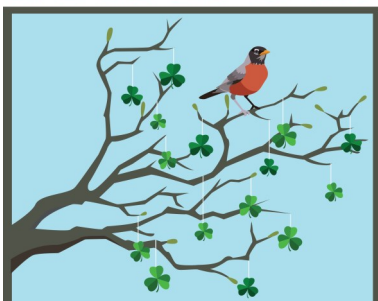


MARCH 2024



MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Peterson 3/6  
Cal Morton 3/16  
Frederich Bierer 3/29

*Donna and Lynn Davidson  
were married on March 2.*

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.

### Contents

1. Pastor's Note, Birthdays
2. Officers of the Month; Shout-Out
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7. OGHS; Lent; Finance committee
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## 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

Hello beloved siblings in Christ, this month has been a hard one for my brain and heart, making it difficult for me to write a newsletter article. However, I don't want to deprive you of a thoughtful article to ponder as we approach Easter and Spring, so below you will find an article from the Presbyterian Outlook about college aged youth and church. I found it an interesting read, and I hope you will too. It feels applicable for us to consider as "University" is in our name. Blessings to you all as we continue ever closer to the cross and the resurrection. And thank you for all your prayers, support, and love over these past few weeks. - Pastor Erika

### Returning to ritual: Gen Z and religion

BY **ELIZA SMITH DEBEVOISE**

PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 13, 2024 / UPDATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
From the Presbyterian Outlook

When I became a University Chaplain in 2021, it took all of 72 hours for people to start asking me how we could get college students back in church. As I began planning our annual religious life fair (inviting local congregations to one from a variety of traditions), the conversation continued. Clergy, volunteers and staff from our area's faith communities would look down at the list of "interested" student names at the end of the event and tell me, "We'll be lucky if even two show up."

As a minister, I sympathize with this disappointment in many ways. Congregational life, at its best, can be both rich and inviting, providing a safe space to wrestle with questions of faith and a valuable community to journey alongside. I believe in the beauty and the necessity of churches. I would have never gone to seminary if I didn't. This being said, I wonder if our obsession with incentivizing college students to come and sit in our pews hasn't become unintentionally misguided.

Aware that many of my students were not going to "traditional" church activities, I initially felt a lot of pressure to create a kind of traditional congregational experience within our campus environment. Even though I knew numbers would likely be low, I offered periodic chapel services that were ecumenical. I tried to offer all of the most crucial parts of congregational life to my students: worship, fellowship, study groups. Oddly enough, the interfaith part of the work went well for me as a chaplain. I was much more perplexed about how to serve my Christian students than those from other religious identities.

In my quest to connect, I worked hard to make myself as relatable as possible. I subbed in poems for Scripture. I wrote liturgy that lifted up things I thought were probably happening in their lives. I used spoken word instead of sermons. I thought these ideas were brilliant, but the reality is that I found myself in empty or near-empty rooms time and time again.

Somewhat discouraged, I backed off and focused on other areas of programming. To my surprise, my students started coming to me. I learned that they wouldn't likely come to weekly worship, but they showed up in droves for Ash Wednesday. It was hard for me to get enough together for a weekly Bible study, but they were thrilled to read Scripture in our annual lessons and carols. They asked me to lead fu-

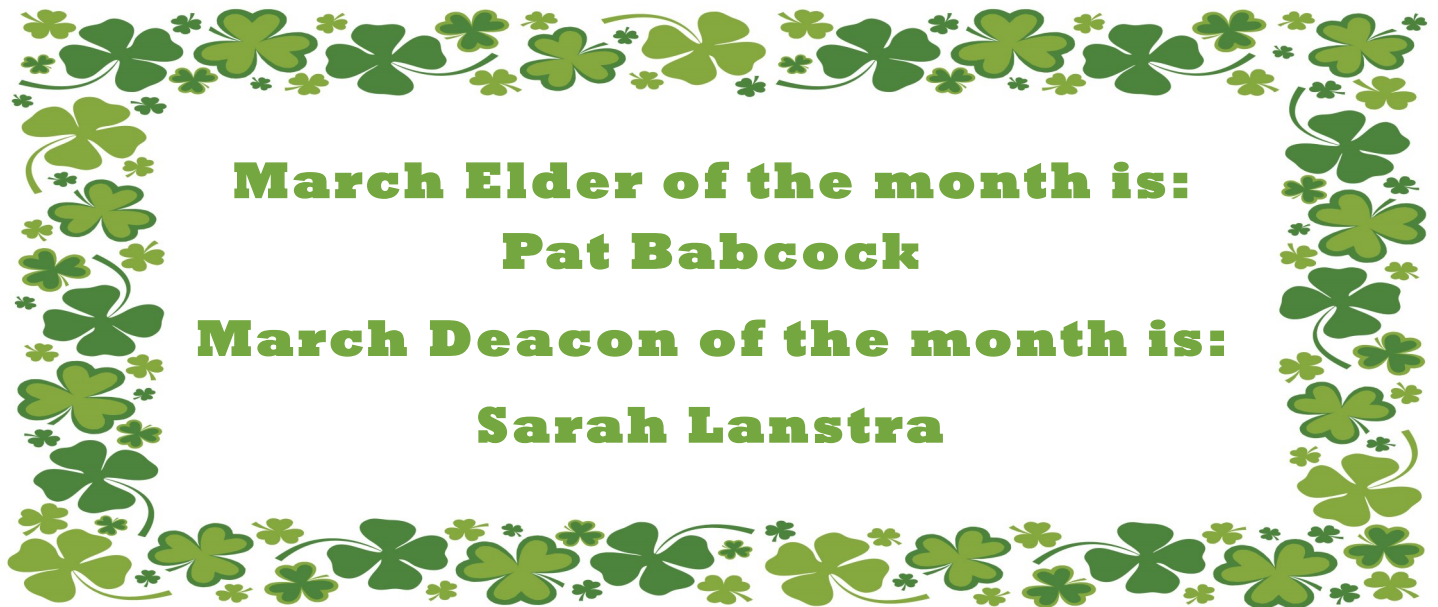
nerals for beloved faculty and said, "Please don't forget the internment part." They requested that the Apostle's Creed be added to the baccalaureate. They asked me to read Psalm 39 at a vigil for Tyre Nichols.

Here's what I now know: In touchstone moments of their lives, students return to ritual. For liturgical holidays, deaths of loved ones, graduations and national crises they've never been looking for me to generate anything shiny or new for them. In these moments, they've always been asking to go back to basics. In a way, they've been asking to go back to church.

I became a better chaplain to my students when I became a better observer and listener. I have learned that this is a generation craving authenticity, so instead of making ourselves what we think they're looking for, we're much better off engaging in some solid introspection. I don't believe college students are disenchanted with church because our liturgy or style is outdated. Rather, I believe they're disinterested in joining communities that don't know who they are. They'd rather have honest over polished and even self-aware over versatile. They value ever-evolving and ever-growing communities, ones that don't hide behind a façade of thinking they've already figured everything out.

Maybe, just maybe, the generation we've been so worried about calling back home could be the very one to usher us into an era of renewed hope. Perhaps it's time we take a page out of their book.

*Eliza Smith DeBevoise is an ordained minister in the PC(USA) serving in a validated ministry as the university chaplain at Converse University in Spartanburg, South Carolina.*



**March Elder of the month is:**

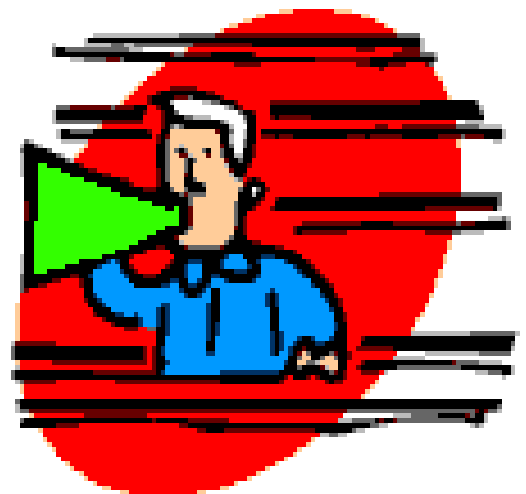
**Pat Babcock**

**March Deacon of the month is:**

**Sarah Lanstra**

**Shout Out to Roger Smith**

**Thank you for organizing a  
beautiful service for Patti,  
and for all you do!**





# March 2024



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>25</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>11 - 2pm Mission committee (FH & K)<br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8:00pm 12 Step (MR) | <b>26</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)  | <b>27</b><br>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)<br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sounds (MR)<br>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)   | <b>28</b><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)<br>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)<br>6 - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)   | <b>29</b><br>11:30am - 4pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)<br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br>6:30 - 9pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)   | <b>1</b><br><u>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)</u><br><u>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u><br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>  | <b>2</b><br>1 - 4pm Cello Charly Recital (S)<br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH Classroom)<br>5 - 9pm Robert Altman Memorial (S) |
| <b>3</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8pm 12 Step (MR)  | <b>4</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>2:30 - 3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5 - 6pm Sound Team Meeting (S)</u> | <b>5</b><br><u>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u><br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5:30 - 7pm Lenten Study/Simple Dinner (L)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sounds (MR)<br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>     | <b>6</b><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u><br><u>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)</u><br><u>6 - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</u>   | <b>7</b><br>11:30am - 4pm Cello Charly (MR)<br><u>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u><br><u>5:30 - 7pm Deacons (CR)</u><br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br>6:30 - 9pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)   | <b>8</b><br><u>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)</u><br><u>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u><br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>  | <b>9</b><br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH Classroom)   |
| <b>10</b><br><b>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8pm 12 Step (MR)     | <b>11</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)  | <b>12</b><br><u>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u><br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sound (MR)<br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>  | <b>13</b><br><u>10 - 11am Mission &amp; Outreach (CR)</u><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>4:30 - 5:30pm Worship Committee (CR)</u><br><u>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u><br><u>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)</u><br><u>6 - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</u> | <b>14</b><br>11:30am - 4:00pm Cello Charly (MR)<br><u>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u><br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br>6:30 - 9pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)   | <b>15</b><br><u>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)</u><br><u>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u><br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>   | <b>16</b><br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH Classroom)<br>6 - 10pm Grace Church (FH and K)                                      |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8pm 12 Step (MR)   | <b>18</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>2:30 - 3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5:15pm Finance (CR)</u>           | <b>19</b><br><u>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u><br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5:30pm - 7pm Lenten Study/Simple Dinner (SL)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sound (MR)<br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)</u>  | <b>20</b><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u><br><u>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)</u><br>6 - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)   | <b>21</b><br>11:30am - 4:00pm Cello Charly (MR)<br><u>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u><br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br><u>6:30pm Session (SL)</u><br>6:30 - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)  | <b>22</b><br><u>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)</u><br>4 - 8pm Fri Nite Men's Stag Group (FH)<br><u>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u><br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>                           | <b>23</b><br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH Classroom)  |
| <b>24</b><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8pm 12 Step (MR)                     | <b>25</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)  | <b>26</b><br><u>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)</u><br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5:30 - 7:00pm Lenten Study/Simple Dinner (SL)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sound (MR)<br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)</u> | <b>27</b><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u><br><u>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)</u><br>6 - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)   | <b>28</b><br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>11:30am - 4:00pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5 - 8pm UCPC Maundy Thursday Service (FH)<br>5 - 9pm UCPC Maundy Thursday Service (S)<br>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)<br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br>6:30 - 9pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement) | <b>29</b><br><b>Good Friday</b><br>UCPC Good Friday Stations of the Cross (S)<br><u>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)</u><br><u>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u><br><u>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)</u> | <b>30</b><br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH classroom)  |
| <b>31</b><br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH)<br><u>10:30 - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u><br>2 - 4pm Grace Church (S)<br>7 - 8pm 12 Step (MR)                   | <b>1</b><br>1:30 - 7pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>2:30 - 3:30pm Women's Bible Study (N)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br><u>5 - 6pm Sound Team Meeting (S)</u> | <b>2</b><br>6:30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study (N)<br>12 - 5pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>6:30 - 8pm Boy Scouts (CE)<br>6:30 - 9pm Great Land Sound (MR)<br>8 - 10pm 12 Step AA (L)   | <b>3</b><br>2:30 - 6:30pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>4 - 6pm Laurie Long (HS)<br>5:30 - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)<br>6 - 7pm Girl Scouts (L)<br>6pm - 9pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)  | <b>4</b><br>11:30am - 4pm Cello Charly (MR)<br>5:30 - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)<br>5:30 - 7pm Deacons Meeting (CR)<br>6 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)<br>6:30 - 9pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)   | <b>5</b><br>2 - 4pm Four Winds (MR)<br>6:30 - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)<br>8 - 10pm 12 Step NA (L)   | <b>6</b><br>1 - 4pm D & D (FH Classroom)   |



Since there was no regular Session meeting in February, I've filled the usual space for the minutes with *summarized* committee reports. If you would like the full reports, let me know by email at [admin@ucpcfairbanks.org](mailto:admin@ucpcfairbanks.org) or by phone at 907-479-6728

### SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Clerk's Report:** There is nothing to report at this time. ~ Doreen McNeill, Clerk of Session

**Building Stewards Committee:** The FNSB Air Quality Finance department sent our boiler grant check of \$7,500 to Presbytery in Anchorage. Hopefully they will forward it to UCPC soon. UCPC has completed the paperwork requested by the Interfaith Working Group of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC) for \$10,000 to replace windows in the CE building. UCPC is still waiting for funds to arrive.

The new gas boiler has shut down 4 times during this last cold snap. None of the shutdowns were related to faults with the new boiler, and all have been corrected.

The cold weather was the perfect test for our new gas boiler. We found weaknesses in our boiler building and gas meter service. We have made repairs and corrections to these systems. I feel confident and secure that our heating plant will provide reliable service in the future.

The gas bill for Jan. 2024 was \$4,977.19. This higher cost coincides with the -40°F temperatures we have been experiencing. Fuel oil also decreased in price in Jan. to approximately \$3.50/gal. (these monthly averages have been provided by Alaska Aerofuel). At this rate, I calculated a savings of \$636 over the cost of heating with fuel oil.

Respectfully, Joe Krizek

**Faith Development Committee:** **Old Sunday School Stored Material:** Charley Brower has not been contacted regarding sharing excess Sunday School Stored. Material with the villages. Contact with him will happen soon.

**Lent:** Lenten Soup, Sandwiches, and Scripture will be held at the church on 3 Tuesdays during Lent: Feb. 20, March 5, and March 19.

**Finance, Treasury & Stewardship:** The committee met on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 5:15PM. Present were Sarah Lanstra, Curtis McNeill and Roger Smith. Roger began the meeting with prayer. We hear that the Operating Account stands at \$94,670.652, the Fuel Account at \$6,806.67 and Designated Account at \$68,476.29. We noted that the Operating Account has been boosted by several members of our congregation paying a year's tithe in a single check. In order to take account of this, the committee will begin allocating upcoming the months of this year with balances according to these advance gifts so as to represent our true financial position more clearly.

The fuel account will be run down as we purchase oil for our backup furnace and then closed as it decreases to zero. At that point, all heating fuel will be charged to the fuel line in the Operating Account.

The committee reviewed the ageing balances in the Designated Account and recommends that several be combined with or transferred to other funds.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Smith

**UCPC in Transition Committee Report:** The committee will meet via Zoom with Rev. Heather James at 7PM on February 15. The purpose will be to begin seeking God's direction in how to energize and renew our role in the mission of God's Kingdom.

**Hospitality, Fellowship and Membership Committee:** No report received.

**Mission and Outreach:** Met on the morning of February 14. Present: Donita Lawhead, Janet Brower, Muffie Durst. We opened in prayer. Action items were:

- 1) We planned for One Great Hour of Sharing. We will receive this offering on Easter Sunday, March 31. We will have 3 moments for missions, and ask that we do the children's sermon on March 3 as a starter event.
- 2) We would like to make burritos for the Door and the Little Free Pantry on February 25 after church.

The meeting closed in prayer

**Nominating Committee:** No report received

**Personnel Committee:** Personnel Committee has no new business to report. Matthew Bierer

**Worship Committee:** The committee met February 7, at 4:30PM in the conference room. Pastor Erika attended by phone; Kathy Dohner, Jim Durst, and Roger Smith in person.

We reviewed recent services. The Pray Ground continues to be highly regarded, with thanks to Marji Illingworth. The committee will develop a list of substitute attendants. The new piano location is working well. The liturgist script, including scripture readings, is now in a 3-ring binder and will replace the Bible on the lectern for logistical reasons. We'll review this change next meeting.

The committee reviewed plans for upcoming services through Easter:

Feb. 14: 7PM Ash Wednesday service in the Student Lounge with Communion. Will Haight is working with Erika on setup. Roger will assist with the keyboard.

Mar. 24: Palm Sunday service with palms. Roger will get the palms from Safeway. Emphasis on palms rather than on passion since we have other services in Holy Week.

Mar. 28: 7PM Maundy Thursday service; may or may not have Communion; Pr. Erika looking at using a Tenebrae format.

Mar. 29: Good Friday audio/visual meditation on Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary.

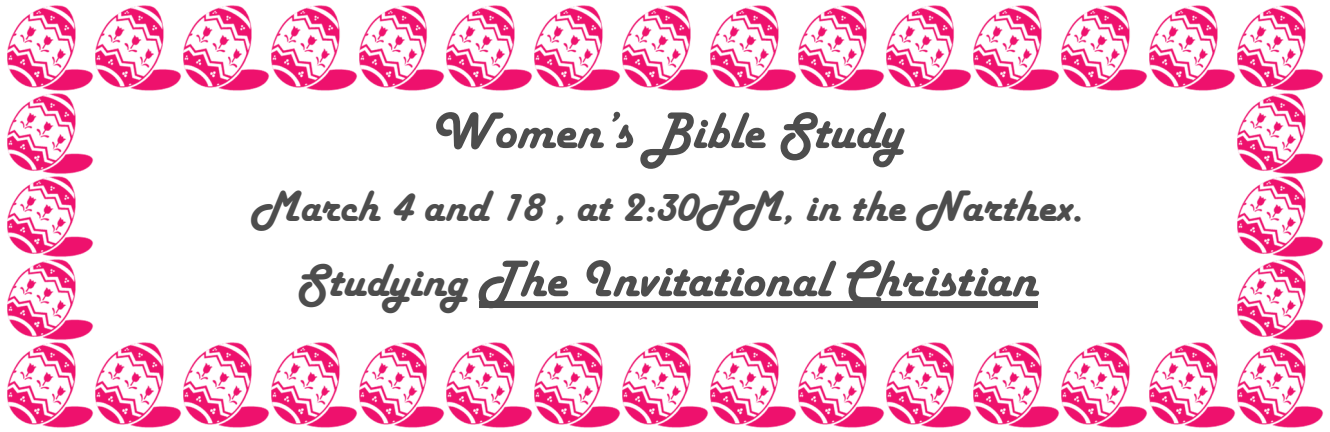
Sun. Mar. 31: Easter! with Communion. Hopefully preceded by breakfast by men in fellowship hall and perhaps followed by an egg hunt for the kids.

Roger will try to arrange piano tuning and organ maintenance this spring. Options are limited.

Kathy will not be available to play from April 16 through May 17 (4 Sundays).

Next meeting: March 13, 4:30PM

Respectfully submitted, Jim Durst



## *Women's Bible Study*

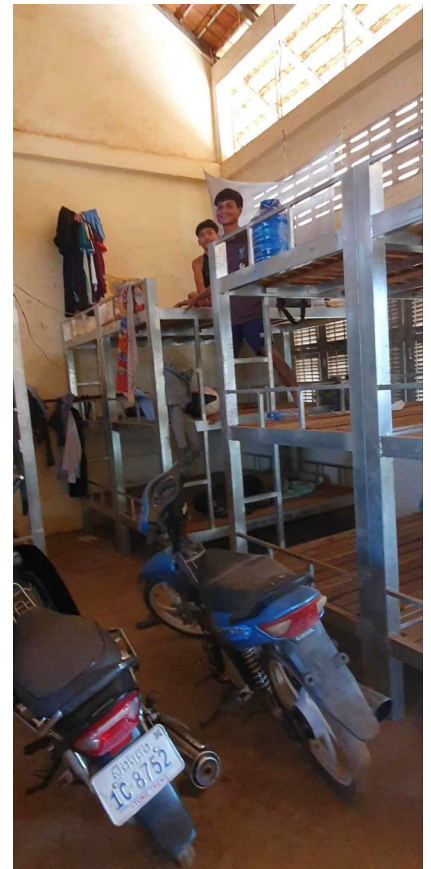
*March 4 and 18 , at 2:30PM, in the Narthex.*

*Studying The Invitational Christian*



## Youth With A Mission: Northeastern Cambodia

Thank you for allowing me to talk about a YWAM education project in northern Cambodia on Jan. 7th. Thank you for your prayers and donations to make this project possible. \$1335 was collected and sent to YWAM to support the house rental for 5 10th grade girls, the conversion of two classrooms at the high school to two dorms, one for boys and one for girls, the addition of a kitchen and the renovation of three toilets.







# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food resources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Committee on the 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 Lent, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. This 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.

*You shall be called the Repairers of the Breach*

*-Isaiah 58*

## LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Join us from 5:30-7PM on Tuesdays  
during lent for Soup, Sandwiches and  
Scripture!

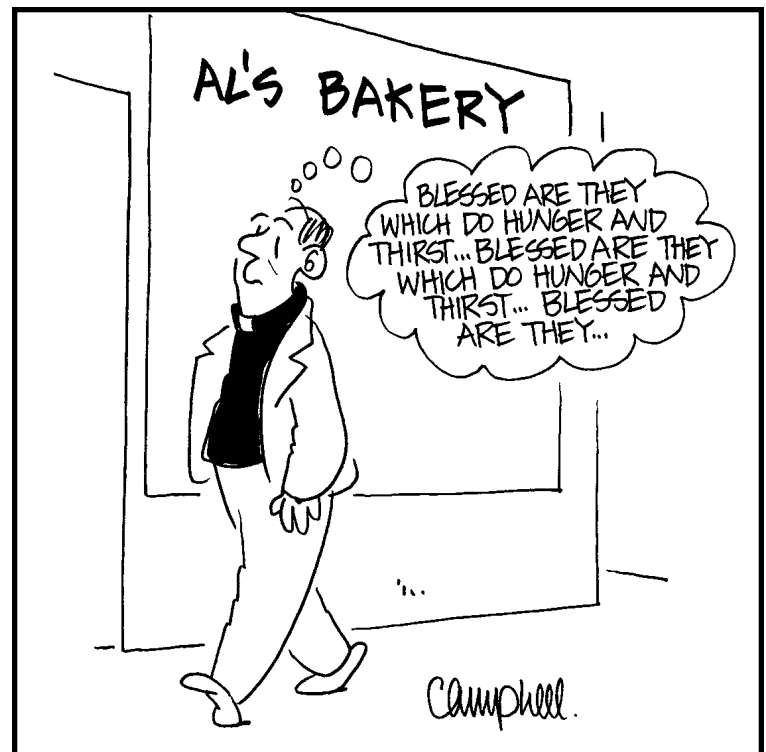
5:30 Meal

6:00 Bible Study and Worship

March 5 and March 19

in the Student Lounge

*Soup and  
Sandwich  
Supper*



Finance Committee

Will meet at 5:15PM on Monday

March 18

In the Conference Room

# University Community Presbyterian Church



3510 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Website: [www.ucpcfairbanks.org](http://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](mailto:rev.erikabergh@gmail.com)

**Admin Assistant**: Melissa Bierer      (907) 479-6728      Email: [admin@ucpcfairbanks.org](mailto:admin@ucpcfairbanks.org)

## Session Elders and Committee Leaders

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Doreen McNeill       | 388-0544 |
| Joe Krizek ('24)     | 460-4294 |
| Pat Babcock ('25)    | 978-7187 |
| Matthew Bierer ('25) | 474-0106 |
| Jim Durst ('26)      | 590-9024 |
| Paula Long ('23)     | 687-7444 |
| Roger Smith ('23)    | 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   |

