowed into the locked building to attend the session meeting.

Clerk's correspondence is in the attached written report.

Pastor Lois submitted her Pastor's report.

Pastor Lois read a letter from elder elect Ruth Knapman, who withdrew from serving as an elder. **Ruth's resignation was accepted with regret.**

Deacon Lynne Krizek read and discussed the deacons' report. Deacons were commended on their outstanding care and nurture of members.

New Business:

- New Officers. **Deacons elect Carol Nielsen and Sarah Lanstra, Elders elect Joe Krizek and Matthew Bierer** were examined and approved. Elder-elect Larry Johnson and deacon-elect Janet Johnson will be examined later.
- **Approved proceeding with a plan to complete the gas boiler installation in the new year (2023).**
- **Approved moving forward with our financial commitment for travel, salary and housing for our agreed interim pastor candidate (when we have one) according to the current regulations by Presbytery.**
- **Approved the following communion dates for 2023: The second Sunday of the month in January – September, the first Sunday of October (World Communion Sunday), the second Sunday of November and December, Maundy Thursday, Christmas, and Easter.**
- Review of rental fees was tabled until January.
- **Approved removal the following people from the membership roll: Colleen Cavanaugh, Arva Chiu, Jeanette Gaul, Trevor Morton, Lorraine Phillips, Russ Sharpton, Eric Solie, Jeannie and Dan Talbot, Richard Wagner, Mark and Kathy Bertram. Motion passed by unanimous consent.** These people are welcome to worship with us. Removal of people from membership rolls who do not participate in the life of this church will decrease the cost of our per-capita and fair-share payments. Pastor Lois sent a nicely worded letter to the above members who have not been present for several years or have made it known that they do not attend UCPC and also do not contribute financially. The letter included a return post card with a response deadline.
- **Appointed Muffie Durst as elder commissioner to the January 7 Presbytery meeting.**
- **Approved use of a "consent agenda" (also called a "consent calendar") beginning at the January meeting.**
- **Approved signing the contract that Presbytery's Ministry Commission approved between UCPC and Pastor Lois.**

Old Business

1. **Approved removal of signs and requirement that the right side of the sanctuary is reserved for people who are masked.**
2. Clerk was directed to remove recurring kitchen evaluation regarding COVID from the docket. It will be revisited if circumstances require it.

Amended committee reports were approved.

The Next Session Meeting: Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m., with Devotional by Roger Smith. Members are welcome to send written comments or attend in person.

The meeting closed in prayer by Pastor Lois at 8:38 p.m. Respectfully submitted in Christ's service, Doreen McNeill, Clerk of Session

PASTOR'S REPORT, DECEMBER 2022

Christmas is upon us with New Year close behind. It has been a very full month!

Since my last report I...

1. met with Christmas decorators.
2. obtained Advent Wreath lighting liturgy and families to do the readings.
3. offered drama for our Advent worship services.
 - A. Found actors and practiced with them for the Noah skit on Christ the King Sunday.
 - B. Performed three vignettes as Mary with more to come.
4. successfully navigated Advent worship without meeting with the Membership committee due to member unavailability.
5. huddled on Zoom, facilitated by Rev. Rich Mauer, with other lay pastors along the Richardson Highway corridor.
6. selected music for Prelude, Offertory, Communion, and Postlude for our new pianist.
7. met with Deacons.
 - A. Arranged communion plans.
 - B. Brought traveling communion to two members at Pioneer's Home with Deacon Judy.
 - C. Asked Deacons to consider whether they would be willing to add a committee to their responsibilities.
8. created and facilitated two sessions of Officer-Elect training.
 - A. Arranged for their examination at the Session meeting.
 - B. Arranged for their ordination and/or installation on January 8th.
9. met with Finance. Coordinated with Personnel to receive approval for additional training for our Admin.
10. met with women of the church in the Women's Book Study.
11. preached (acted) and led worship four times.
12. attempted to meet with Finance Committee. Meeting time was altered.

Continued.....

13. have given much thought, planning and prayer to our Christmas Eve and Christmas day worship services...they are still not done! I remain disappointed I have not had the opportunity to do the visiting I desire but recognize this was not the season to expect to be able to accomplish it. Again, hopefully soon!

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

Blessings...Lois

DEACONS' REPORT

Submitted by Lynne Krizek

The following tasks were discussed and completed during December:

- Gift cards were purchased as **Christmas gifts** for the pastor, the office administrative assistant, the church choir director and the organist. A basket of snack treats was purchased for the custodial crew. To start the new year with a healthy spending balance, deacons prepared a request for transfer of \$300.00 from the General Fund to Designated Giving.
- Deacons hand delivered or mailed **Christmas greetings** to all names on the Care List by Dec. 18. These cards included an insert announcing the time for Christmas Eve and Christmas worship services, the Christmas Joy Offering and the Adopt-A-Family tree.
- **Communion** continues to be served using two stations of the elements, requiring 3 servers plus the pastor. Current and former deacons and elders are called upon to assist with serving communion. There will be no communion on Christmas Eve this year. Communion was taken to 2 members at the Pioneer Home. Pastor Lois plans to resume traveling communion with deacons in January to those who have been unable to attend worship in person.
- The link to the **FoodTrain app** was given to deacons to sign up for meals for 1st Presbyterian Church member and UCPC friend, who is in hospice care. Pastor Lois also contacted persons who indicated on the talent tithe a willingness to provide meals when needed.
- A member has moved to Fairbanks from North Pole. He will need **transportation** to worship service. Deacons will discuss options at the next meeting.
- As is tradition, **poinsettias for bereaved church families** were delivered during December to 12 UCPC members. The **administrative secretary** was honored with a gift on her birthday.
- **Notes of thanks** were given to those who volunteered for various tasks around the church (snow plowing and shoveling, greeter, nursery, projection slides for worship, substitute choir director, fellowship following worship, finances).
- **The 2022 deacon board welcomes the class of 2023** – Janet Johnson, Sarah Lanstra and Carol Nielsen. They join returning members Melissa Bierer, Donita Lawhead and Norma Wivoda.

The next deacon meeting is January 5 at 5:00 p.m. Officers will be appointed and Care List assignments given.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk's Correspondence: ~ Ministry Commission approved signing of the contract with CP Lois Hildenbrand as our temporary pastor, and approved Lois being session moderator. We will send a thank you note to Rev. Rich Mauer for being session moderator for many months. Respectfully submitted in Christ's Service, ~Doreen McNeill, Clerk of Session

Building Stewards Committee: ~ Joe Krizek has been working on completion of the 100% drawings for the gas boiler and submitting them for approval by the DEC and Fire Department. Contractor bids are expected in January. Much work was done by Stewards and others to clear snow from the parking lot, the sidewalks and the deck.

Finance, Treasury & Stewardship: 12th December, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. Sarah Lanstra, Roger Smith, and Curtis McNeill were present. We began the meeting in prayer led by Roger.

- We reviewed the statement of accounts for the Designated Fund. It was noted that \$29,636.24 is shown as the balance in the Boiler System fund. Adding the grant for \$7,500 and the promised \$35,000, we have a grand total of \$72,136.24. The last given total cost for the installation is \$80,000. Given that there is a reliable and generous guarantor (to remain anonymous) to fund the difference, **the Finance Committee recommends to Session that UCPC proceed on a plan to complete the installation in the new year (2023).**
- The Committee reports, with satisfaction, that we have completed all mortgage payments for the current year.
- Only 67% of Fair Share contributions have been paid. In view of Presbytery's needs and our obligation, we plan to complete the remaining 33% before the end of the year.
- To simplify our operating account, finance committee will merge building repair and maintenance with equipment repair and maintenance lines in the new year.
- **The committee recommends to session that UCPC move forward with our financial commitment for travel, salary and housing for our agreed interim pastor candidate (when we have one) according to the current regulations by Presbytery.**
- Sarah Lanstra will be added to the list of signers on UCPC checks.

The meeting ended with prayer led by Sarah.

Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc Committee Report ~ Muffie Durst, Roger Smith, Paula Long, and Doreen McNeill have interviewed three pastors that seem interested in coming to Fairbanks. We are down to two candidates, as one of the three removed himself from consideration. Please pray for discernment for the right pastor to be called for this interim position. ~ submitted by Muffie Durst

Mission and Outreach: ~ The December 2022 Mission and Outreach Committee meeting opened and closed in prayer. Present: Theresa Reed, Janet Brower, Muffie Durst, Pastor Lois Hildenbrand, Donita Lawhead.

Adopt-A-Family details were finalized for delivery. The cold weather clothes closet big block of time give-away did not work. We will try hanging a few things at a time (mostly coats) on the fence by the little free pantry. We will have a few items in the office area for Jimmie to grab if someone knocks on the door. We are considering sources for giving away the excess clothing after a while. We will reevaluate next month how things are going. Twelve Days of Christmas canned food drive will be from Christmas until Epiphany or January 8, the Sunday closest to then.

Focus on Mission schedule was set up for the next month.

Loving Families will be returning this spring, so we need to start preparing. We have excluded the following dates for hosting: February 19 – 26 or April 2 – 9. If there are other dates session believes we need to exclude, we need to know.

Worship Committee: We very much appreciate Sarah Dietsche's generous help as she stepped in to direct the choir while Patti Gallagher had surgery and was in recovery.

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 ~ David Rohwer 378-2554

Committee leaders

Worship: Patti Gallagher
Finance and Stewardship: Jerry McBeath
Mission and Outreach:
Faith Development: Paula Long

Deacons

Judy Fowler-Morris 479-6547
Donita Lawhead 455-6849
Lynne Krizek 479-1279
Melissa Bierer 687-5037

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
Muffie Durst 479-8191 ~ Class of 2022
Patti Gallagher 378-5920 ~ Class of 2022
Janet Johnson 687-7148
Paula Long 687-7444 ~ Class of 2023
Jerry McBeath 479-2870 ~ Class of 2023
Roger Smith 322-2595

