



OCTOBER 2023

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

What Kinds of Things Can Your Pastor Do For You? – Home Blessings!

Blessing a home is a celebration of vocation in the deepest and broadest sense. We thank God for the gift of a home while honoring the ways people practice their faith in their life at home: chores and hobbies, cooking and eating, ways of relaxing, relationships within the household and beyond it, caring for our bodies, connecting with animals and creation, and much more.

Home Blessings may be done when people move into a new residence and at other times. Besides the geographical moves that households make, other examples include moving into a nursing home or a dormitory room. The service may also be used to mark a change in the membership of a household: for example, an elderly parent moves in with younger relatives; a foster child comes into the home; or a single-parent household is formed after a divorce. Home blessings can also be done if the dwelling, or a place within it, has been touched by turmoil or conflict, destruction, fear, or violence, and needs a restoration of peace. In some traditions, a blessing for a home is an annual observance—for example, during the time after Epiphany.

Home Blessings may take place in private with just the members of the household and the pastor. Or a Home Blessing may be paired with an event like an Open House where many friends and extended family, community members, or even the whole congregation come and help bless each room, cupboard, toilet, and space; afterwards sharing in a potluck meal and time of fellowship.

The basic pattern of Home Blessings that I provide involves moving around the home and stopping at various places for scripture and prayer. Sometimes, at a Home Blessing, hymns are sung. Or symbols are also used to mark the journey, for instance: remembrances of baptism, such as carrying a candle from place to place or sprinkling water at each stopping place, recall that the life of the baptized is lived within these places; or carrying a cross from place to place, perhaps a cross that will hang on one of the walls, is a reminder that those who live here are called to follow in the way of the cross also in their daily lives.

If you are interested in a Home Blessing or know of someone who might be, please talk to me. Blessing homes is one of my favorite parts of ministry. I would be happy to accompany you in the journey of naming God's presence in your daily living spaces.

Blessings!!

- Pastor Erika Bergh



Lily Miller 10/3
Ruth Benson 10/17



Carl and Ruth Benson
October 8

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>World Communion Sunday 9:30AM-10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2PM - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7PM - 8PM 12-Step (MR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8AM - 3AM Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & K) 1:30-7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5PM - 6PM Sound Team Meeting (S)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8AM - 3AM Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & K) 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8AM - 3AM Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & K) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6PM - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6PM - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8AM - 3AM Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & K) 11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30PM - 7PM Deacons (CR) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8AM - 3AM Presbyterian Hospitality House Training (FH & Ki) 2PM - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1PM - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30AM-10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2PM - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7PM - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:30-7:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 2:30-3:30PM Women's Bible Study (N)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10AM - 11PM Mission & Outreach 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6PM - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6PM - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 6PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement) 7PM - 8PM Worship Committee (CR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>2PM - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1PM - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>
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<p>29</p> <p>Reformation Sunday 9:30AM-10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) 2PM - 4PM Grace Church (S) 7PM - 8PM 12 Step (MR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:30-7:00PM Cello Charly (MR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 6:30PM - 8PM Boy Scouts (CE) 6:30PM - 9PM Great Land Sounds (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step AA (L)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11AM - 12PM Mission & Outreach 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6PM - 7PM Girl Scouts (L) 6PM - 9PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30PM - 7PM Deacons (CR) 6PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2PM - 4PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8PM - 10PM 12 Step NA (L)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1PM - 4PM D & D (HS)</p>

The following is a summary of the September 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
September 21, 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 Janet Johnson and member Muffie Durst.

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

Scripture and Devotion: Jerry presented a devotion on Acts 20:17-35.

Quorum: The clerk declared a quorum.

Prayer: Rev. Bergh led the prayer.

Consent Calendar: The consent calendar consists of

docket

pastor's report

committee reports

Deacons' report

August 17, 2023, session minutes.

The docket and the nominating committee report were removed from the consent calendar to allow changes and discussion.

The August 17, 2023, session minutes were unanimously approved as presented. The Pastor's and Deacons' reports, and committee reports (other than the nominating committee report) were unanimously accepted, as presented.

The amended docket was approved by unanimous consent.

Orders of the Day (7:00PM)

Deacons' report: Janet Johnson gave the deacons' report. Deacons were thanked for their excellent service.

Comments from the Congregation: Muffie Durst asked about the status of the session's search for an Interim Pastor. Roger reported that when he last asked for matches to UCPC's profile, that there were no new candidates. Doreen reported that the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) computer system that UCPC uses to search for an interim pastor has undergone changes and both UCPC and applicants must create new profiles. Because of this, the number of pastors in the system is very low, and last week there were none seeking interim pastor positions. The Presbytery of Yukon Ministry Commission requires interim pastors to have interim pastor training. This also narrows the pool of applicants, but helps to ensure that they are equipped to help our church do the work needed to discern our needs and who we are as a congregation. Doreen will explore options for UCPC to complete a church mission study, other than by calling an interim pastor, and report back at the October session meeting.

New Business:

- It was moved and seconded **to accept with sorrow and with appreciation for his service, Larry**

Johnson's resignation from session. Motion was unanimously approved.

- It was moved and seconded to **transfer Carl and Ruth Benson's membership to Fairbanks Lutheran Church, with well-wishes, and considerable appreciation for their many years as members of UCPC. Motion was unanimously approved.**
- It was moved and seconded to **accept Marijo Larson into membership by affirmation of faith, with recognition and regret that it was not accomplished many years ago due to clerical errors on the part of UCPC. Motion was unanimously approved.** Pastor Erika will work with Marijo to find the best date for her to be welcomed by affirmation of faith.
- The Presbytery nominating committee is looking for an Elder Commissioner to the 226th General Assembly during June 25–July 4, 2024 in Salt Lake City. Roger will make this announcement on Sunday.
- The annual meeting details were set by general consent. **The annual meeting will occur in the fellowship hall on November 5, immediately following the service. There will be no meal, but normal fellowship activities will also be in the fellowship hall.** Building Stewards, Hospitality, and Deacons will be asked to assist with set-up and clean up.
- **The October session meeting was changed to October 26 (the 4th Thursday) due to scheduling conflicts.**
- RightNow Media. David Rohwer offered to pay for media material expenses for these Christian Education videos (mostly aimed at adults) to be used at UCPC. **Roger will work with David and will show a Christian Education video each month in the fellowship hall. Details to be announced.**
- **Greatland Sounds Concert at UCPC will be at 7PM on Sunday, December 17.**

The session briefly discussed nominating committee protocol. **The Nominating Committee Report was approved, as presented.**

Old Business

- Attracting new members. Pastor Erika had difficulty finding the book, *The Invitational Christian*, but was finally able to order it 2 days ago.

It was moved and seconded that, **all session members are encouraged to read draft newsletter, as soon as possible upon receiving it. If one member has concerns about any content, they are to email all session members with their concern(s). At least two members of session must propose a remedy to the concern(s) and notify the church Administrative Assistant, Session, the Pastor, and the author of the remedy. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

- Proposed building rental rates were tabled to the October meeting.

Meeting Schedule Next meeting: October 26, 6:30PM in the second floor student lounge.

October Devotional and Elder of the Month: Paula Long

Adjourn Closing prayer was led by Rev. Bergh

October Elder of the month is:

Paula Long

October Deacon of the month is:

Sarah Lanstra



We'll have a POTLUCK on October 22nd from 3:30-5:30PM with the theme of *faith ancestors*. Kids from 6 months to 99 year will enjoy this! Please join us for learning, fun, and dinner. For more information, please contact a member of the Faith Development Team (Pat Babcock, Marji Illingworth, Will Haight, and Pastor Erika)

November's Procession of the Church Year Colors

Sunday, November 26th is the "New Years Eve" of the church year since Advent begins a new church year, 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**.

To prepare for this procession, we'll be creating banners/flags/streamers/pennants to wave and process in worship. **We will assemble the flags at a potluck event on November 19th**. However, we will need donations of fabric and ribbons to create these flags by **November 5th** so we have time to prep them to be assembled. There will soon be a designated bin in the Narthex where donations may be placed. (Prep work prior to November 19th will be: cutting fabric donations into squares or rectangles, hemming the edges, and creating a pocket for the dowel to slide into on one side.)

The fabrics and ribbons we are looking for will be helping us remember the different seasons of the church year, so plain fabrics are ideal (but they can have delicate or faint patterns or textures). For instance, black fabric with Santas on it wouldn't be ideal, but black fabric with small gold flecks on it might work!

Materials we will need:

Fabric or Ribbons:

A half yard to a full yard of fabric per flag

Green – enough for a multitude of flags/banners/streamers/pennants

Commemorating Ordinary Time or the Time after Pentecost/Epiphany, the growing seasons, the times when we

follow Jesus' life and ministry in general.

Red – enough for 2 flags/banners/streamers/pennants

Commemorating the Sundays when we celebrate the Holy Spirit: Pentecost, Reformation, ordinations, etc.

Purple – enough for a multitude of flags/banners/streamers/pennants

Commemorating the six or so Sundays in Lent

Commemorating the four Sundays in Advent

Black – enough for 1 flag/banner/streamer/pennant

Commemorating Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross.

Gold – enough for 1 flag/banner/streamer/pennant

Commemorating Easter/Christmas, celebrating Christ's triumph over death.

White – enough for 3 flags/banners/streamers/pennants

Commemorating times when we celebrate heaven and earth drawing close: Holy Trinity Sunday, the Transfiguration, All Saints, Easter, Christmas, weddings, funerals, etc.

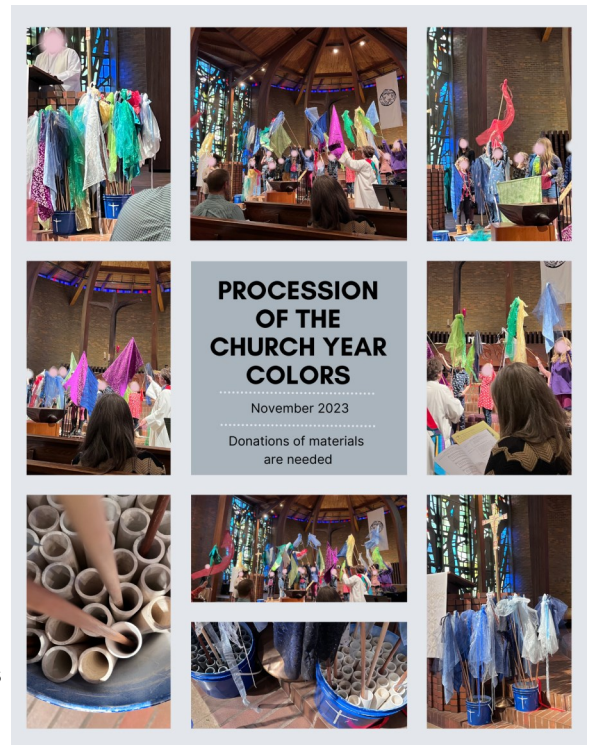
PS. Gold and white often go together

Other materials:

2 large paint buckets

PVC pipes that can be cut into short tubes (to fit inside the paint buckets)

20-25 dowels (1/2inch to 3/4inch in width and 2-3 feet long)





Shout Out!

Isa Smith has been an active and cherished member of the Fellowship and Hospitality Committee for 39 years!

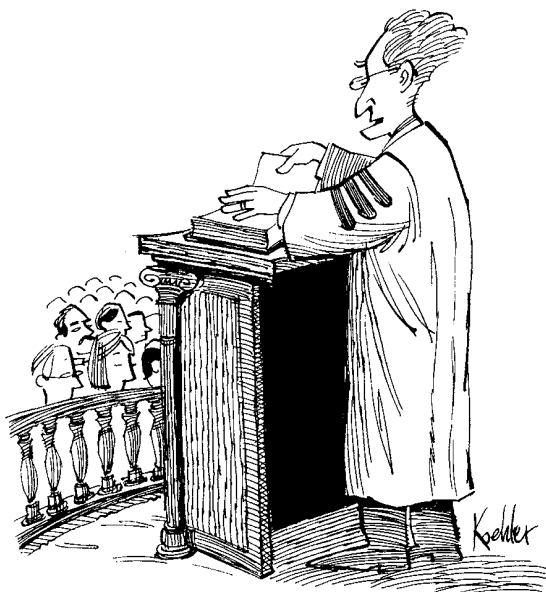


We pray that her retirement from the committee does not result in a lack of shortbread. Thank you, Isa!!

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 is hosting the first event on October 8th from 3-5pm. Come join us as we explore what God has to say about justice for the earth and care of creation.



"I've been asked to announce that the Presbyterian Tribe has been challenged by the Lutheran Tribe to a softball feat of strength"

Building and Grounds Update

The parking lot has been filled and graded. Jeremiah Moon & Son did a great job. No more potholes in the driveway!

The final DOT permit was received by IGU today. Gas piping and meter installation is scheduled for Oct-7. Afterwards Beckley Mechanical will complete the boiler installation and boiler start-up.

No response when UAF will be cleaning up the lot west of the parking lot.

Thanks to Jim Durst for taking care of some of the fall tasks—draining hoses and shutting off water of outside faucets; shutting off power to exterior outlets.

UCPC Finance Report

September 2023 as of 9/21

2023 Year-to-Date through 9/21

Income	\$5263	\$195453
Expense	(\$7375)	(\$145152)
Net	(\$4,173)	\$50301



Rooted in Love: Fall 2023 Stewardship Focus

Our Stewardship Focus draws inspiration from Psalm 1, “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” The Psalmist invites us to imagine all the good things we can bear when well planted. What might we give away when rooted in love?”

On October 8th during worship, we will celebrate the Love that we are rooted in and the ways you have pondered how you can give back to God as dedicated on the blue pledge cards. If you haven’t already turned your blue pledge card in, please bring it with on October 8th!

If you are in need of a pledge card, please get one from the Narthex! We invite you to pray with us and ponder how God's love roots us in the abundance of God’s soil, so we can then in turn reach out in abundance to others.



Peace and Global Witness Offering

Received October 1 – World Communion Sunday

Pastor Steve Herring of Tarboro, North Carolina, says that the Church is called to do more than just believe. “It’s about doing. It’s about making a switch to action. It’s about pragmatic, practical problem solving here and now.” He works with people in Princeville, NC, to help with junk removal and property cleanout as people have lost their homes and livelihoods because of climate change. Princeville, whose unique history has been all but wiped off the map, is the oldest US town founded and settled by free African Americans. The work here helps those who have been marginalized by structural racism and systemic poverty, to help preserve this community.

Rose of Madagascar, was kicked out of her in-laws’ house at age 15 when her newborn son died ten days after his birth. It was believed this meant she was not a good mother. She ended up on in the nightclub and discotheque scene where human trafficking is rampant. There she met Rev. Helivao Poget and her colleague who listened to Rose’s story and helped her out of that life. Now Rose is helping to lead others out of similar situations. Rev. Helivao states that, “PCUSA mission co-workers work with us by visiting our activities, sharing ideas, and providing materials and support. Regional liaisons come to see our work in the field, regularly helping us to write our projects, and advising us in many other ways.” This is one effort made worldwide to prevent children from being exploited and trafficked.

Maina Talia has been a International Peacemaker for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. He has helped people like Kotema, a farmer on Nui Island, part of the small nation of Tuvalu in the South Pacific Ocean. Kotema felt that he could no longer farm and had to uproot his family from their home. Maina Talis said, “For people who have no choice other than to leave their homes, there aren’t just financial, agricultural, and practical implications, but moral implications as well because they’ve been living in a place for their entire lives. This is where they’re attached to; and, when they move on a small island, they are also intruding into other people’s space, creating internal conflicts.” Maina’s call to peacemaking – including addressing the escalating economic, moral, food security, and safety issues that result from the impact of climate change – is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. For Maina, peacemaking is grounded in the biblical question “Who is my neighbor?” He embodies Christ’s call to peace, love, and justice as it is exemplified by Matthew 25.

Part of this offering is that we choose where we send 25% of the offering.

This year we are giving our local portion to Our2Cents, specifically to a program that helps homeless people get showers and do laundry. This program was highlighted in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner August 25.

Please give generously to help our neighbors – those next door, down the street, and across the globe.



Peace is active, not passive.
Peace is doing, not waiting.
It’s about making a switch to action.

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~ Theresa Reed
Sound Manager ~ Curtis McNeill

Committee leaders

Worship: Roger Smith
Finance and Stewardship: Jerry McBeath
Mission and Outreach:
Faith Development: Pat Babcock
Building Stewards: Joe Krizek
Personnel: Matthew Bierer
Nominating: Jerry McBeath

Deacons

Donita Lawhead 455-6849
Carol Nielsen 388-8154
Melissa Bierer 687-5037
Sarah Lanstra 378-3929
Janet Johnson 687-7148
Will Haight 978-9679

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

Office Hours

9:00AM to 1:00PM, Monday - Friday

Pastor Erika is in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Session Elders

Doreen McNeill	388-0544	Clerk of Session
Jerry McBeath	479-2870	Class of 2023
Paula Long	687-7444	Class of 2023
Roger Smith	322-2595	Class of 2023
Joe Krizek	460-4294	Class of 2024
Pat Babcock	978-7187	Class of 2025
Matthew Bierer	474-0106	Class of 2025

