

UCPC Community Care Line



MARCH 2023

Special Points of Interest

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



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★ Darlene Peterson	6	★
★ Callen Morton	16	★
★ Frederich Bierer	29	★
★		★
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No Anniversaries to report

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

A Note from the Pastor:

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Preparing to write this newsletter article on forgiveness, I went to my usual website to look up scripture, Biblegateway.com. Its scripture of the day was Proverbs 17:9. “One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.”

There are 21 occurrences of the word forgiveness in the bible. Some, but not all, others from my search resulted in...

Psalm 32:1, “Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” It is the Psalm selection for the first Sunday in Lent.

Psalm 130:3-5, “If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.”

Daniel 9:9, “To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, but we have rebelled against him”

Matthew 18:21, “Then Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

Matthew 26:28, “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

During Lent UCPC will host Simple Soup Suppers at 5:30pm each Wednesday night starting with March 1st. Supper will be followed at 6pm by a discussion of the book, Forgiveness: A Lenten Study.

Repentance and forgiveness are hallmarks of our journey through Lent with our Savior as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem. It's journey that culminates not with the cross but with an empty tomb. Thanks be God!

Blessings...Lois

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



2023 UCPC

UCPC events in Blue-



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

26 10:30am - 11:30am <u>Worship Service (S)</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR)	27 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cel- loCharly (MR) 1:00pm - 2:00pm Women's Bible Study (N) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 1092 (CE)	28 6:30am - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Great Land Sound (MR) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts (CE) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	1 12:00pm - 8:00pm Cel- loCharly (MR) 5:30pm - 7:00pm <u>Simple Suppers (FH & K)</u> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L) 6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE) 7:00pm - 8:15pm <u>Choir Practice (MR)</u>	2 5:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR) 5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	3 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	4 2:00pm - 5:00pm D & D (HS)
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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) —Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 22 – April 9), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- Receives 32% of funds raised

Loving Families – March 5 - 12

Helping Alaska (formerly Love in the Name of Christ) is planning on restoring Loving Families. This program helps homeless families get back on their feet. Be looking for signups soon after church. In case you don’t remember or have not been involved, there are two main slots each day. First is greeting the families and having a meal ready for them. This time slot also involves possibly helping with homework or playing a game with kids. It runs from 5:00 until 7:45. The second slot is an overnight one. Depending on the day of the week or the age of the children, it may involve some activity time with the families before they get ready for bed. It goes from 7:30 pm to 7:30 am. If being at church does not work for you, there is set up and takedown to be done as well as food that needs to be purchased. Think about how God might be calling you to help.

March Elder of the month is: Matthew Bierer

March Deacon of the month is: Sarah Lanstra

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: \$28,141.24

(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 Meets Monday,
March 6
After the Sound Team Meeting, in the Conference Room.**

UCPC Finance Report 2022 & 2023

As reported by Sarah Lanstra-Amounts may differ from previous newsletters

The finance committee knows that during December - April many families make their annual contribution, therefore income looks high during those months but we expect to see this decrease and by mid-year, expenses are likely to exceed income.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	February	Year Total
IN-COME	26,098.	40,381.	22,827.	20,851.	17,661.	25,320.	21,333.	13,492	17,371.	17,728.	23,986.	27,325.	26,155.	274,373.
EX-PENSES	21,478.	32,520.	20,155.	25,020.	24,013.	25,213.	13,404.	13,192.	11,638.	19,321.	27,003.	24,085	8,972.	257,042.
Net	4,620.	7,861.	2,672.	-4,169.	-6,352	107	7,929.	300.	5,733.	-1,593.	-3,0147	3,240.	17,183	17,331.

Keep in mind we are not paying a full time pastor's salary

Minutes

Stated Meeting of Session

University Community Presbyterian Church

Present: Commissioned Pastor (CP) and moderator Lois Hildenbrand; elders Paula Long, Jerry McBeath, Matthew Bierer, Roger Smith, Joe Krizek, and Doreen McNeill (Clerk), Deacon Carol Nielsen

Moderator Hildenbrand opened the meeting with prayer at 6:35 pm.

Scripture and Devotion: Paula led a devotion about forgiveness as an act of love, including 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 & Proverbs 19:11

We approved the docket; Minutes of January 19, 2023; Committee Reports for Building Stewards, Faith Development, Finance, Treasury & Stewardship, Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc Committee, Hospitality-Fellowship-Membership, Mission and Outreach, Nominating, Personnel, Worship.

Orders of the Day at 7:00 p.m. There were no comments from the congregation.

New Business:

Elder Training: Pastor Lois' elder training was based on the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Items covered were 1) G-1.0103, including that the session leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church, and for the glory of God; and 2) G-3.0201, including that the session is the council for the congregation. The session has the power and responsibility to make sure the Word of God may be truly preached and heard, make sure the Sacraments are rightly administered and received, and nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.

Deacons' Report: Carol Nielsen gave the deacon's report. Their next meeting is March 2 at 5:30. As the March elder of the month, Matthew Bierer will attend the meeting. Paula Long will attend if Matthew is unable to go. Deacons will appoint a member to staff the Nominating Committee.

- Regret that she will be unable to lead a mission study as planned. She explained how a Mission Study process works to create an up-to-date mission statement and path for the church. It is done with the guidance and participation of an Interim Pastor (which we do not have), to prepare the congregation for calling an Installed Pastor. A Mission Study committee surveys the congregation, holding meetings to ask questions to discern the needs and path of the congregation.
- Lois requested someone lead the Lenten book study on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent in conjunction with Simple Soup Suppers. Paula Long volunteered.
- Elder, Deacon, and Trustee pictures need to be updated. Lois will try to find someone to do so.
- Lois received a request from Ruthann Dohner that Ruthann be removed from the rolls of active members. **It was moved and seconded to remove Ruthann from active membership. There was no opposition. Motion passed.**
- We have 5 young children attending church and a request to have Sunday School. **Who will teach?**
- Homeless Liaison: The borough does not have a homeless liaison (we are outside the city limits). Lois has the City of Fairbanks Crisis Now Coordinator contact information.
- **The church needs a wedding coordinator** to work with the wedding party, hospitality committee, deacons, sound managers, and building stewards. Few weddings occur, but this task requires close coordination when they do occur. There is a wedding coordinator handbook. Fees are being reviewed by Roger & the building stewards. Further discussion will occur at the March session meeting.

Board of Directors for the University Community Presbyterian Church Corporation:

- **It was moved and seconded that the following slate of corporation officers be elected: President, Paula Long; Vice President, Roger Smith; Treasurer Jerry McBeath; Secretary, Doreen McNeill. Motion passed by Unanimous Consent.**
It was moved and seconded that Joe Krizek be given authority to act on behalf of the church's property owner (Presbytery of Yukon), and UCPC Corporation to work with the Fairbanks North Star Borough, D.E.C., Interior Gas Utility, and other entities necessary to install and use a gas boiler in the church. Motion passed by Unanimous Consent.

Fair Share Pledge to Presbytery of Yukon. UCPC will make their best effort to see to it that this \$20,065 pledge is paid to the Presbytery to support mission and functioning of the church as a whole.

Motion from Worship Committee: UCPC will immediately reinstate regular passing of the peace in our services, recommending that it be done by gestures rather than by touch. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business: None

The Next Session Meeting: Thursday, *March 9 (this is not the regular date)* at 6:30 p.m., with Devotional by Matthew Bierer.
The meeting closed in prayer by Doreen McNeill at 8:30 p.m.

Doreen McNeill, Clerk of Session

PASTOR'S REPORT, FEBRUARY 2023

Since my last report I....

1. provided worship leadership for one service before leaving on vacation for two weeks.
2. January 23 traveled to Mesa, AZ with Bert.
3. pursued additional medical care for Bert's brain injury while vacationing.
4. returned to work February 6.
5. met with Mission Committee.
6. met with Worship Committee.
7. provided worship leadership for another service.
8. met with Finance Committee.
9. conferred with our Admin and the Worship committee about managing the use of our sanctuary for weddings.
10. came to realize that I will not be able to offer the Simple Soup Supper and Lenten study on Wednesdays during Lent. I need to be available to Bert in the evenings now.

Blessings....Lois

DEACONS' REPORT, JANUARY 2023

Four UCPC Deacons met on Feb. 2, 2023: Donita Lawhead, Melissa Bierer, Sarah Lanstra, and Carol Nielsen. Our fifth Deacon, Janet Johnson, attended via Zoom.

Carol gave a brief devotional. There was no Session or Pastor's report. We hope Session will send a representative to Deacons' meetings regularly, as they have done in the past. We understand that Session is seeking another Deacon to add to our number. Treasurer Sarah reports approximately \$800 in our account. Care lists were reallocated and distributed to each Deacon by Melissa. Communion was organized for Feb. 12; traveling communion last month was provided to 2 members. Meals were provided to one person and transportation to worship for another person has been arranged. Pastor Lois and Donita visited a sick member in late January. We discussed contacting our care list people on upcoming church Lenten events. A number of people deserving special thanks were assigned to each deacon. Finally, situations and prayer needs of several members were discussed and prayed for. Our next meeting is March 2.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk's Report: Sent a letter to Calvin Church in Muskegon, MI, transferring Hackett's membership, to which the church responded affirmatively.

Building Stewards Committee: ~

Boiler project:

The State of Alaska Fire Marshal Plan Review is approved. We have received the SOA-FM approval letter and certifications. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation review process is on hold because the new online submissions program is locked up.

The Interior Gas Utility responded to our request for gas service with the following explanation. *"In order to provide natural gas to your location, it would require a Main Line Extension. Those are approved on an individual basis and are not guaranteed. As a small public Utility, our budget for Main Line extension is limited. We allocate those funds to benefit the maximum number of customers possible."* This is the first I heard of approval required for mainline extension. I was told that gas was available on College Road and UCPC is ready to convert to gas. I should have an answer in 2 weeks if IGU plans to do a mainline extension to UCPC. I hope UCPC will be a large enough customer to make the extension economically feasible. COGIC has made a Gas Service request. Beaver Sports, has not, but is interested. The more users we have on the mainline extension the better.

- Doreen and Joe are working with FNSB to have Neill McKay's name replaced with Joe's name (per UCPC corporation officer's approval) on the boiler grant application. Then the \$7,500 grant will be secure.

Stated Meeting Minutes -continued from previous page

Fire Alarm Repairs: Siemens performed the annual fire alarm test and inspection Jan 17, 2023. The two outside horn strobes did not work. There is a proposal to replace the old devices with new devices for \$920. Respectfully, Joe Krizek

Faith Development Committee: ~ Simple Soup Supper and Lenten study on Wednesdays during Lent This book study will be shepherded by Paula Long.

Finance, Treasury & Stewardship: In attendance were: Sarah Lanstra, Curtis McNeill, Jerry McBeath, Roger Smith and Pastor Lois Hildenbrand. Jerry opened the meeting with prayer.

Old Business

1. The committee reviewed UCPC income and expenses from January 2022 through early February 2023. The year ended with positive balance largely because Pastor Lois is serving part-time.
2. A review of the January DG report led to a few changes in funds (e.g., replacing "Love, INC" with "Helping Alaska").
3. Bank balances were:
 - Operating, \$56,203.94
 - Fuel, \$498.33
 - Designated Giving (DG), \$88,089.94
 - The committee will move \$5,000 from the operating to the fuel account to keep the buildings warm.

New Business

1. To repay the loan from DG to the operating account in 2020, the committee unanimously agreed to move \$11,760 to DG: Pastor Salary.
2. The committee added Sarah Lanstra to the names of those authorized to sign checks.

Closing

1. The next Finance Committee meeting will be March 6, 2023, at 5:45 pm.
2. Roger closed the meeting with prayer

Subsequently by email, Jerry asked members whether they would approve paying the \$20,065 fair share obligation, and only one has not yet responded. Sarah notes that the payment is already in this year's financial plan. Two members agree that notwithstanding UCPC's fiscal challenges, this is an obligation for which we, as members of the Yukon Presbytery, are responsible. The third could go either way. That's enough background for a vote, which the committee may support. Best, Jerry.

Interim Pastor Search Ad Hoc Committee Report ~ Two of 4 potential interim pastors declined interviews, two have not yet replied. One who we interviewed last fall and was interested but could not work on our schedule then but who thinks he might do so now. Roger is sending reminders to those who have not responded.

Mission and Outreach: ~ February 8, 2023. Present: CP Lois Hildenbrand, Theresa Reed, Muffie Durst. We opened in Prayer. One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 9. Plans were made for encouraging members to give. Loving Families is scheduled for March 5 – 12. Help is needed. We were reminded that we are a Red Cross Emergency Shelter with Muffie as the contact. We discussed options or ideas about the homeless near us, but nothing definite was determined. We set up the next month's Focus on Mission slot for the service. Next meeting, March 9, 10:00am. Ended in Prayer.

Worship Committee: ~ Met Thursday 2/9/2023 at 7pm. Lois, Jim Durst, Patti Gallagher and Roger Smith, and Lois Hildenbrand attended. Roger opened in prayer.

We reviewed plans for services up to Easter Sunday. No changes in Ash Wednesday arrangements from those reported in last month's Session meeting. For Palm Sunday (April 2), Lois requested two choir pieces, one at the normal anthem time and another later in the service. Roger agreed to order 10 leafy and 50 spear palms from Safeway Flower dept. For Maundy Thursday, it is planned to have a Seder meal in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm. If Doug Buteyn is not available to lead this, Lois will organize. For Good Friday, the "Stations of the Cross" video to be continuously shown in the Sanctuary 11-2pm and 5-8pm. Volunteers are needed to monitor the entrance door during these times.

For Easter Sunday, breakfast will be served at 8am by the men of the church feeding congregants and local people. Worship starts at 10.30am with the Sanctuary in the dark. The dark curtains will be brought down suddenly bringing light to the worshipers with the shout "He is Alive" followed by a joyous hymn or anthem on the same theme. The choir will sing an anthem at the normal point in the service.

A short discussion reviewed the difficulties of renting out our sanctuary for weddings when we do not have a wedding coordinator. A joint meeting with the Stewards and Worship committee members will make recommendations for any changes needed for future wedding rentals.

The committee reviewed our current practice avoiding the "passing of the peace" in our services. **We submit the following motion to the Session: UCPC will immediately reinstate regular passing of the peace in our services, recommending that it be done by gestures rather than by touch.**

Patti ended the meeting in prayer at 8.20pm.

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 ~ Curtis McNiell

Committee leaders

Worship: Roger Smith
Finance and Stewardship: Jerry McBeath
Mission and Outreach:
Faith Development:

Deacons

Donita Lawhead 455-6849
Melissa Bierer 687-5037
Sarah Lanstra 378-3929
Carol Nielsen 388-8154

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

Jerry McBeath, Class of 2023
Paula Long 687-7444 Class of 2023
Roger Smith 322-2595 Class of 2023
Joe Krizek, 460-4294 Class of 2024
Matthew Bierer 687-5037 Class of 2025

To be installed March 2023
Larry Johnson

Class of 2025

