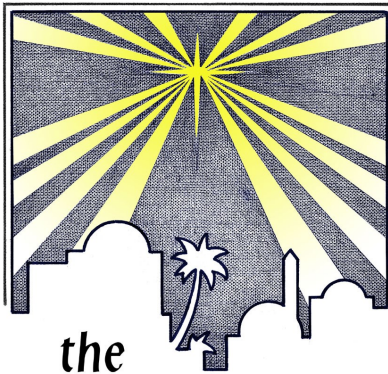


JANUARY 2025



Sue O'Brian 1/3
Ottlie Bergh 1/6
Roger Smith 1/6

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.



the
Light shines in
the Darkness

Contents

1. Pastor's Note, Birthdays
2. Pastor's schedule; Let's be FB friends!; Women's Bible Study
3. Calendar
4. UCPC Fairbanks Endowment info; Bingle Camp news, Baby shower info
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6. Session Minutes
7. Session Minutes, cont.; Triennium news
8. Volunteer opportunities and a Thank you
9. More Thank yous
10. Contacts

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

Happy New Year!

Every New Year's Eve, my family begins a puzzle that we finish after the new year so we can joke that "this puzzle took us since last year to finish!" But this year we did something different, we drove up to Weller Elementary and watched fireworks and the Aurora at the same time. It was beautiful and awesome and it reminded me that light can come from unexpected places, at unexpected times, and in unexpected ways.

We never knew which direction the next firework would come from, so we were constantly twisting this way and that while looking at the horizon. And similarly, we also didn't know which part of the Aurora would flare at any given time. So again, our heads were on a swivel gazing up above us. We had to be alert and keep looking all around us for the next potential sighting of beautiful and surprising light.

In January, we transition from the season of Christmas (through January 5th) to the Day of Epiphany (January 6th) and then the Season after Epiphany (January 7th through Ash Wednesday). This transition takes us from the easily identifiable source of the light of God: Jesus lying in the manger, to a more ambiguous source of God's light: a star on the move and Jesus growing up, becoming mobile. As we know, once babies start to roll over, you can never be quite sure that where you put them is where they'll remain. Epiphany marks the growth of Christ such that he can now move independently in the world. As awesome as this is, it also means that we can no longer look just at the manger scene and know Christ is there, like we can during Christmas. Now, Jesus might be in the synagogue or in someone's home, he might be in Nazareth or in Jericho, he might be on the beach or on the side of mountain, or he might be praying alone in a garden or eating a meal with friends. The Season after Epiphany invites us – through the readings each Sunday – to seek out Jesus wherever he might be. And we do this by following the example of the Wise Ones – the Magi from the East.

On Epiphany Day, we celebrate the Magi following the star that appeared in the sky before Jesus' birth – especially since it took years for them to reach the place where the star stopped. We gain from the Magi an example of determination, despite distance and length of time, to seek out the true source of the light that appeared unexpectedly in the sky and in their lives. So too, might we in the Season after Epiphany, see some unexpected lights appear in our life from surprising directions or places. We may need to spend more time seeking Christ diligently since his presence in the world and in our lives may be less obvious than when he was lying in a manger.

My prayer for you this month, is that as the days grow a little longer each day, as the stars in the sky continue to shine, as candles are lit indoors, and as the Aurora dances overhead; that each and every encounter of light can remind you that even though Jesus is now on the move, he is still present and with you in every up and down of life.

May you see and know that the light of Christ is with you in this new year and new season.

Much love to you all,

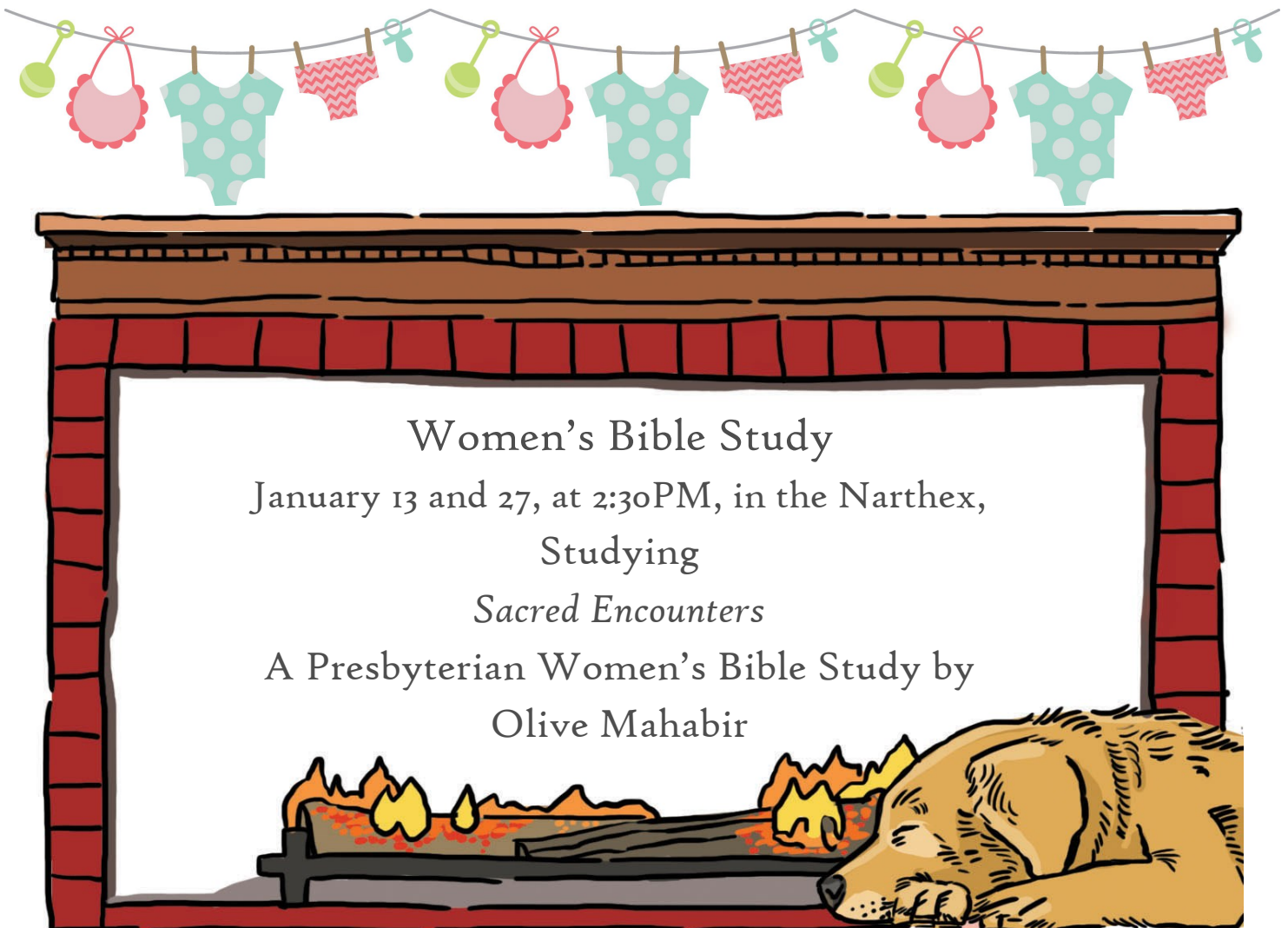
Pastor Erika Bergh

Pastor's Vacation and Family Leave (Plan A):

The Session and Personnel Committee have approved Pastor Erika to take 2 weeks of vacation before her baby is born (beginning during the week of January 27th) and 12 weeks of Family leave (as approved in her contract) beginning after the baby is born (due date is February 9th). If everything unfolds as planned, her first day back in the office would be Monday, May 5th and her first Sunday back in the pulpit would be May 11th.

On a more personal note, if you want to see baby pictures while I am away, please feel free to send me a friend request on Facebook at any time! I would love to be your "friend" on Facebook, but don't want to assume that you would like that as well. So just send a request, I'll happily accept, and then you can keep up with all the baby updates!

~Pastor Erika





January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 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)	30 9:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH and K) 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR)	31 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L) 11:00pm - 11:59pm Grace Church (FH and K)	1 12:00am - 5:06am Grace Church (FH and K) New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH and K) 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 5:30pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	3 9:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH and K) 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	4 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
5 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S) Installation of Elders and Deacons</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	6 Epiphany 9:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH and K) 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR)	7 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 9:00am - 2:00pm PHH (FH and K) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	8 10:00am - 11:00am Mission & Outreach 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 4:00pm - 5:00pm 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)	9 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	10 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	11 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
12 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service With Communion (S)</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	13 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 2:30-3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)	14 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	15 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)	16 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm Session (SL) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	17 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	18 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
19 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)	20 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:15pm Finance (CR)	21 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	22 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)	23 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	24 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	25 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom) 4:00pm - 9:00pm Grace Church (FH)
26 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)	27 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 2:30-3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)	28 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	29 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)	30 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	31 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	1 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)

A New Permanent Fund—for UCPC!

To donate to the recently established UCPC Fairbanks Endowment (a fuller announcement is in last month's newsletter), please go to www.presbyterianfoundation.org, under the Endowments section. If you'd like to donate to the Fund by check, please include the Fund ID # (102241000103) on the memo line and mail it to

Presbyterian Foundation
200 E 12th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Thank you!



Bingle Camp is hiring!

Bingle Camp is looking for a camp director. This is a part-year position (8-9 months) with presence at Bingle Camp necessary for late May through July. The job involves working with the board to get counselors and other staff, training staff, maintaining camp with the help of the board, and hosting rental groups after our regular camps are finished. If you are interested and would like more info, please contact Muffie at

contact Muffie at

907-479-0562 or office@binglecamp.org



**Saturday, January 25, 2025
11:00 a.m.**

**University Community
Presbyterian Church (UCPC)
3510 College Road, Fairbanks**

A gift registry has been set up at:

<http://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/baby-p-bergh>

This link will also allow you to donate to the **Family Leave Care Fund**.

This fund will help to cover costs while Pastor Erika is home on family leave.

*Light refreshments will be served
compliments of UCPC Deacons.*

A ZOOM link can be created for those out-of-town. Contact Lynne Krizek at lynnekrizek@gmail.com if interested in receiving a ZOOM link to the shower.

Winter Events

1/5/25—Install/Ordain new Elders and Deacons

1/11—Undecorate Christmas (?)

1/12—Worship Service with Communion

February-May—Pastor Erika on maternity leave

SHOUT OUT

To Pastor Ollie Bergh, for so quickly stepping in to make sure our Christmas Eve service went smoothly.



Presbytery News

General Assembly proposed 12 amendments to our Book of Order and governance structure. Each Presbytery has until July 1, 20054 to vote for or against ratification. To prepare for the vote at the winter meeting (2/20-22/25, via Zoom), our Presbytery will host two Zoom meetings in January and February to review the voting process and to discuss these amendments. These meetings are geared to Elder Commissioners and pastors, but anyone is welcome to attend. The dates for the 2 meetings are Thursday, January 23 and Tuesday, February 11. Both meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30PM.

More information about the 2 regular Presbytery meetings (2/20-22/25, via Zoom, and 10/9-11/25, in person, In Anchorage) will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Shh! It's a Secret!

Pastor Murray Richmond is retiring! That's not the secret, though—his current church, 1st Presbyterian of Medford, OR, is planning on presenting him with a scrapbook of memories, and would welcome good memories from UCPC as well. From their note about this:

"Please consider writing him a note or letter, as long or short as you would like to make it, and attach a picture of yourself and any special memories. Handwritten or emailed notes, hardcopy or electronically sent photos are all welcome. If possible, please include pictures of yourselves and/or events you recall. If you do not have printed photos available, please send electronic copies to Gina Cutri: ginacselman@gmail.com. She will get them printed and added to the book. Be sure to identify who is in the photos. Emailed letters can be sent to Elizbeth: reception@firstpresmedford.org"

They are planning to present the scrapbook on January 12th, so time is of the essence.

The following are the draft minutes of the December 21, 2024, Session meeting. The various committee reports can be obtained by calling the church office at (907) 479-6728 or contacting admin@ucpcfairbanks.org.

December 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

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

Guest: Deacon Marijo Larson, Elder-elect Marji Illingworth

Prayer: Moderator Rev. Erika Bergh opened in prayer at 6:32 pm.

Scripture and Devotion — Jim gave a devotion on **1 Kings 17:8-16**; trusting God even when it's scary.

Declaration of quorum & Adoption of Consent Agenda, consisting of:

- Approve the Minutes of the November, 2024 meeting of the Session
- Docket
- Receipt of Written Reports (if received):

Pastor	Clerk of Session
Building Stewards	Finance & Stewardship
Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership	Mission and Outreach
Mission & Vision ad hoc committee	Personnel
Nominating	Worship

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

- Deacons' report: Marijo Larson presented a verbal report of the Deacons' activities. Deacons were thanked for their faithful and loving service.
- Comments from the Congregation. Doreen received no comments from the congregation and no one joined the meeting to comment.
- Clerk's Report. Doreen highlighted items in the clerk's report. The clerk also received a letter from Yukon Presbytery highlighting the suggested mission support (a.k.a. per capita). The letter was reviewed and passed on to **Roger** for the Finance Committee to determine the amount that UCPC can give.

New Business:

Discussion of committee reports, if needed.

Finance. Roger reported that, in addition to the written report, his request for information needed from our current insurer, Church Mutual to search for insurance elsewhere to begin on January 1, 2025 elicited a quote from them. Church Mutual is dropping insurance on all buildings (the structures) in Alaska because of the high cost. Umialik Insurance (An Alaskan company) will now insure the UCPC building, while Church Mutual will insure other aspects of our insurance needs. The final quote is a 5% increase from 2024 insurance rates. **Session agreed that this is a reasonable amount, Umialik is a known and reputable company, and that at this late date, we need to say yes in order to have insurance coverage on January 1, 2025.**

Hospitality. Being an usher as part of Elder of the Month duties is not working well, because of other duties before church, and this important activity was being taken care of informally by Muffie Durst after Jerry McBeath's passing. We discovered that Kathy Taylor Yokel has taken on the task of finding ushers. **Pat Babcock**, committee chair, will coordinate with Kathy, as this is part of the Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership committee duties.

Faith Development. Paula Long reported that Faith Development has no changes to activities. Marji Illingworth reported that Ron Illingworth is working with Milt Wiltse to find a good time to do an adult Sunday School about the major figures in the Protestant Reformation and the history of the Presbyterian Church.

The Personnel Committee moves that this flexible plan be approved: **Pastor Erika may take 2 weeks of vacation before her baby is born (beginning approx. January 29) and 12 weeks of Family leave (as approved in her contract) beginning after the baby is born.** Motion was **APPROVED** by a show of hands 7:0. If everything unfolds as planned, her first day back in the office would be Monday, May 5 and her first Sunday back in the pulpit would be May 11.

It was moved and seconded to approve the following for communion: **In 2025, communion should be celebrated monthly, typically on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and may be celebrated as often as every Sunday, as well**

as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday, with home communion as needed. Dates will be chosen in coordination with the Board of Deacons, the Pastor, and Worship Committee. Motion was **APPROVED** by a show of hands 7:0.

The Worship Committee moves that no collection be taken at the Christmas Eve service, viewing it as a gift freely given to the community. An appropriately marked receptacle will be stationed in the narthex to receive any loose and check offerings to go toward the Christmas Joy Offering. Motion was **APPROVED** by a show of hands 7:0.

The Finance committee moves that Lynne Krizek be added to our signature list for checks. Motion was **APPROVED** by a show of hands 7:0. David Swanson will be removed once he moves out of state.

Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church needs an elder to round out their session (administrative commission), which will meet approximately every-other month. No one on session wanted to add this task to their plate. **Session members were asked to canvas other elders who are not currently on session to see if they are interested in helping this sister church.** If anyone is interested, they should contact Doreen.

It was moved and seconded to **elect Jim Durst as elder commissioner to all Presbytery meetings in 2025, with Roger Smith as the alternate.** Motion was **APPROVED** by a show of hands 7:0.

The Winter Presbytery meeting will be **February 20-22** by zoom, as follows:

Thursday, February 20, Native Ministries Meeting, Times TBD, Friday, February 21, Business Session, 7pm-9pm, Saturday, February 22, Business Session, 1pm-3pm

The Fall Presbytery meeting will be in person in Anchorage, either **Oct. 9-11, 2025 or Oct. 23-25, 2025**

Old Business

Epiphany party with New Hope & Korean Presbyterian churches. Doreen and Pastor Erika reported that these churches liked the idea, but this was a busy week for them. **This item was moved to the January 22 Quarterly Planning meeting.**

Elder & Deacon Installation will occur on January 5, with Deacon Janet Johnson joining by Zoom. Doreen will coordinate the audio-visual component.

Training date for New Elders and Deacons. **This item was moved to the January 22 Quarterly Planning meeting.**

Procedures to notify members when there's a death in our church family ☑**Roger** agreed to create a 3x5" card to ascertain members' preference in how they wish to be contacted.

General Assembly (GA) proposed amendment distribution & Presbytery training dates. **Doreen** will correct typos. It was agreed to give this info sheet out to the congregation in January with notice of the January training meetings regarding these proposed amendments. This Zoom meetings will be January 23 at 6:30 pm and repeated on February 11 at 6:30 pm.

Session noted the new **piano cover in memory of Dick Morris.**

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

January 2 Deacon's Meeting: Session representative is **Roger**

January 22 @ 3:30 pm – Quarterly planning meeting

January 23 at 6:30 pm: in-person regular Session meeting

January Devotional and Elder of the Month: **Matthew Bierer** will do the devotional, and **Roger Smith** will do the other elder-of-the-month tasks.

The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:58 pm and Pastor Erika led the closing prayer.



2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Next July, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth to Louisville, KY, for four days of worship, recreation, Bible study, outreach, faith formation, and more! July 25-31, 2025



If you are able and willing to shovel snow, 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!

Thank you to all who donated a gift to the Adopt-A-Family program!

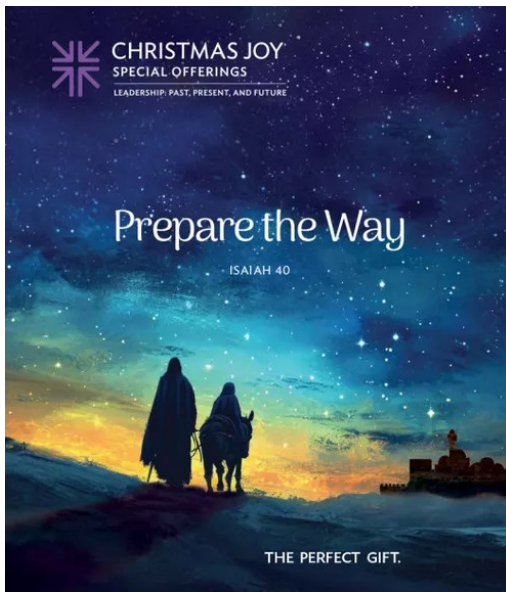
Thanks to your generosity, a local family had a their load lightened this Christmas.



KEEP SEEKING HIM

Our Presbytery is Seeking Volunteer Grant Writers

If you have grant writing experience and some time to give to a really worthy cause, consider contacting Executive Presbyter, Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, at ep@yukonpres.org. (For more info, see last month's newsletter!)



Thanks to all who donated to the
Christmas Joy offering!!
Your generosity brought in a total of \$1714,



Thanks to the Breakfast Burrito Makers!

In early November, Mission Committee held a successful work party to put together breakfast burritos for the Door and for our Little Free Pantry.



Left: Trish, Susan and Becky, busy at the stoves



Right: Kathy, Cyndee, Donita and Dave work the assembly line.

Muffie is behind the camera.

University Community Presbyterian Church



3510 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Website: www.ucpcfairbanks.org

Phone: (907) 479-6728

Office Hours

9:00AM to 2:00PM, Monday - Thursday

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 ('27)	388-0544	Clerk of Session
Pat Babcock ('25)	978-7187	
Matthew Bierer ('25)	474-0106	
Jim Durst ('26)	590-9024	
Paula Long ('26)	687-7444	
Roger Smith ('26)	322-2595	
Marji Illingworth ('27)	378-2138	

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

