



UCPC Community Care Line

“We invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in Discipleship through Word, Prayer, and Service.”

JANUARY 2024

A Note from the Pastor

JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Sue O'Bryan 1/3

Roger Smith 1/6

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

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Merry Christmas everyone! January 6th is Epiphany Day and is the official end to the church year season of Christmas and the beginning of the Season After Epiphany. The Season After Epiphany is the season of light, when the Wise Ones (or Magi) finally find Jesus as a toddler, likely no longer in Bethlehem but rather, back home in Nazareth.

Epiphany means “divine manifestation” or “sudden insight or revelation.” The “Epiphany” of the Church is the revelation or manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (who are represented by the Magi). In other words, Epiphany Day is when we celebrate Christ being revealed to not just the Jews, but also to the Gentiles (which the majority of Christians are). So, during the Season After Epiphany, we celebrate and learn all the ways that Christ and his true nature are revealed to the whole world. It's a season of us growing in our knowledge of Christ and in so doing, it's also a season of us growing as disciples.

I suspect that the Magi often thought about turning back or came close to giving up hope of ever finding the place over which the star stopped. It was a long and arduous journey – potentially three years of searching – to meet Christ! BUT even more amazingly, they didn't even *fully know* what the star meant! All they knew was that something significant had happened and that it was likely the birth of a new king. I am in awe of their trust in their gut instincts and their knowledge of astrology, to travel for three years, searching for *something* – especially a *something* which they didn't fully understand!

This reminds me of scientists today: searching for knowledge to prove or disprove hypotheses. Scientists know they have to trust their knowledge and gut instincts, but they know that there are lots of unknown unknowns and known unknowns that are yet to be revealed. But it also reminds me of Christians. Do any of us really comprehend Christ? Do any of us really understand what it means that Jesus is both human and divine, three persons in one God, the Prince of Peace, all powerful, all knowing, and always present? If you do, please come teach me, because I certainly don't! Some days I get it more than others, but most days I just don't, so I hope that one day when I'm in heaven, I'll either understand it all *or* it just won't matter to me anymore.

As we come up on January 6th, the day of “The Epiphany” – when Christ first became known to the Gentiles, and therefore the whole world – may you know that even the first Gentiles to have God enfleshed revealed to them didn't even fully know what they were searching for or what they would find when they arrived. So, if you too, are searching for God without really knowing what you seek, you are not alone. The Magi journeyed ahead of you, and we journey alongside you. During this Season After Epiphany, let's see if we can learn together a little bit more about who the Christ Child is and what it means that God became Emmanuel – God, with us.

Grace and Peace!

Rev. Erika Bergh



January 2024



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>31</p> <p>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 - 11:59PM Grace Church</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12 - 8AM Grace Church 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:30PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>7</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30 - 3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5 - 6PM Sound Team Meeting (S)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>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 Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 - 11AM Mission & Outreach 2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR/S) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 4:30 - 5:30PM Worship Committee (CR) 5:30 - 6:30PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:15PM Finance (CR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR/S) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:30PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>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 - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30 - 3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR/S) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR/S) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM 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 - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>



University Community Presbyterian Church and the Fairbanks music community lost one of its members on December 7, 2023, when Patti Gallagher died at her home in Fairbanks.

Service information will be announced at a later date.



The following is a summary of the December 2023 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
Stated Meeting of Session
University Community Presbyterian Church
December 21, 2023, Student Lounge**

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

Absent: Paula Long.

Guests: Marijo Larson, Randy McDowall, Will Haight, Jim Durst.

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

Scripture and Devotion Pat Babcock gave a devotion on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

A quorum was declared

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

Docket

Minutes of the November 16, 2023 stated meeting of the Session, as corrected

Reception of the following written reports:

Pastor

Deacons

Building Stewards

Faith Development

Finance, Treasurer, & Stewardship

Interim Search Ad Hoc Committee

Mission and Outreach

Personnel

Nominating

Worship

Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report was presented by deacon Will Haight. Deacons were thanked for their wonderful service. Comments from the Congregation. No in-person comments were received. Session members passed on the following information: Conner Bierer has volunteered to play the harp during the three Sundays before Easter. Rev. Bergh has given us contact information for a potential pianist during the period Kathy Dohner will be absent. Examinations: Deacon-elect Marijo Larson, prospective member Randy McDowall (via Affirmation of Faith).

Deacon-elect Marijo Larson was examined. Marijo left the room. **It was moved and seconded to approve Marijo Larson to be ordained as a deacon on January 7, 2024. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.** Marijo returned to the room amid applause.

Prospective member, Randy McDowell was examined. Randy left the room. **It was moved and seconded to approve Randy McDowell (who is baptized) to be received into membership by affirmation of faith on January 7, 2024. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.** Randy returned to the room amid applause.

Discussion: *The Invitational Christian*. The session discussed chapter 1 of this book.

Clerk's Report. Doreen gave the clerk's report. Action to receive Jerry McBeath's resignation is not needed, as he is completing his term. Jerry was thanked for his service, and for fulfilling his 3-year term and regret was expressed that he is not available to serve a second term.

Old Business

Transitional consulting update and recommendation. The Ad Hoc Interim Search Committee recommended that the session hire transitional church consultant, Rev. Heather James to work with UCPC's session and congregation to support our current pastoral leadership and the Session as the Session guides the congregation through the Ministry Discernment process. Cost is projected to be \$5,000 to \$10,000. **It was moved and seconded that the session hire transitional church consultant, Rev. Heather James to work with UCPC's session and congregation to support our current pastoral leadership and the session as the session guides the congregation through the Ministry Discernment process, costing up to \$10,000.** After discussion, **it was moved and seconded to table this motion until the session has met with Rev. James. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

New Business:

Approve 2024 Communion Dates: The normal dates would be the second Sunday of the month in January through September, the first Sunday of October (World Communion Sunday), the second Sunday of November and December, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, and Easter. It was moved and seconded to approve Communion in 2024 on the second Sunday of the month in January through September, the first Sunday of October (World Communion Sunday), the second Sunday of November and December, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, and Easter. It was moved and seconded to amend the motion to approve Communion only once on Christmas Eve. After discussion, motion failed by a vote of 3 yes, 4 no. It was moved and seconded to amend the motion by adding Ash Wednesday to the dates that Communion is approved. Amendment was approved by a vote of 5 yes, 1 no. **Final motion: to approve Communion in 2024 on the second Sunday of the month in January through September, the first Sunday of October (World Communion Sunday), the second Sunday of November and December, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, and Easter. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 yes, 1 no.**

Motion from Finance Committee: UCPC pledges to the Presbytery budget in 2024 should be \$18,711 (which is \$271.66 per actual members listed in the 2023 annual report). Motion was approved by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no.

Motion from Finance Committee: Recommend that congregants consider pledging to tithe (10%) of Alaska PFDs to the 50/50 club to support the mission of the Presbytery. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 yes, 0 no.

Shall UCPC host the October Presbytery-wide meeting, which typically starts on the first Friday after World Communion Sunday? The meeting would be October 10 and 11, with other meetings possibly on Thursday, October 9, 2024. Discussion was tabled and will continue at the next session meeting.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting: January 18, 6:30 pm

January Devotional and Elder of the Month: Joe Krizek

Closing prayer: Rev. Bergh led the closing prayer at 8:33 pm

Youth With A Mission

Project Northeastern Cambodia

Anne Thomas, a Christian worker in SE Asia, who has helped set up an education program of literacy classes in Northern Cambodia has shared this information.

There are now over 1000 students in 2 provinces. After getting a start in evening literacy class, the students then often decide to go to primary school, and we now have the first generation of students of the Kavet ethnic minority reaching high school. Here is an opportunity to partner with Youth with a Mission to help provide housing for about 66 Kavet high school students grades 10 thru 12, half of

whom are girls, who want to attend high school. You can help by praying and/or providing funds.

Youth who have been educated in their villages in Siempang District, Northeastern Cambodia, have started attending high school in Steung Treng. In order to avoid the hours-long commute, housing was set up in Dec. 2023, for the start of the school year Dec. 4th. Many of these students live in distant villages, all of them live east of the Sekong River, and must commute to the one high school in the district town, west of the Sekong River. The very rough dirt road to the town takes about an hour each way by motorbike. Families can't afford the motorbike fuel. The canoe ferry is so overloaded that it can't cope. The students have to wait for a later crossing, if they can't beat the other students to the front of the long line. These will be the first Kavet girls to graduate from high school in this province, but there are costs involved. Most of these students got their start in education in their villages as literacy students in the programs Anne helped start.

Two classrooms at the high school in Stung Treng (with the approval of the government) have been converted into dorm rooms, and a third is planned. Each has 3 bunk high metal beds and each room will house up to 30 students. A house has been rented next to the YWAM office to house the girls who will be the first ever graduates from a Kavet ethnic village!

The conversion of the three classrooms to dorms, repair of 4 existing toilets, making a cooking area, and making the classrooms livable is estimated to cost \$15,000. Some of this has already been donated. An ongoing need is paying for the house rental which is \$50 per month plus expenses for electricity and water estimated at \$10 per month, for a total of \$720 per year.

Anne posted on Facebook concerning the impact available housing has on students lives:

“No more dawn departures from their village to race for the ferry. No more burning through the family's meager finances for motorbike fuel. No more being reduced to tears from the stress of the commute, and the scolding of parents who say, 'the commute is too expensive, we can't afford it, you are impoverishing the family, just drop out....”



Eager to learn

100% of funds donated is used for this project. Donations can be made directly to UCPC with a notation that it is for YWAM Cambodia and it will be forwarded to the project through a church in Oregon. Any questions can be directed to Kathy Dohner kathygraydohner@gmail.com.



The students are responsible for providing and cooking there own



New Bunk Beds

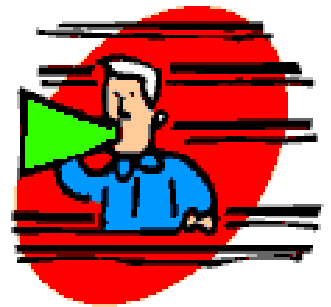
Breakfast Burritos

Mission Committee and volunteers came together in December to make breakfast burritos for our Little Free Pantry and the Door youth homeless shelter.



Shout Out

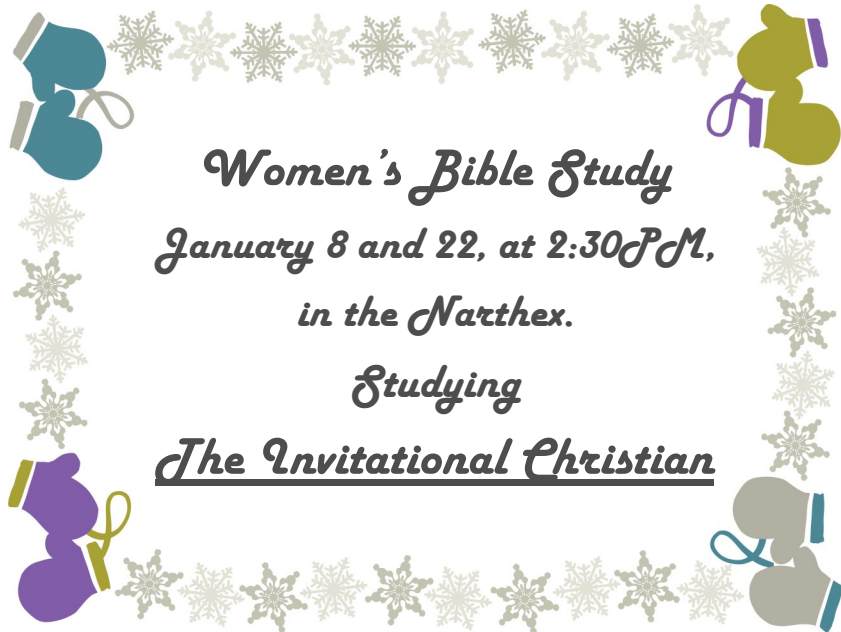
**The Swansons and the Krizeks,
who've been dedicated snow
shovelers this winter!**



(Thank you from the bottom of my tractionless boots!)

**January Elder of the month is:
Joe Krizek**

**January Deacon of the month is:
Sarah Lanstra**



Women's Bible Study
January 8 and 22, at 2:30PM,
in the Narthex.
Studying
The Invitational Christian



"Clearly, the new organist was not going to work out."



YOUTH GROUP!
 2nd Sundays / 3 - 5pm
 Grades 8 through 12
Service. Learning. and Fun!

- OCTOBER 8
EARTH & FAITH
@ UCPC
- NOVEMBER 12
FOOD & FAITH
@ CLC
- DECEMBER 10
HOUSING & FAITH
@ LOL
- JANUARY 14
VISIONING & FAITH
@ FLC

Building and Grounds Update

Brian installed the temperature sensor in the boiler building and controller to turn on the sewer heat tape at 5°F. The zone valve in the hand bell storage room was replaced. The new boiler was running above 180°F so the operating parameters were reset.

Finance Committee

Will meet at 5:15PM on Monday

January 15

In the Conference Room

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
Jerry McBeath ('23) 479-2870
Paula Long ('23) 687-7444
Roger Smith ('23) 322-2595
Joe Krizek ('24) 460-4294
Pat Babcock ('25) 978-7187
Matthew Bierer ('25) 474-0106

Committee assignments for Elders, and Deacon officers will be determined at their respective January meetings.

Board of Deacons

Carol Nielsen ('25) 388-8154
Sarah Lanstra ('25) 378-3929
Melissa Bierer ('24) 687-5037
Janet Johnson ('24) 687-7148
Will Haight ('25) 978-9679
Judy Fowler-Morris ('26)
MariJo Larson ('26)

Worship Service Leaders

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



For thy lovingkindness
is before mine eyes:
and I have walked
in thy truth.

Psalm 26:3, KJV

