

MARCH 2025



Darlene Peterson—3/6

Cal Morton—3/16

Frederich William Bierer—3/29

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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UCPC Community Care Line

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

A Note from an Elder

Apostle Paul, The Encourager

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment" (Philippians 1:3-9, NKJV).

Paul was a great encourager in the faith of God. He walked through many difficult situations in his life but always stayed focused on his calling. He realized that the calling of God on his life and those he was leading were the number one priority.

When Paul wrote this letter, he was imprisoned but even in this situation, he prayed for fellow believers and encouraged those around him. We have an awesome opportunity to be an encourager of the faith, to encourage people, even in difficult situations, that God is faithful. I believe God calls all of us to encourage people and help them continue to move in the right direction with eyes focused on Jesus.

As we go through life, we have a choice: we can be the uplifting person, rebuilding and encouraging others, or the person who finds fault, continually complains, or tears down others. In the construction business, it can take years to build large buildings, but a demolition crew can bring it down in a matter of moments. The same is true in people's lives. We can be the ones who encourage and help people grow, or we can be the ones who have a negative influence that brings them down. I believe that your desire is to be an encourager and a person of faith. Let us all seek the best in people, supporting best, restoring where we can, and be an encourager in the faith!

This is based on a devotion written by John Ogden, CEO of Christian Motorcyclists Association

~Roger Smith

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission and Vision Statement – 2025

MISSION

Alive in Christ, we invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in discipleship through Word, prayer, and service.

VISION

To accomplish this Mission, we will:

1. Faithfully share and teach the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world.
2. Joyfully worship and praise God with various styles of music, prayer, and teaching.
3. Study scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, incorporating lessons learned into our daily lives.
4. Through Christ, serve people inside and outside our church building by sharing our time, talents, and resources.
5. Provide a loving, caring, and supportive community, so all may experience an abundant life of hope, peace, and joy.

Adopted by the UCPC Session February 27, 2025

Women's Bible Study is Changing!

Everyone is welcome to join the group for the 6 weeks of Lent.

Beginning March 10 the group will meet **weekly**

at 2:30PM, in the Narthex,

Studying

Lent In Plain Sight, by Jill Duffield



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 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)	24 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 5:15pm Finance (CR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	25 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) 7:00pm - 9:00pm Citizens' Climate Lobby (CR) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	26 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)	27 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)	28 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Sweet Adelines (CE) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE) 1:00pm - 4:00pm Cello Recital (S) 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
2 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study - Revelation (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> <u>After worship Adult Bible Study - Reformation</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	3 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 2:30-3:30pm Lenten Bible Study (N) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	4 <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>	5 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday (S) 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u> <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</u>	6 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:15pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (CR)</u> <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</u>	7 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>	8 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
9 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am Worship Service (S)</u> <u>After worship Adult Bible Study - Reformation</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	10 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>2:30-3:30pm Lenten Bible Study (N)</u> 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	11 <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>	12 <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 Worship Committee (CR)</u> <u>5:30pm - 6:45pm Choir Practice (MR)</u> <u>6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scouts (L)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:00pm Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</u>	13 11:00am - 4:30pm Cello Charly (MR) <u>5:30pm - 6:30pm 12 Step (HS)</u> <u>6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:00pm Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</u>	14 <u>2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR)</u> <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (MR)</u> <u>8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)</u>	15 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
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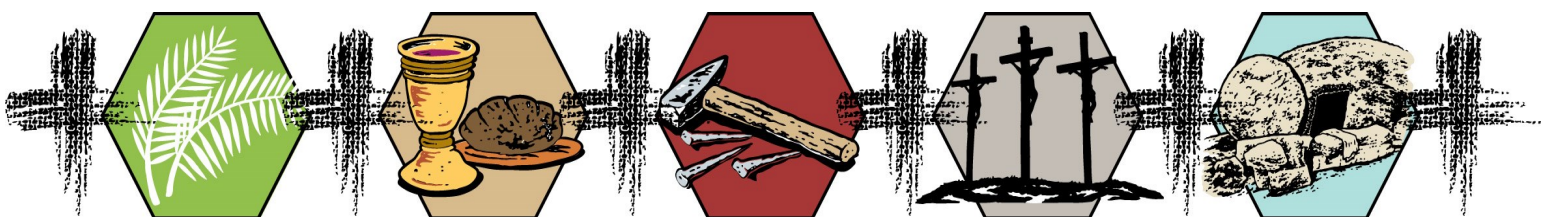
Lent at UCPC

We begin the Lenten journey March 5, following Jesus to the cross and His resurrection.

Ash Wednesday – UCPC congregants are encouraged this year to attend church services and imposition of ashes March 5 at other churches in the area, including Christ Lutheran (7pm), Fairbanks Lutheran (10am, 7pm), First Presbyterian (7pm), First United Methodist (7pm), St. Matthews Episcopal (noon, 5:50pm), and Zion Lutheran (6pm).

Lenten Studies – There are multiple opportunities for a spiritual tune-up during Lent this year. Ron Illingworth's class after worship on Sundays begins a series on church creeds starting March 9. The Monday afternoon (2:30pm) book study will convert from a women's every other week class to an all-are-welcome weekly class starting March 10 based on the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield. For those looking for something more self-guided, we will email weekly guides based on *Lent in Plain Sight* that can be used with or without a copy of the book. Some hard copies of the guide will be available in the narthex. Copies of the book will also be available in the narthex; please share if convenient and donate \$10 to cover the book and shipping costs if you are able.

Holy Week – Coming in April, Holy Week will have many opportunities, including:
April 13 - Palm/Passion Sunday worship with palms and Communion
April 17 - Maundy Thursday Seder meal lead by Pastor Lois
April 18 - Good Friday self-guided meditative slide presentation in sanctuary
April 20 - Easter Sunday morning breakfast, worship, and Communion



Upcoming Events

February-May—Pastor Erika on leave

3/9—Ash Wednesday

3/9—Daylight Savings time begins

3/16—Worship Service with Communion

4/13—Palm Sunday

4/17—Maundy Thursday—Seder Meal

4/18—Good Friday—Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary

4/20—Easter Sunday

4/27—Invite a Friend to Church Potluck
(TENTATIVE)

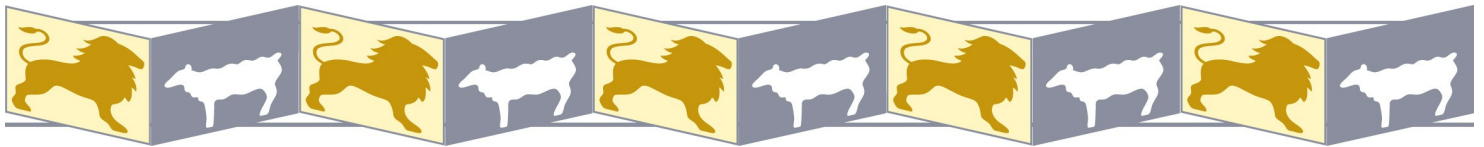
5/5—Pastor Erika returns!

SHOUT OUT

**to Trish Stark, Doreen McNeill
and Janet Brower,**

**For shoveling the porch after
Women's Bible Study.**

Your hard work is appreciated!



INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH MONTH

April will have a focus of inviting a friend (or friends) to church. We encourage you to think about why you are here and why it is important to you. Don't you think you have a friend who might want to be a part of what we have – the love of Jesus – who might want to join us? Part of Rev. Curt Karns' sermon the last week of February touched on this. In March, we will be presenting ideas of how one might want to invite someone. We thought April would be a good time to emphasize inviting someone, especially since Easter is in April this year. We will have cards for you to give as an invitation as well as flyers to post around the building and possibly on campus as well. There will be a follow-up luncheon later and other ideas of how to encourage people to continue attending UCPC. We hope that you find someone that you think will enjoy the fellowship that we share at UCPC, but more importantly, the fellowship and love of Jesus Christ.

The following are the *draft* minutes of the February 27, 2025, Session meeting. The various committee reports can be obtained by calling the church office at (907) 479-6728 or contacting admin@ucpcfairbanks.org.

February 27 at 6:30 pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge

Opening prayer – Rev. Curt Karns opened in prayer at 6:34 pm.

Scripture and Devotion — Roger Smith led a devotion written by John Ogden Sr., of the Christian Motorcycle Club. It was based on Acts 11:22-24.

A quorum was declared.

Present: Rev. Curt Karns, Doreen McNeill, Matthew Bierer, Joe Krizek, Jim Durst, Roger Smith, Pat Babcock, Marji Illingworth, and Paula Long.

Guest: Deacon Lynne Krizek

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

Approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2025 Session meeting

Receipt of Written Reports (if received):

Pastor

Clerk of Session

Elder Commissioner Report

Finance & Stewardship

Mission and Outreach

Personnel

Worship

Deacons

Building Stewards

Faith Development

Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership

Mission & Vision ad hoc committee

Nominating

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report

Comments from the Congregation.

Lynne Krizek noted that she is trouble-shooting the problems with ProPresenter, the software that projects hymns, scriptures, announcements, and captions on the video recording during worship. Issues are unlikely to be resolved before Sunday.

Matthew Bierer passed on information from the Admin Assistant that she would like a list of who will be producing the "pastor's note" in the newsletter. Session determined that **Roger will do the piece in March, and Marji will do April.**

Correspondence: Correspondence was received from Rev. Jeanie Shaw, Ministry Engagement Advisor with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She thanked UCPC for the church's gifts which provide critical financial assistance to those in need.

Clerk's Report. The clerk pointed to the elder commissioner report and correspondence received.

New Business:

Ad Hoc Mission and Vision Committee Report. The Mission and Vision Committee members are Kathy Dohner, Jim Durst, Kieran Kauffman, Donita Lawhead, and Kathy Taylor Yokel. They reported that they have a drafted a mission and vision statement for UCPC, based on discernment work guided by Rev. Heather James and led by the session. The draft Mission and Vision of UCPC are as follows:

MISSION

Alive in Christ, we invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in discipleship through Word, prayer, and service.

VISION

To accomplish this Mission, we will:

1. Faithfully share and teach the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world.
2. Joyfully worship and praise God with various styles of music, prayer, and teaching.
3. Study scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, incorporating lessons learned into our daily lives.
4. Through Christ, serve people inside and outside our church building by sharing our time, talents, and resources
5. Provide a loving, caring, and supportive community, so all may experience an abundant life of hope, peace, and joy.

Motion from committee: To **adopt this Mission and Vision Statement**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

It was moved and seconded to **dismiss this ad hoc committee with thanks and halleluiahs for their thoughtful, thorough, and prayerful good work**. The motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Jim outlined Lenten happenings and suggestions from the Worship Committee. It was **agreed** that the **church's Lenten study will be *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield**. It has both individual and group study options. The Women's Bible Study group recently finished a study, so Doreen offered the **Women's Bible Study Time at 2:30 pm Mondays for at least one group time for this study**.

Motion from Worship Committee: **To have a Maundy Thursday Seder meal in the Fellowship Hall on the evening of April 17, led by Commissioned Pastor, Lois Hildenbrand**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Motion from Finance Committee: **That the hygiene grant line item be used up to buy hygiene supplies for clients of "the Door" youth shelter, if Mission and Outreach Committee agrees**. Expenditures on the hygiene grant ceased several years ago even though the balance is \$854.25. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition. The session's determination will be **forwarded to the Mission and Outreach committee for their approval and, if appropriate, action**.

It was moved and seconded that **Jim, Pat, and Marjie will discuss a plan to update bulletin boards and incorporate Cyndee into the discussion and work, as she is able**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Old Business

Curt updated the session on invite a friend Month (April) and plans to update the congregation. The plan includes a brunch on April 27, after church in the narthex. On March 2 we will receive a flier, and there will be an article in the March newsletter. All members and usual friends are encouraged to wear their nametags so that newcomers can be connected to us.

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.

Meeting Schedule

 Next meetings:

March 6 Deacon's Meeting @ 5:15 pm: Session representative is **Pat Babcock**

March 20 at 6:30 pm: in-person regular Session meeting, Moderator is **Lois Hildenbrand**.

March Devotional and Elder of the Month: **Pat Babcock**

It was moved to ADJOURN at 8:15 pm. Curt Karns led the closing prayer.



Update on Ryan and Alethia White as PCUSA changes to World Mission

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are writing because of some internal changes that the Presbyterian Church USA is undergoing, which will affect our work. You may have read about changes to World Mission within the Interim Unified Agency (IUA), but we wanted to take a moment to send a personal

message.

While global ministry will be continuing in a new way, the ministry area of World Mission is closing. As of the end of March, we will no longer be working in capacity as Regional Liaisons on behalf of PCUSA. We are very much going to miss the partnerships and relationships we have built over the time and been able to share with you.

The new model for Global Engagement is expected to have staff serving as Global Ecumenical Liaisons and we expect [that] more information about the new model and these positions will be shared by the IUA in the future. (Below are two articles written to describe the process.)*

Our current plans are to remain in Berlin through the end of the school year in late July and then return to Richmond, Virginia where we spent the 2023/24 school year. We are grateful for the time and compensation we have been given to make this transition.

If you wish to stay in contact with us after March, our personal email is: alethia.ryan@gmail.com

*Email Muffie for the articles mentioned in this announcement: mmdurstak@gmail.com.



**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!**



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

Stop telling God
HOW BIG YOUR STORM IS.
Instead, tell the storm
HOW BIG YOUR
GOD
IS!