



UCPC Community Care Line

NOVEMBER 2023

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

A Note from the Pastor

November Birthdays

Dan Solie	11-2
Tycho Talbot	11-5
David Rohwer	11-8
Nathan McKay	11-13
Susan Carothers	11-18
Larry Johnson	11-21
Lynne Kryzek	11-25
Lois Hildenbrand	11-26
Donna Davidson	11-28
Jim Durst	11-29

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

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“Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.”

These words have been rattling around in my head since Sunday, October 15th when I attended worship at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Anchorage. Pastor Sandy preached part of her sermon from a seated position in a rocking chair. Her words, combined with the visual image, were striking.

The range of things we worry about is broad, from the simple and superficial (but no less overwhelming!) to the deep, profound, and survival-provoked. We worry about how we'll afford groceries; what we'll wear for the first day of a new job or on a first date; what people will think of us because our garden isn't free of weeds or the sidewalk isn't free of snow; what grade we'll get on an assignment or test; whether we'll be safe to go to school or a certain location; whether so-and-so made it home okay after they left our dinner party; whether our rights will be stripped from us; whether our church can afford a pastor or how membership has dwindled; whether we're worthy of love; how to have a hard conversation with a loved one; and the list goes on.

God has given me a theme over the past month. At Youth Group on October 8th we explored with the 6 teens from 4 churches about justice for the Earth and what God's relationship with the Earth looks like.

During this discussion, Pastor Ollie of Fairbanks Lutheran highlighted Jesus' words from Matthew 6:25-34 wherein Jesus invites his listeners to consider the lilies of the field and how they live worry-free, fully provided for by God. Pastor Ollie asked us to learn from the lilies and to not worry so much about tomorrow. Likewise, at Presbytery, Pastor Leisa, the Interim Executive Presbyter, encouraged the newly elected and installed Executive Presbyter, Pastor Elizabeth Schultz to FROG: “Fully Rely On God.” As she gifted EP Elizabeth with a porcelain frog, Pastor Leisa reminded us all that sometimes life and ministry is just too hard for one person to do alone, or even one church to do on its own. In those times we need to look to the frogs and remember to Fully Rely On God so that God can do the work that needs to be done once we get out of the way.

Session has been discussing the growth and health of UCPC; understandably, Session worries about membership size and desires to welcome new and younger members to the congregation. While this

discussion is good, I have invited the Session to read a book with me called *The Invitational Christian*, which explores what it means to be an inviting church that can welcome and support new people in our midst. This book encourages its readers to focus less on the number of people in a church and focus instead on all the ways the church is flourishing. And UCPC is flourishing! I first walked through the doors of UCPC on Sunday October 16, 2022 (over a year ago!) to supply preach while then Commissioned Pastor Lois was out with COVID. My first thoughts upon entering your parking lot and building were NOT “yikes, this church is in trouble or is dying.” NO! It was the exact opposite. My breath was taken away at the amount of energy buzzing in the space and in the air. It felt as though I was literally breathing in the Holy Spirit’s energy just by being in your presence. As a church, you felt so alive and full of vitality that I came away from that service feeling renewed and refreshed in my faith in a way I hadn’t in several years. I was eager for an invite back.

I have since learned that that first impression was not a one-off unique experience. I have experienced this over and over, every time I am with you, like at our incredible Faith and Fellowship Potluck this past month.

We don’t need to worry about UCPC. We need to tell people that there is a faith community known as University Community Presbyterian Church that is alive, loving, and full of energy! As Session explores the ideas *The Invitational Christian* has, I invite you ponder how UCPC continues to energize you. That energy, not worry, is what God is focused on and can use.

Blessings!!

- Pastor Erika Bergh

**Finance Committee Meets
Monday, November 13, from 5:15 to 6:30PM
in the Conference Room.**

September 2023

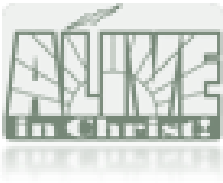
Dear Pastor Erika and University Community Presbyterian Church,

I find myself back in NY and thankful to have survived the long trip. My husband met me in Albany with a carry on which contained a huge salmon in need of urgent attention. I suppose I am not the first person carting fish from Alaska. The fish, a gift of Libby Dalton, made the trip fine and was enjoyed by all, even the cat.

I especially want to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome, particularly in the use of the piano and those of you who gave me rides. Several of the [UCPC members] were spotted at my September 13th concert. Thanks for the support.

As the year winds into the holidays and winter, next spring seems far far away. So much can change and so much has already changed. May I only hope to be with you again in 2024.

*Yours in Christ,
Alice Nielsen-Shane*



November 2023



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>29</p> <p>Reformation Sunday 9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:30PM - 7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Reformation Day 6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day 2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:30PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30 - 7PM Deacons Meeting (CR) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) Following Service - Annual Meeting (FH) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5 - 6PM Sound Team Meeting (S)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10 - 11AM Mission & Outreach (CR) 2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement) 7 - 8PM Worship Committee (CR)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day 1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:15PM Finance (CR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30 12 Step (HS) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement) 6:30PM Session (SL)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 3:30-5:30PM Thanksgiving Potluck (FH) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:30 - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30 - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2 - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7 - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30 - 7PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 6:30 - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30 - 9PM Great Land Sound(MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:30PM - 6:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 4 - 6PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30 - 6:45PM Choir (MR) 6 - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6 - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:30AM - 4PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30 - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30 - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2 - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30 - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8 - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1 - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>

The following is a summary of the October 2023 UCPC Session meeting minutes. If you would like to read the minutes in their entirety, including the various committee reports, they are available in the Church Office, or by request via email. Contact admin@ucpcfairbanks.org or call 907-479-6728.

Minutes
Stated Meeting of Session
University Community Presbyterian Church
October 26, 2023, Student Lounge

Present: Moderator Rev. Erika Bergh; elders Roger Smith, Matthew Bierer, Joe Krizek, Jerry McBeath, Pat Babcock, Paula Long and via Zoom: Doreen McNeill (Clerk).

Guest: Deacon Sarah Lanstra

Moderator Rev. Erika Bergh opened the meeting at 6:33PM.

Scripture and Devotion: Paula presented a devotion on Psalm 24.

Prayer: Rev. Bergh led an opening prayer.

Quorum: The clerk declared a quorum.

Consent Calendar: The consent calendar consists of

docket, as amended prior to the meeting.

pastor's report

committee reports

September 21, 2023 session minutes.

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent calendar. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Orders of the Day (7:00PM)

Deacons' report Sarah Lanstra gave the deacons' report, including potlucks. Deacons were thanked for their tireless work.

Comments from the Congregation No in-person comments were received.

Clerk's Report Correspondence received from: Alice Nielsen-Shane and from Jane Steeves. Alice thanked the congregation for their generosity. Jane requested to be removed from the rolls.

At their request, the clerk wrote a letter of transfer for Ruth and Carl Benson, transferring their membership to Fairbanks Lutheran Church (ELCA).

Family leave of 12 weeks, as required by latest Book of Order, are added to the 2024 minimum terms of call for called-and-installed pastors in the Presbytery of Yukon. This means churches must allow 12 weeks of family leave for called-and-installed pastors. Family Leave is defined as leave to accommodate the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child; leave to provide care to an ill or disabled family member; and leave to heal following a loss or tragic event. See attached document for sample language. Presbytery of Yukon is also working on minimum terms of call for supply pastors. It is likely to be similar to the terms of call for installed pastors. Both of these documents will be updated by February, 2024.

New Business:

PC(USA) calendars were distributed to session members who requested them. Calendars for deacons who requested them were given to Sarah Lanstra to distribute.

It was moved and seconded to remove elder Jane Steeves from the rolls, per her request. Motion

was approved by unanimous consent. Doreen will write a letter to Jane confirming this action. Rev. Bergh appointed Doreen McNeill as temporary moderator and stepped out of the room. Pastor Bergh returned and resumed her role as moderator.

It was moved and seconded to forward the part-time pastor terms of call for 2024 to the congregation for the November 5 Congregational Meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous consent. There was agreement that it is unlikely that the church can afford a full-time interim pastor at this time, especially in conjunction with the associated cost of moving that person from the lower 48.

It was agreed to *investigate* having a facilitator/consultant work with the session and congregation to accomplish the goals normally accomplished by an interim pastor. The interim pastor search subcommittee will investigate, and report back to the session. The finance committee will consider potential costs. This work will help UCPC look into the future and envision a plan of action for living out God's will for our congregation. It is not only helpful, but a requirement by the Presbytery of Yukon that congregations that are in transition (such as UCPC) take a good look at where they are, where God is calling them, and a plan to get there.

Personnel committee members Roger Smith and Muffie Durst conducted the 6-month performance review for the Administrative Assistant, Melissa Bierer. **Motion from committee: Melissa Bierer receive a \$1/hour pay increase. Motion approved by unanimous consent (Matthew Bierer recused himself from the performance review, session discussion and voting.)**

It was agreed that UCPC's Elder Commissioner to Presbytery, Paula Long, will give a report to the congregation about the October Presbytery meeting on a Sunday of Paula and Pastor Erika's choosing.

Old Business

The Invitational Christian. Pastor Erika handed out these books. Session members were asked to read the book by November 16, for discussion at the November session meeting.

Meeting Schedule Next meeting: November 16, 6:30PM in the second floor student lounge.

November Devotional and Elder of the Month: Matthew Bierer

Adjourn Closing prayer was led by Rev. Bergh and the meeting adjourned at 8:07PM.



**November Elder of the month is:
Matthew Bierer**

**November Deacon of the month is:
Donita Lawhead**



UCPC
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP
**THANKSGIVING
POTLUCK**

NOV. 19, 2023 | 3:30-5:30 PM

The annual UCPC Thanksgiving Potluck is BACK! Last month's potluck was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun, and we're looking forward to an even bigger gathering this month. The traditional turkey sign-up is out in the Narthex, and as always, last names determine what to bring:

A—H—Vegetable

I—N Dessert

O—Z Salad



In everything
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

November's Procession of the Church Year Colors

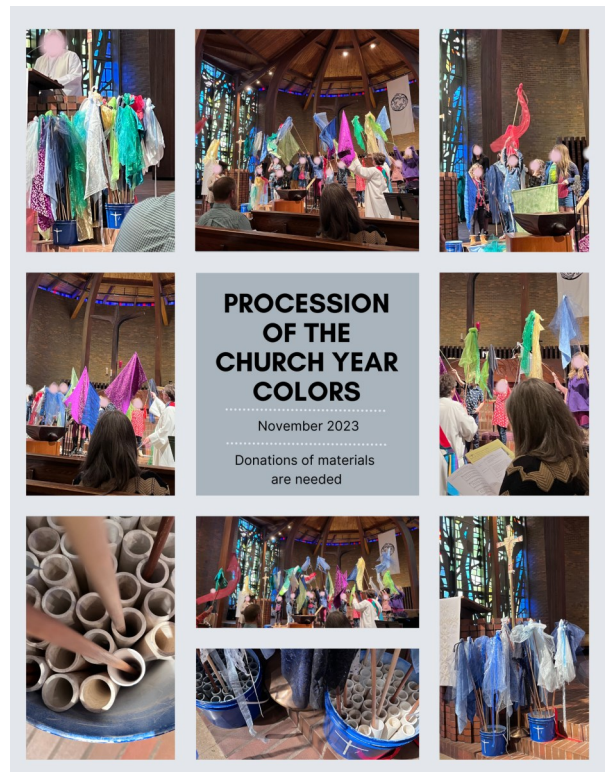
Sunday, November 26th is the "New Year's Eve" of the church year since a new church year begins with Advent, the following Sunday. To celebrate the completion of another year in our life of faith we'll be doing a "**Procession of the Church Year Colors**" during worship on **November 26th**.

For this procession, we are creating banners/flags/streamers/pennants to wave and process in worship. **We will assemble the flags at the potluck event on November 19th**. However, we still need some donations of fabric and ribbons by **November 12th** so we have time to prep them for assembly. There is a designated bin in the Narthex for donations.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated some wonderful fabrics! **We still need LOTS of GREEN fabrics and ribbons** to help us remember the seasons of the church year following Pentecost and Epiphany [Ordinary Time] (otherwise known as the growing seasons of the church year, which follow Jesus' life and ministry in general). Plain fabrics are ideal (but they can have simple, delicate, or faint patterns). Shiny, silky, or textured plain fabrics are great! We need one yard of fabric per flag, or about one- to two-foot long strips of ribbon.

Other materials we still need:

- o 2 large **paint buckets (These will not be returned.)**
- o **PVC pipes** that can be cut into short tubes (to fit inside the paint buckets)



Shout Out!



In October, we had our first potluck in ages, and it was a lovely time! Thanks go to Will Haight for his optimistic generosity with regard to food, and his fun artwork! We also thank Marji Illingworth for her contributions to the fun, even though she couldn't join us!



It's that time!! Snow shoveling volunteers are urgently needed to keep the sidewalks, handicap ramp and stairs safe for the next several months. Weekly sign up sheet in the Narthex, on the Garage Guys bench.



Campbell
"There'll be a special called board meeting concerning the recent generous contribution of stock."

Building and Grounds Update

The gas boiler is now operating and we are off oil.

Beckley Mechanical has several punch list items to address and the controls contractor has to do a final set-up for the boiler controls

The UCPC Annual Meeting will be held
November 5, 2023
 in the Fellowship Hall, immediately after
 worship. Coffee & Fellowship Hour will follow,
 also in the Fellowship Hall.



UCPC Finance Report

October 2023 as of 10/15

2023 Year-to-Date through 10/15

Income	\$6928	\$213030
Expense	(\$5067)	(\$154855)
Net	\$1861	\$58175

Women's Bible Study

Will meet November 6 and 20, at the new time
 of 2:30-3:20 P.M., in the Narthex.



Rooted in Love: Fall 2023 Stewardship Update

Thanks to the members and friends who have turned in their pledge cards—so far we have received 27 cards, totaling \$174,260 in pledges.

Thank you for all the love and prayers! After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in July, my sister Lodine Pratt, did pass away in mid October. I had gone out and spent quality time with her in September, I am so grateful for that. She was a Christian and knew she was going to heaven, so was amazingly calm as time went on.

Thank you again for your condolences and prayers.

Donita Lawhead

Join us this fall and early winter for youth group! Youth in grades 8-12 (plus siblings of close ages) are invited to gather once a month on Second Sundays from 3-5pm for Service, Learning, and Fun!

UCPC is partnering with Christ Lutheran, Fairbanks Lutheran, and Lord of Life Lutheran to offer a robust and fun learning experience where we can connect topical issues with God's Word—PLUS have fun!

UCPC hosted the first event on October 8th, with 6 young people present. Everyone enjoyed some good discussion and a mean game of Pictionary.

Christ Lutheran is hosting the next event on November 12, from 3-5PM. Come join us as we explore what God has to say about issues of justice and food.

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 - Friday

Pastor Erika is in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

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	388-0544	Clerk of Session
Jerry McBeath ('23)	479-2870	Finance and Stewardship; Nominating
Paula Long ('23)	687-7444	Fellowship; Hospitality and Membership
Roger Smith ('23)	322-2595	Worship
Joe Krizek ('24)	460-4294	Building Stewards
Pat Babcock ('25)	978-7187	Faith Development
Matthew Bierer ('25)	474-0106	Personnel

Board of Deacons

Donita Lawhead ('23)	455-6849	President
Carol Nielsen ('25)	388-8154	Vice President
Sarah Lanstra ('25)	378-3929	Treasurer
Melissa Bierer ('24)	687-5037	Secretary
Janet Johnson ('24)	687-7148	At-large
Will Haight ('25)	978-9679	At-large

Worship Service Leaders

Matthew Bierer	Video Manager
Kathy Dohner	Organist/Pianist
Curtis McNeill	Sound Manager
Theresa Reed	Choir Director

I will praise
the name
of God

with a song, and will
magnify him
with

Thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30, NKJV

