

MAY 2025



Matthew Bierer 5/8

Kathy Taylor Yokel 5/9

Cal and Laura Morton 5/25

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 Session

Vision for the Future

Sometimes I enjoy the poetic language of the King James Version of the Bible. For example, Proverbs 29:18a says *Where there is no vision, the people perish*. Other translations use *run wild* or *scatter* rather than *perish*, but the point remains: when we as the people of God have no unifying vision of where we are going or why, we soon become unfocused and tend to scatter in multiple directions. It's just human nature.

Page 2 of this newsletter has an article explaining the UCPC 2025 Mission & Vision Statement that was adopted by the session as a unifying vision of where we believe God is calling UCPC in this time and place. Recall that you all spent considerable time answering survey questions placed in the bulletin, and then discussing and summarizing your opinions, hopes, fears, and wishes at a series of meetings in the fellowship hall. At the annual meeting, you received a summary of all that information then elected a group that used it in the development of the new Mission & Vision Statement.

In this transitional time between permanent pastors, our task is to discern what God is calling us to. One important part of that process will occur in the next month or so, when everyone will be invited to participate in visioning our future. Looking ahead five years, what do you see happening at a healthy and vibrant UCPC? What characteristics will the pastor at that time have that will help us reach that season of abundance? Please share with the session what God is placing on your hearts either at the visioning meeting or separately.

UCPC has been blessed to have Pastor Erika with us the past two years as supply pastor, and we are excited to welcome her back from family leave this month. As she continues to serve and guide us, the session will be working with your visioning responses to discern God's plan for UCPC. Then we will strive to carry that vision forward as we form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that will prepare the paperwork to call a permanent pastor. The PNC process will likely become active in the fall.

Please reach out to the session if you have comments, questions, or concerns. There are several ways you can contact us. Our areas of responsibility and phone numbers are on the back of this newsletter. Comments from the congregation are always welcome at 7:00pm during each session meeting, typically held the third Thursday of each month in the student lounge.

To God be the glory for the past, the present, and the future of UCPC.

Elder Jim Durst for the UCPC Session

What's a Mission & Vision Statement, and Does It Really Matter?

While reading the lower half of this page, you probably noticed that UCPC has an updated Mission & Vision statement and may be wondering, “So what? Where did the change come from, and does it really matter? It’s just more words.”

It’s more than just words. The UCPC 2025 Mission & Vision Statement was carefully and prayerfully developed by a team of five people you elected at the November annual meeting of the congregation, and is an extension of all the written and spoken input you provided in survey questions and group meetings last year.

The team quickly agreed that we wanted the new Statement to be accessible to, and directed toward, those both inside and outside our congregation who might be wondering what UCPC is all about and where we are headed. The new Statement attempts to be short, to the point, active, and with a minimum of “churchy” language. Is it perfect? No. This Statement is a consensus document developed through active discussions and times of prayer, and was agreed to by all team members. As such, we each had to compromise on what we might have preferred over what was important. The team’s greatest contribution may not be the document itself, but rather our modeling of unity as the whole body of Christ.

The UCPC 2025 Mission & Vision Statement was adopted by the Session and serves as policy guidance for this congregation as we move forward, seeking what God has planned for us. We urge you to spend some time carefully reading and reflecting on it; then ask God what part you are being called to play in the next great adventure at UCPC.

Jim Durst, for the 2025 UCPC Mission & Vision Committee



UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission and Vision Statement – 2025

MISSION

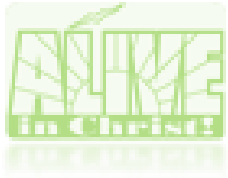
Alive in Christ, we invite all to faith in Jesus Christ and growth in discipleship through Word, prayer, and service.

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



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am</u> <u>Worship Service (S)</u> 12:00pm - 4:00pm Invite a Friend Pot-luck tentative Nar-thex/FH&K/SL 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	28 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	29 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) 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step AA (L)	30 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)	1 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>	2 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm</u> <u>Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	3 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
4 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am</u> <u>Worship Service (S)</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	5 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> 5:15pm - 6:00pm Sound Team (S) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS)	6 <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>	7 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>	8 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>	9 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm</u> <u>Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	10 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)
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25 9:30am - 10:15am Adult Bible Study (FH) <u>10:30am - 11:30am</u> <u>Worship Service (S)</u> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Grace Church (S) 6:00pm - 7:00pm 12 Step (MR)	26 Memorial Day 11:00am - 5:00pm Laurie Long (HS) 12:00pm - 6:00pm Cello Charly (MR) 6:00pm - 9:30pm Grace Church (HS) OFFICE CLOSED	27 <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>	28 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>	29 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>	30 2:00pm - 4:00pm Four Winds (MR) <u>6:30pm - 9:30pm</u> <u>Grace Church (MR)</u> 8:00pm - 10:00pm 12 Step NA (L)	31 1:00pm - 4:00pm D & D (FH Classroom)



Women's Book Study

Meeting May 5 and 19 at 2:30PM, in the Narthex

Bring your Bible!



Building and Grounds Update

This month, water issues have predominated our concerns.

The faucet near the cry room was repaired to stop a leak.

The choir room floor got wet, probably due to water running down the outside of a roof drain pipe. It is possible that the seal around a roof drain has cracked. The issue did not last long and was handled by running a fan to dry the area.

Water draining from the east side of the roof of the older section of the building collects in the corner made with the new section of the building. Some water has been entering the building and collecting under the stairs before leaking out at the base of the stairs. The issue was addressed by running a sump pump in a hole at the corner of the building and vacuuming up the water on the floor, inside. The problem may be over for now.

The Building Stewards will meet to discuss possible solutions to these problems.

~ Matthew Bierer

Upcoming Events

5/5—Pastor Erika returns!

TBD—Church Clean Up Day—watch for an email with more information!

5/11—Communion Sunday (Pastor Erika officiating)
Mother's Day

5/18—Graduate Recognition

5/15—Elder and Deacon Training (6PM)
Session Meeting (6:30PM)

5/22—Quarterly Planning Meeting (3:30-7:30PM)

5/26—Memorial Day—Church office CLOSED

Giant Shout Out to all those

who filled in for Pastor Erika

during her leave:

Curt Karns—James Menaker—David
Moore—Lois Hildenbrand

And, behind the scenes, the Worship
Committee: Jim Durst—Kathy Dohner—
Roger Smith



Yay!

Pastor Erika will be
back in the office on
May 5!!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thanks to all who contributed
to the Easter offering.
This year we collected

\$2237.43

The following are the *draft* minutes of the April 24, 2025, Session meeting. The various committee reports can be obtained by calling the church office at (907) 479-6728 or contacting admin@ucpcfairbanks.org.

Scripture and Devotion — Doreen McNeill led a devotion on Colossians 3:11, and planting the seed of faith in unexpected circumstances.

Opening prayer – Commissioned Pastor Lois Hildenbrand

A quorum was declared.

Present: Commissioned Pastor (CP) Lois Hildenbrand, Doreen McNeill, Matthew Bierer, Jim Durst, Roger Smith, Pat Babcock, Marji Illingworth.

Absent: Paula Long

Guest: Deacon Janet Johnson

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

The Docket, as amended

The Minutes of the March 20, 2025 meeting of the Session, as amended

Acknowledge receipt of Written Reports: Clerk of Session

Building Stewards

Elder Commissioner Report

Faith Development

Finance & Stewardship

Hospitality, Fellowship & Membership

Mission and Outreach

Worship

Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Orders of the Day (7 p.m.)

Deacons' report. Janet gave the deacons report. Deacons were thanked for their tireless service.

Comments from the Congregation. No comments were received by the clerk and no one was present to comment.

Clerk's Report. In addition to the written report, Doreen noted that she received a notice from the State of Alaska reminding UCPC to update the board of directors for UCPC, Inc.

New Business:

Elder Training – Doreen provided an overview of the PCUSA disciplinary process, referring session members to the Church Discipline portion of the Book of Order.

Discussion of committee reports

Clerk's report – The Presbyterian youth work-group from Wisconsin will be arriving Sunday June 8 at about 11:00 pm. Session members volunteered for the following tasks. Doreen will ask the congregation for help with other tasks.

Matthew Bierer volunteered to **greet** them at the airport (they will rent a 15-passenger van) and show them to UCPC, orient them to the building, kitchen, provide a key, map of city, be a point-of-contact in case of emergency/problems/questions (through Wednesday)

Lois Hildenbrand volunteered to drop off **breakfast** items for the first morning

Matthew Bierer volunteered to help them **orient** to Fairbanks (They will be working at/with The Door on Monday), and point the way to Bingle Camp where they will work on Tuesday and spend the night.

Matthew Bierer and Jim Durst will guide and work with them on any **projects at UCPC** identified by Building Stewards on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Still needed:

Someone to guide them on making **breakfast burritos** for The Door on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

The group will spend either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday helping to **paint the Korean Presbyterian Church sanctuary**.

Mission Committee: Elders were reminded to bring food for April 27 potluck

Worship Committee: it was moved and seconded to have **Worship on the Porch on June 15 (Trinity Sunday/Father's Day) if the way be clear with Pastor Erika**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

It was moved and seconded to **transfer Norma Wivoda's membership to the Delta Presbyterian Church with regret and blessings**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition. The clerk will send the transfer. Motion from Personnel and Finance committees: to **increase Pastor Erika's salary (by 5%) to \$3858.75 per month for 25 hours per week, beginning with the new contract (June 1, 2025)**. It was moved and seconded to **AMEND** the motion to \$3,900 per month. Amendment was **APPROVED** with no opposition. Final motion, to **increase Pastor Erika's salary to \$3,900 per month for 25 hours per week, beginning with the new contract (June 1, 2025)**. Final Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition. According to session members' calculations, the original motion did not meet the Presbytery of Yukon's minimum terms of call.

It was moved and seconded to **provide pastor Ollie Bergh with an honorarium of \$250.00 from the new Emergency Needs account for presiding over Richard Polzen's memorial service, if he has not been paid by the family**. Motion was **APPROVED** with no opposition.

Old Business

Transitional tasks

Jim has written an article for the May newsletter that seeks to better engage the congregation with the updated Mission and Vision Statement and make them feel part of its development. **Jim** will write a Note from the Session for the front of the May newsletter to further engage and update the congregation in the pastoral transition process including the next steps.

The **session** will schedule a Visioning the Future gathering for the congregation to provide feedback as the way be clear.

Jim will begin drafting a summary of the process that the session can present to the Presbytery's Ministry Commission in the hopes that UCPC can elect a Pastor Nominating Committee in the fall and begin the pastor search process.

The **session** began a discussion on how to create and operate a committee to increase informal communication between the pastor and the congregation and provide care and support for the pastor. Discussions will continue.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

May 1 Deacon's Meeting @ 5:15 pm: Session representative is Matthew Bierer

May 15 at 6:30 pm: in-person regular Session meeting, Moderator is Pastor Erika Bergh!

May 22 at 3:30 pm: In-person Session and Deacon quarterly planning meeting

May Devotional is Roger Smith and Elder of the Month: **Matthew Bierer**

It was moved to **ADJOURN** at 8:39 pm. Lois Hildenbrand led the closing prayer.

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 on leave until May 5, 2025



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

