

JUNE 2025



UCPC Community Care Line

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



Isa Smith 7/7
Flora Wiltse 7/7
Phyllis Garrett 7/8
Milt Wiltse 7/11

Muffie and Jim 7/19
Melissa and Matthew 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.

spread joy

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A Note from the Pastor

Lately, our household has been watching a lot of lighting and thunder kids' science videos on YouTube. Although Otilie has experienced thunder before this summer, the past month has been the first time she's really experienced it and felt some fear. It's been fascinating to start seeing her making connections between delayed cause and effect – first thunder and lightning storm, then smoke from fires.

Psalms 29's third, fourth and seventh verses offer us the imagery of thunder and lightning as God's voice:

³The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

⁷The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

The reverberating of thunder in the air in the wake of a bolt of lightning is both exhilarating and terrifying. I love thinking of this powerful sound as one of the sounds of God's voice. It reminds me of the range of who all God is. God is God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with the expansive range of expressions contained in that Trinity. And, God is loud, strong, quiet, still, slow, quick, jealous, angry, protective, creative, loving, blindingly bright, and much more.

The loudness of thunder, earthquakes, fireworks, and other big booms, can remind us that God is much larger than we are. Yet, despite God's overwhelming and overpowering size, God chose to become a tiny, weak, human infant in order to save the world. So, can the grandeur of an electrical storm invite us to hear God's voice in small and soft sounds as well? Can we hear God's voice in the skittering of a vole in the garage, the soft breaths of a family member's sleep, the scraping of a spoon scooping up cookie dough in a quiet kitchen, or the rustling of wind in the leaves of a tree?

This month, if we hear more thunder or any fireworks;* if we hear voles or the wind in the leaves, I pray that we hear them as God's voice, reminding us that God is greater than we are; yet also, simultaneously small enough to be present in each and every atom of this world.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Erika

**This summer, we shouldn't experience any fireworks in the Fairbanks North Star Borough because of this notice: "Due to ongoing fires and forecasts for increased fire danger in advance of the July 4 holiday weekend, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Grier Hopkins is suspending the use of fireworks throughout the borough. The ban covers areas outside the cities of Fairbanks and North Pole. This ban is effective Saturday, June 28, 2025, and will continue until further notice."*

Following are the draft minutes of the June 19, 2025, Session meeting. The various committee reports will be emailed to all on the newsletter email list (along with the May minutes). If you'd like a print copy, please contact the church office.

Opening prayer – Pastor Erika Bergh opened the meeting with prayer at 6:32 pm

Scripture and Devotion — Paula Long gave a devotion on Matthew 6:25-34 and led a prayer.

A quorum was declared.

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

Guests: Deacon Sarah Lanstra

It was moved and seconded to **approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of:**

Docket

Approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2025 and May 15, 2025 meetings of the Session

Acknowledge receipt of Written Reports (if received):

Deacons

Clerk of Session

Building Stewards

Elder Commissioner Report

Faith Development

Finance & Stewardship

Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership

Mission and Outreach

Personnel

Nominating

Worship

It was moved and seconded to **amend** the consent agenda to remove the May minutes for further discussion later in the meeting. Motion was APPROVED; final motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0.

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report. Sarah Lanstra gave the Deacons report, including the attached written report and report of health concerns in the congregation. Deacons were thanked for their tireless work.

Comments from the Congregation (none received)

Clerk's Report

New Business:

Minutes of the May 15, 2025 session meeting were amended and **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0.

Further discussion of committee reports:

Fellowship. Many events transpired in the last month, including a potluck with the Wisconsin mission group, graduation recognition, and worship on the porch and potluck. Session discussed the status of bulletin board update. Marji will be unable to work on this until after harvest.

Building Stewards. In addition to work noted in the Building Stewards report, session discussed concern about more trees falling and damaging property. Two large spruce fell this week in a wind storm, sparking the discussion and request that Building Stewards look into

the problem created by these aging trees.

Wedding Policy. Pastor Erika is working on updating UCPC's very old wedding policy and will give the draft to session when it is ready.

Motion from Finance and Stewardship Committee: the final motion, as amended was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0: **To expend up to \$3,000 in 2025 and \$3,000 in 2026 from the Youth Activities Designated Giving account to provide scholarship and transportation to Bingle Camp for campers.**

Old Business

It was moved and seconded to **ratify the email vote to authorize communion at Lily Miller's memorial service on June 5.** Motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0

It was moved and seconded to **count an email vote of session as a valid session vote without having to ratify it at a later session meeting.** Motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0.

Following are the Clerk's proposed Rules for such an email vote will mirror rules of the Presbytery of Yukon, as follows:

The Session of UCPC may use e-mail to act on non-controversial or time critical motions.

The moderator or clerk shall notify each member by electronic mail (if a person has regular, easy access to email), or by telephone, fax, or U.S. mail of the proposed motion. The notification shall include the complete wording of the motion, pertinent information, and deadline for responding back to the moderator. The moderator shall use discretion when relaying confidential information. Confidential information shall be sent via U.S. mail if a member does not have sole access to his/her email account or fax messages are accessible by anyone other than the member.

Quorum shall be one-half of the session members.

If a member objects to the matter being presented or decided or wants to discuss the matter in detail, a special meeting (with simultaneous aural communication) shall be called to discuss and act on the motion.

Voting: A minimum of 3 days shall be permitted to complete voting.

Passage of a motion requires a unanimous vote, provided there is a quorum. If the number of members voting does not constitute a quorum, or if the votes on the motion are not unanimous, the motion shall be discussed at a meeting.

Any actions taken by this process shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Session with a notation that the action was taken by electronic vote.

Communion at future funerals at UCPC. It was moved and seconded that the **session authorize communion at funerals/memorials at UCPC, if requested by the family.** Motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7:0

Sanctified Imagination and completion of the Mission Study. We received 10 responses to the sanctified Imagination questions so far. Jim will continue to request these during the next two Sundays and then consolidate them.

Pastor Erika's Contract. A typographical error was corrected. The contract will be ready for signatures and Presbytery of Yukon approval once the Lutheran bishop's approval is received.

Administrative Assistant and Organist pay. This item was postponed to the July meeting, pending additional information.

Book: Pastor and People, Making Mutual Ministry Work. The session has 4 copies of this book. Roger, Paula, Pat and Doreen will begin reading and pass the book on to other session members.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

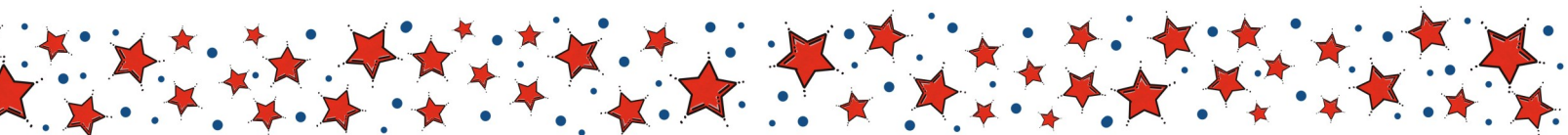
July – No Deacons' meeting

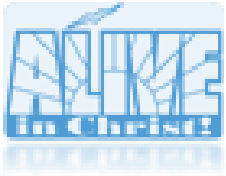
July 17 at 6:30 pm, Regular Session Meeting

August 7 Deacons' meeting, **Marji Illingworth** to represent Session

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

It was moved and seconded to ADJOURN at 8:24 pm with Pastor Erika leading the closing prayer.

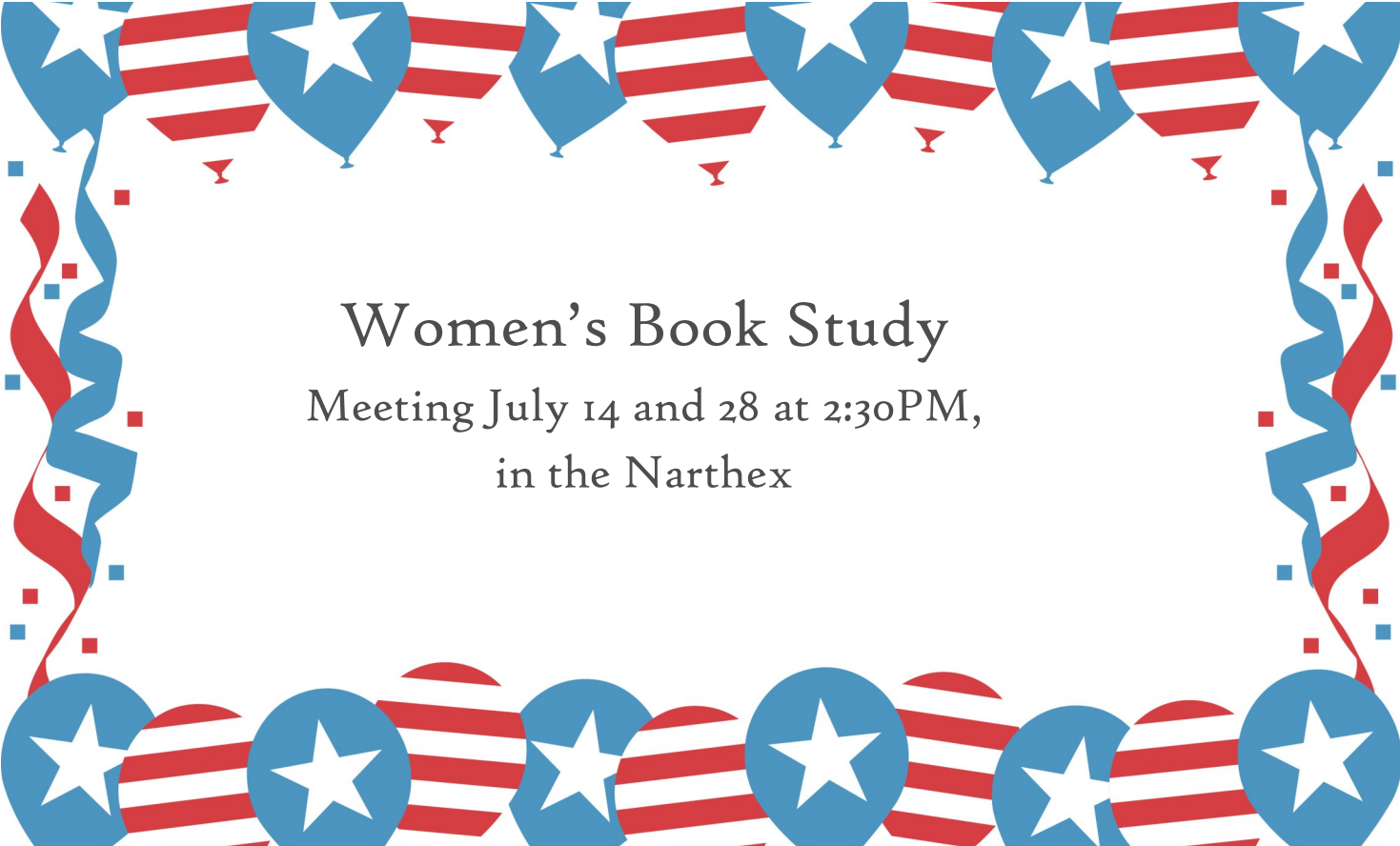




July 2025



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 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	1 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	2 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	3 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	4 	5 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
6 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	7 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:15pm - 6:00pm Sound Team (S) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	8 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	9 <u>10:00am - 11:00am Mission & Outreach</u> 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>4:00pm - 5:30pm Workshop Committee (CR)</u> <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	10 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	11 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	12 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
13 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service with Communion (S)</u> <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	14 FSAF FH and CE All day 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 2:30-3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	15 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> FSAF FH and CE All day 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	16 FSAF FH and CE All day 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	17 FSAF FH and CE All day 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) <u>6:30pm Session (SL)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	18 FSAF FH and CE All day <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	19 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
20 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	21 FSAF FH and CE All day 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>5:15pm Finance (CR)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	22 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> FSAF FH and CE All day 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	23 FSAF FH and CE All day 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	24 FSAF FH and CE All day 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	25 FSAF FH and CE All day <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> 5:00pm - 10:00pm FSAF Gospel Choir (S and N) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	26 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
27 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	28 <i>Melissa on vacation until 8/18</i> 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>2:30-3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	29 <u>6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u> 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE)</u> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Great Land Sounds (MR) <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>	30 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	31 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	1 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	2 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)



Women's Book Study

Meeting July 14 and 28 at 2:30PM,
in the Narthex



Since there's no SNOW, it's time to
MOW!

If you'd like to volunteer to mow, the
weekly sign up sheet is in the Narthex, on
the Garage Guys table.

Building and Grounds Update

The trees identified by the Building Stewards as safety concerns have been removed. The logs were donated to HelpingAK for firewood and the wood chips were spread on the prayer garden paths.

The Wisconsin youth group who visited did a lot of great work at UCPC, including spreading those wood chips and lining the paths with logs, sanding and priming the porch railings, and painting the boiler building.

We have a new refrigerator in the kitchen—the main one stopped working and has been replaced.

Respectfully Submitted,



July 4—Office Closed

July 13—U-pick peonies and potluck picnic at Illingworths'

July 14-25—FSAF

July 25- August 8—Pastor Erika gone

July 28-August 14—Melissa gone

August 8—Back to School Blessing

August 8—Special Congregational Meeting

August 27—Quarterly Planning Meeting

September 1—Labor Day. Office closed.

October 10-11—Presbytery meeting in Anchorage

November 3 or 9—Annual Meeting

Wanna get your name in the bulletin?? Sign up to be a Greeter! Help make UCPC a friendly place to visitors by welcoming them to worship, handing out bulletins and answering questions!

The American Foundation For Suicide Prevention Out of Darkness Walk will happen Sept. 20, 2025, instead of during June. Think about joining me then to support Suicide Prevention education and research.

Thank you,
Kathy Dohner



During the summer, Melissa will be in the office from 8-1, Monday—Thursday, except for July 28-August 15 (Vacation!!).

The office will be closed Fridays throughout the summer.

Shout out to

Theresa Reed

For her inspiring choir leadership !



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 - Thursday

Pastor Erika is in the office MWR from 10-2.



Contacts

Supply Pastor . Rev. Erika Bergh (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	Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership
Matthew Bierer ('25)	474-0106	Building Stewards; Mission and Outreach
Jim Durst ('26)	590-9024	Worship
Paula Long ('26)	687-7444	Personnel
Roger Smith ('26)	322-2595	Finance; Nominating
Marji Illingworth ('27)	378-2138	Faith Development

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

