

JULY 2024



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 July to you all!

I want to start with a quote from *Reclaiming Rest* by Kate Rademacher:

“As author and Episcopal priest Lauren Winner notes, we are surrounded by messages ‘extolling the virtues of treating yourself to a day of rest, a relaxing and leisurely visit to the spa, an extra long bubble bath, and a glass of Chardonnay.’ In this context, Winner asks, ‘Whom is the contemporary Sabbath designed to honor? ...Why, the bubble-bath taker herself of course!’ In contrast, traditional Jewish and Christian teachings on Sabbath offer an entirely different worldview. The bubble-bath taker is not at the center of the story. God is. And the gift and discipline of rest help remind us that we are not God.”

We. Are. Not. God.

Now, have I been worried that any of you have a God-complex and actually think you’re God? Definitely not. But sometimes it can be hard to remember that *because we’re not God, we can’t* do it all.

Lately, Otilie has been so eager to do a list of a multitude of things every day after daycare. She wants to go to the library, go “swimming” in the kiddie pool, take our dog to the “puppy park,” go to the store and get a donut, and do an art project. We usually have about two hours between when Ollie picks her up and when we have dinner and bedtime. Do I think it’s possible to do all of those things in a two hour timespan? Not comfortably. So instead, as she’s listing them off, we have started encouraging her by saying “today while you’re at school, how about you think about what you want to do and just pick one thing to do today.”

While some of these items are not exactly “restful” (especially for mom and dad), they *are* life-giving for her. But trying to do too much in a day would defeat the purpose, and turn these life-giving activities into life-draining ones.

I know that adult lives are more complicated than toddler lives; just picking *one* thing on the list of things to do is not always practical. However, I wonder if it is still possible to “treat yo’ self” like the *child* of God that you are when you make plans on any given day. Ask yourself “What can I do today, and what can I leave for God to do?”

Perhaps you’re already doing this, seasoned adults as you are. If so, great! Keep up the good work! But if you haven’t ever tried this before, I encourage you to see what it’s like. Narrow your list down to a tiny number and trust that God will

Isa Smith	7/7
Flora Wiltse	7/7
Phyllis Garrett	7/8
Milt Wiltse	7/11
Betty Baer	7/28

Jim and Muffie	7/19
Matthew & Melissa	7/28

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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help with the rest. It's not easy to let things go or set them aside. Especially things that are important. How do you choose between grocery shopping because you have to eat something or fixing a broken window so the smoke doesn't get inside the house? I wish there was an easy way to definitively tell you how to triage these decisions. But there's not, only trial and error. When we set things aside for another time, we are de-centering ourselves and re-centering God—an important spiritual practice! The practice (and I do mean "practice" because it is not easy to do) reminds us we are "not at the center of the story. God is."

I pray that in this busy month you find ways to "treat yo' self" through the Christian worldview of de-centering yourself and re-centering God. Let go of some things. You aren't God, and God wants to do things for you. And if your shortened list of "keeps" still includes a bubble bath, I leave you with this midrash about Rabbi Hillel (Vayikra Rabbah 34:3):

One day, Rabbi Hillel told his students, "I'm going to do a commandment: I'm going to take a bath." The students said, "Is that really a commandment?" Hillel told them, "Yes. If those who wash the statues of kings set up in the theaters and circuses are given status, how much more will I, who was created in the Divine Image and Form, will be rewarded!"

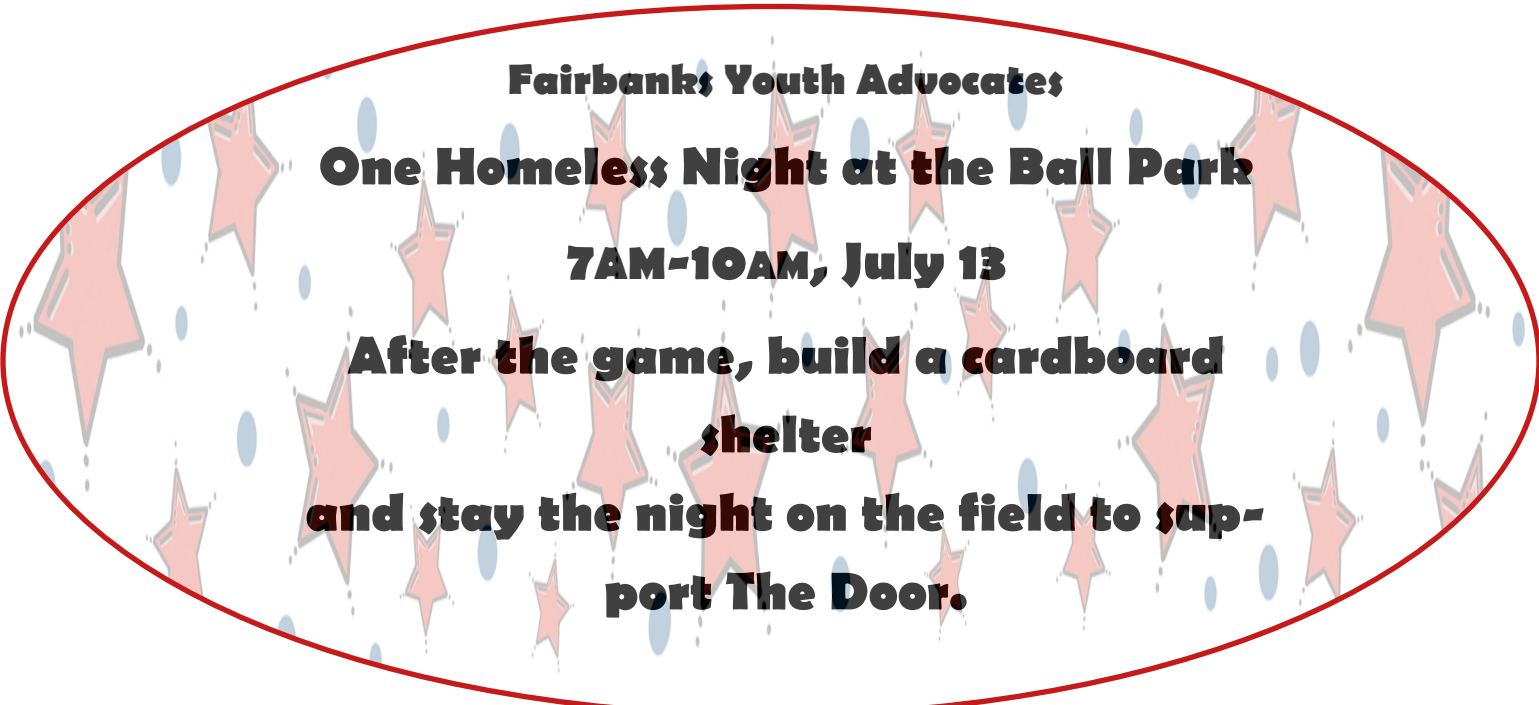
Grace and peace,

Pastor Erika

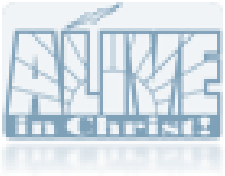


The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Pastor Bergh has accepted our contract offer to continue as our supply pastor for the coming year. The Session has approved the contract, which will be sent to the Presbytery for their approval.

-Respectfully Submitted, Matthew Bierer



Fairbanks Youth Advocates
One Homeless Night at the Ball Park
7AM-10AM, July 13
After the game, build a cardboard
shelter
and stay the night on the field to sup-
port The Door.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 6:00PM - 7:00PM 12 Step (MR)	1 1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:00PM - 6:00PM Sound Team Meeting (S)	2 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12:00PM - 5:00PM 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)	3 2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	4 Independence Day 11:30AM - 4:00PM 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)	5 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	6 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)
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The following is the draft version of the minutes from the June Session meeting. If you would like the committee reports, let me know by email at admin@ucpcfairbanks.org or by phone at 907-479-6728

June 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

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

Absent: Pat Babcock

Guest: Deacon Melissa Bierer

Prayer: Moderator, Rev. Erika Bergh opened in prayer at 6:33 pm.

Scripture and Devotion: Joe Krizek led a devotion based on Micah 6:6-8

A quorum was declared

The Consent Agenda was ADOPTED with no opposition

Opening prayer –

Scripture and Devotion — Joe Krizek

Declaration of quorum

Adoption of Consent Agenda, consisting of:

Docket

Approve the Minutes of the May 2024 meeting of the Session

Receipt of Written Reports (if received):

Pastor

Deacons

Clerk of Session

Building Stewards

Faith Development

Finance, Treasurer, & Stewardship

Interim Search Ad Hoc Committee

Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership

Mission and Outreach

Personnel

Nominating

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Melissa Bierer gave the Deacons' report and several items were discussed. Deacons were thanked for their wonderful work

Comments from the Congregation: No written or verbal comments were received.

Clerk's Report. The clerk had nothing new to report.

New Business:

Notification from Personnel Committee: The Personal committee members (the chair, Matthew Bierer, was not involved) notified session that the Admin Assistant, Melissa Bierer's summer office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 2:00. This was agreeable to the session and the pastor.

Motion from Personnel Committee: It was moved to approve the draft contract with Rev. Erika Bergh, pending minor edits in the document. Motion was approved 6 yes, 0 no.

Motions from Finance Committee:

It was moved to adopt the budget column in the YTD 6.17.24 document as the 2024 UCPC budget. Motion was APPROVED 6 yes, 0 no.

It was moved to use all of the Designated Giving maintenance funds for the 2024 Christian Education building's first floor window replacement project, if those funds are needed. Motion was APPROVED 6 yes, 0 no.

It was moved and seconded to rename the Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc committee. Motion failed 0:6. It was moved and seconded to dissolve the Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc committee. Motion was APPROVED by a vote of 6:0.

Additional committee report information:

Building Stewards were ready to install a replacement door that was rusting through when they found out it was an interior door. The door was returned and a replacement exterior door was ordered.

We are only \$6,000 short of having all the funds needed to replace the first floor Christian Ed building windows. Finance committee believes that the funds can be found, especially if the Designated Giving maintenance account is used.

Old Business

Transitional work

Doreen notified the session that Rev. James bill for \$300 for 2 hours of consulting was submitted for payment.

Matthew summarized the June 9 potluck. Attendees stated that they would have preferred more time to digest the summaries before being asked more questions.

Transitional work will go on a summer hiatus and resume in September

Presbytery planning

We will schedule a planning meeting for 14 August and invite all of session, and others interested in helping to host this event on October 10-12. In addition to session members, the following have already volunteered to help: Sarah Lanstra (meals coordination), Muffie Durst (transportation and housing coordination)

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

July 18, 2024 6:30 PM in-person regular Session meeting

August 1, 2024 at 5:30PM, Deacon's Meeting: Doreen McNeill

August 14, 2024 at 5:30 PM, Presbytery Planning Meeting

August 15 at 6:30 PM in-person regular Session meeting

July Devotional and Elder of the Month: **Roger Smith**

Adjourn Pastor Erika led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.



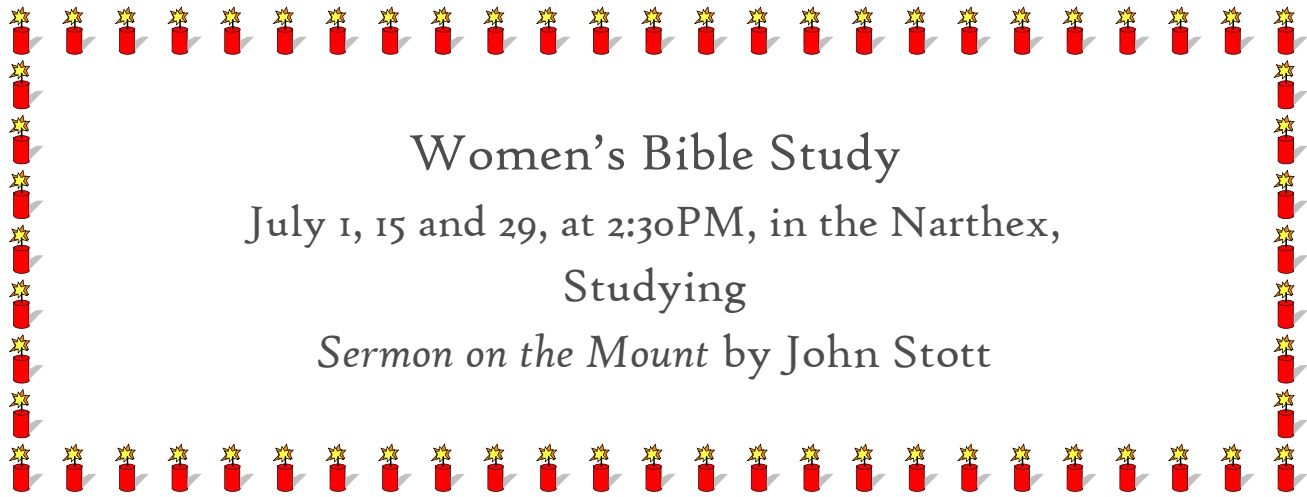
The lawn mower has been repaired,
so it is again available for use!

Unfortunately, it still
requires *people* to use it. :-)

Please sign up for lawn mowing if you
are able. The sign up sheet is on the
Garage Guys table in the narthex.
Thanks for volunteering!!

**Shout Out to Donita
Lawhead for updating our
sign with encouraging
quotes (and sharing her gar-
dening skills)!**





Women's Bible Study
July 1, 15 and 29, at 2:30PM, in the Narthex,
Studying
Sermon on the Mount by John Stott



Building and Grounds Update

The windows in the Christian Education building (main floor) are being replaced. Construction is scheduled to begin on July 1, and the estimated completion date for the project is July 31. We are still accepting donations for this work (check the thermometer in the narthex to see where we are); if you haven't yet donated and are able to do so, please consider helping us complete this important building upgrade!



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 ('24)	388-0544
Joe Krizek ('24)	460-4294
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

Board of Deacons

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

