

SEPTEMBER 2024



9-1 Laura Morton
9-12 Pat Babcock
9-18 Judy Martsof
9-19 Carol Nielsen

9-1 The McNeills
9-9 The Carothers
9-11 The Johnsons

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 the Pastor

Church Words Unpacked

I recently learned about a particular form of communication used in certain parts of London, called Cockney Rhyming Slang. ("Stuff You Should Know" has a great podcast on it if you want to laugh while learning more about this.) But essentially, in Cockney Rhyming Slang, they take an "original word" –for instance, "stairs"– and swap it out with a two word phrase where the second word rhymes with the original word. For instance, instead of saying "I'm going to go up the stairs." They'd say "I'm going to go up the apples and pears." However, sometimes (but not always) the second word gets dropped, so you're left with just saying "I'm going to go up the apples" ...which to an outsider sounds like we should be worried about the speakers' brain functioning capacities. It calls me to reflect though on all the "church words" we use and how people outside our community –and even many INSIDE our community– don't understand why we're referring to some things with certain words or what these "churchy words" mean. For instance, why do we call the room between the parking lot and sanctuary, the "narthex," not a "lobby" like the rest of the world might? To an outside listener, they might hear us using words like this and wonder how sound our brain functioning is.

So, I thought I'd share a bit about what some of these words mean and why we use them:

Narthex – "Narthex" in Classical Greek meant a variety of things including: "giant fennel," a schoolmaster's cane, or a splint for a broken bone. Nowadays, in Modern Greek, "narthex" mostly just refers to the porch of a church or to a brace for a broken bone. All the other possible meanings have fallen out of use.

In early churches, the narthex was used for people who weren't fully baptized Christians to be able to hear and partake of the service, without accidentally getting any Communion when the time came. And today, the narthex is, for many churches, the place where the baptismal font resides, so that baptized Christians can be reminded of their baptism before entering the nave for worship.

I like to think of the narthex as a transition place, leaning on one of it's original definitions of a splint/cast. A cast or brace helps guide a broken arm back to being whole. Likewise, our narthexes today, help guide us (or transition us) from the chaotic world where brokenness is rampant, to a space (i.e. the sanctuary) where we can be totally present with God and receive healing and wholeness once more.

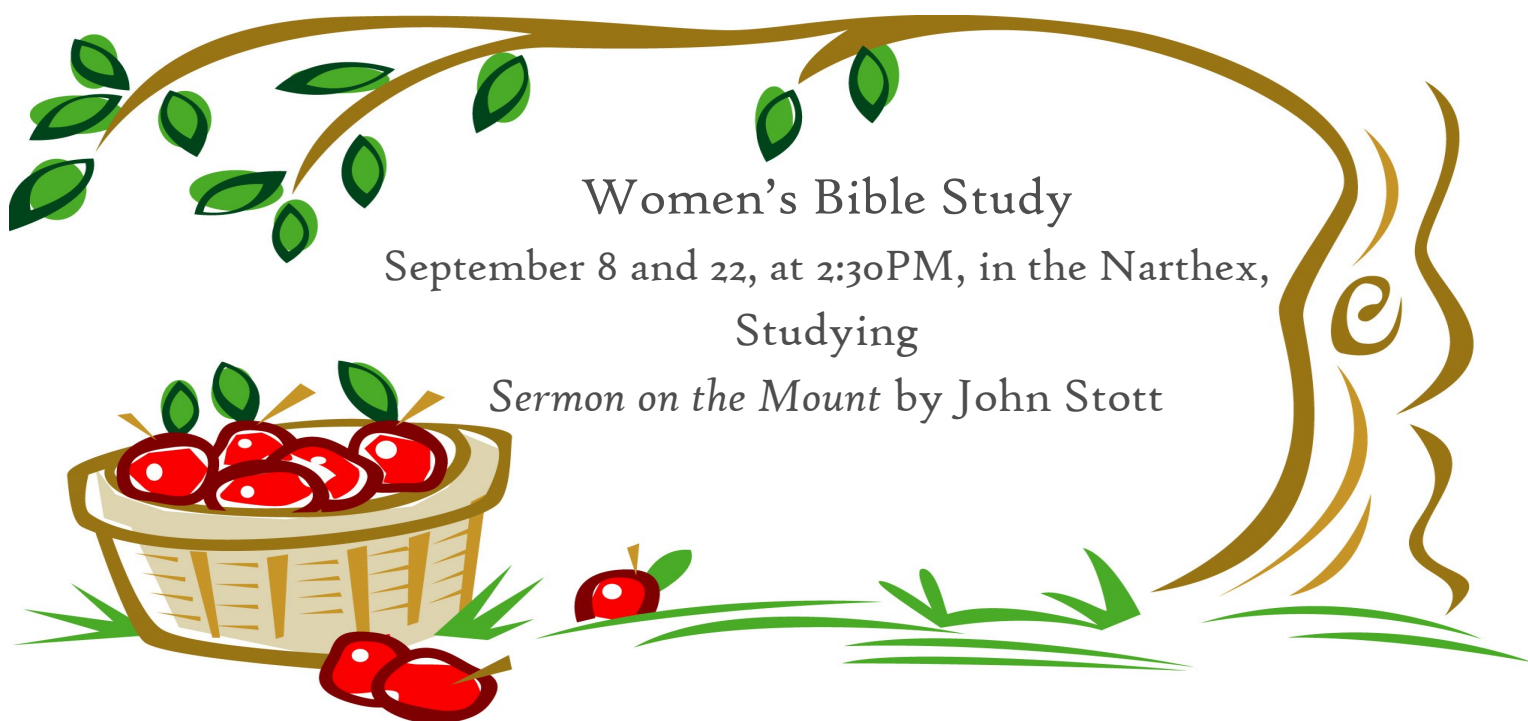
Chancel – The chancel describes the area around the altar, set apart from the pews or chairs for the congregation (the area called the nave). The chancel is used by the clergy, worship leaders, and choir during worship. The word "chancel" comes from the French and Late Latin words for "lattice" referring to the gate, screened wall, or communion rails, often used to separate the chancel from the nave. We, at UCPC, "separate" our chancel from the nave with stairs.

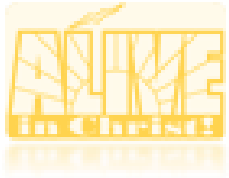
Nave – We get the word "nave" from the Latin word for ship. We use this word to describe the main, central part of the church where the congregation gathers, because an early Christian symbol of the Church as a whole, was a ship. This image possibly comes from the promise of God gathering all the animals under Noah's care on the Ark.

Maybe this answered some questions you've had nagging at you. Maybe this opened some cans of worms for you. Either way, let me know! And stay tuned for future editions of "Church Words Unpacked" which could include church words like: Sanctuary, Sacristy, Pulpit, Lectern, Chalice, Paten, Paraments, Eucharist, Clergy Collar, Alb, Stole, or Liturgy. But if there are other church words you've heard and want defined or explained, let me know! I'd love to add them to my list.

Much love to you all!

Pastor Erika

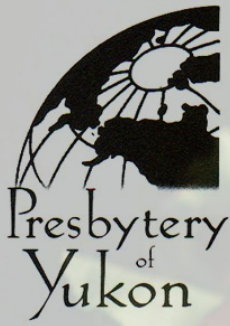




September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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)	2 Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED 12 - 6:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:00PM - 6:00PM Sound Team Meeting (S)	3 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12 - 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)	4 12 - 6:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	5 11AM - 4:30PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30PM - 7:00PM Deacons Meeting (CR) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	6 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	7 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)
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29 9:30AM - 10:15AM Adult Bible Study (FH) 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship Service (S) After Worship—Blessing of the Animals 2:00PM - 4:00PM Grace Church (S) 6:00PM - 7:00PM 12 Step (MR)	30 12 - 6:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS)	1 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Bible Study (N) 12 - 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)	2 12 - 6:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 4:00PM - 6:00PM Laurie Long (HS) 5:30PM - 6:45PM Choir Practice (MR) 6:00PM - 7:00PM Girl Scouts (L) 6:00PM - 9:00PM Red Hackle Pipe Band (CE)	3 11:30AM - 4:00PM Cello Charly (MR) 5:30PM - 6:30PM 12 Step (HS) 5:30PM - 7:00PM Deacons Meeting (CR) 6:00PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR & FH Classrooms) 6:30PM - 9:00PM Sweet Adelines (CE Basement)	4 2:00PM - 4:00PM Four Winds (MR) 6:30PM - 9:30PM Grace Church (MR) 8:00PM - 10:00PM 12 Step NA (L)	5 1:00PM - 4:00PM D & D (FH Classroom)



Yukon Presbytery Fall Meeting

October 10 – 12, 2024

UCPC is the host church for the fall meeting of Yukon Presbytery. This is a time when pastors, elders, and others from the churches of the Presbytery get together for decision making, learning, and fellowship. Average attendance is 50 – 70 people with the majority coming from out of town.

We need YOUR HELP. We will need to house attendees, provide transportation, and feed people, including one meal, breakfast goodies, and snacks during the day. We will need help setting up (sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall), cleaning up, which includes daily checks on garbage cans and bathrooms. There will be other odds and ends of jobs that can be done as well if you don't have lots of time. New Hope Presbyterian Church and Korean Presbyterian Church will be helping with certain meals and housing as well.

Friday at 5:30 will be a worship service to which all are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a way to worship with other Presbyterians in our state.

Forms for helping will be available at the worship services or in the narthex for the next few weeks. If you have questions, contact Sarah Lanstra 378-3929 or Muffie Durst 907-251-6849 or 479-8191.



Special Opportunity—Boundaries Training

There will be a Boundaries Training for Fairbanks on the afternoon of Saturday, October 12th, from 1PM to 4PM. This training will take place after lunch at the end of the Presbytery meeting.

STAR (Standing Together Against Rape) will host/present the training on the topics of Sexual Misconduct and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse, as they did at the February Presbytery meeting in Anchorage.

The training is designed for Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, Christian Educators, Youth Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, etc—basically *anyone* in the congregation is welcome to attend.

Completing a “Boundaries Training” is required by the Book of Order for all Teaching and Ruling Elders. This will be a great opportunity to meet this requirement; please consider taking this training with other Presbyterian colleagues, as we work *together* to make our church safe and strong.

Fall Events

(Save the Dates!)

9/4-Choir practice starts, 5:30PM

9/8-Come out to the Illingworth's farm after worship for a potluck (bring sides, desserts or drinks)

9/8-Adult Bible Study restarts, 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall

9/12-Session Quarterly Planning Meeting, 11:30-1:30 in the Student Lounge

9/27-Blessing of the Animals

10/6-World Communion Sunday

10/10-12-Presbytery

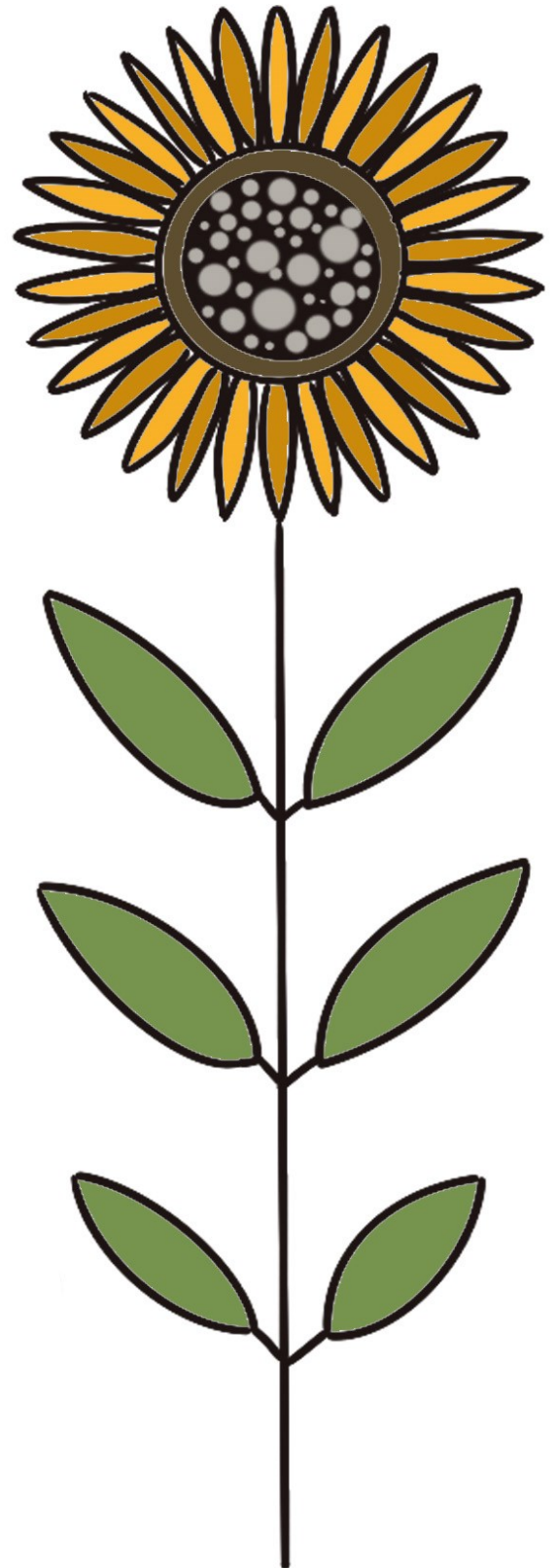
10/12-Boundaries Training

11/10-Annual Congregational Meeting

11/24-Thanksgiving Potluck AND Mission Faire

11/30-Decorate for Advent

Some of these events have more information elsewhere in this newsletter, others will be explained further in the newsletter for the month they will occur.



SHOUT OUT
to Cyndee Polzin
For her lovely and creative
bulletin board designs!!



worship service live-stream, and test it on some young adults. He will keep the session informed of the progress. Currently, the website doesn't come up on a search of "Fairbanks churches".

Session **agreed to move the Quarterly Session Planning Meeting** Sept. 11 @ 1:30 pm to **September 12 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at UCPC, Bring your own lunch.**

It was **agreed to ask Melissa to make black and white copies of the small booklet *General Assembly In Brief* about the decisions and happenings of our denomination's 226th General Assembly this summer. The booklets will be provided on a Sunday morning.**

Old Business

Transitional work. The topic was discussed, along with Rev. James' medical status and need for our prayers. Due to energy focused on the October 10-12 Presbytery meeting hosted at UCPC, the topic was tabled until after the Presbytery Meeting.

Rev. Heather James' suggestion about grieving process and letting go was discussed. **Pastor Erika will incorporate the topic into the September 29 worship service.** We also discussed doing a room-by-room blessing of our building on another date.

The Church Life/Ministry Faire and Potluck will be Nov. 24, and discussed at the September 12 planning meeting. **Hospitality committee will take the lead.**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) planning calendar order will include one for Pastor Erika, one for Jim. Calendars should also be ordered for new elders and Deacons who want one.

Mission Study Potluck. It was agreed to eliminate this potluck scheduled for September 8 due to energy focused on the October 10-12 Presbytery meeting hosted at UCPC.

Meeting Schedule Next meetings:

September 5 at 5:30 pm: Deacons' Meeting – Pat Babcock

September 12 at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: Quarterly Session planning meeting

September 19 at 6:30 pm: in-person regular Session meeting

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

It was moved and seconded to ADJOURN.

Adjourn: Pastor Erika led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Doreen McNeill

Community Garden with a Different Purpose



On August 12, 2024, Janet Brower joined a tour of the community garden at Zion Lutheran Church. Several dedicated women tend this huge garden. Produce is donated to the Food Bank, Stone Soup, and Rescue Mission. The Climate Action Coalition Interfaith Working Group provided a mini grant which enabled them to buy truckloads of soil and an irrigation system to greatly increase yield.

According to reporter Kris Capps in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner: "In 2024, the Interfaith Working Group donated \$55,880 to 12 different local faith communities." UCPC was a recipient, and we used our grant for the installation of energy efficient windows.



SAVE THE DATE

Yukon Presbyterian Women

Join us

Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 10:00am to 2:00pm
First Presbyterian Church Wasilla
1375 E. Bogard RD
Wasilla Alaska 99674

Contact Shirley Novak – (907) 355-2686 or novaksr174@gmail.com for more information.

Pot Luck Lunch!

Guest speakers:

Karri Wicka – 2023 USA Mission Experience to Arizona/Mexico Border
Barbara Brown – 2024 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering



First Practice:
September 4.



A History Lesson from the Building Stewards!

Did you know that the current Christian Ed building is not the original one? This page from Neil Davis's book *College Chronicles*, provided by Curtis McNeill, explains what happened to the old church school building, and why our parking lot is shaped the way it is!

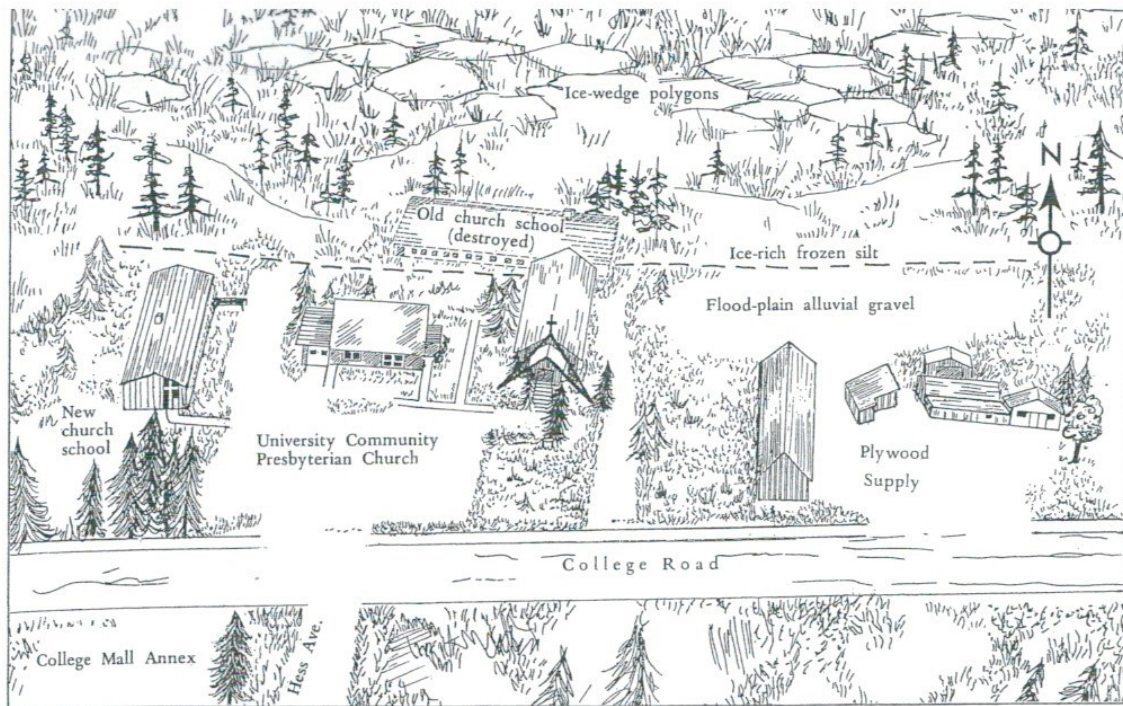


Figure 48. Sketch from 1955 oblique photograph of the University Community Presbyterian Church Manse and old church school in College. Buildings in foreground are on flood-plain alluvial gravel and church school is on ice-rich permafrost. Note the ice wedges diagrammatically expressed as polygonal ground. The old school collapsed several years later as underlying ice melted. The new school building and other modern structures are sketched as of 1981. Photography courtesy of E.H. Beistline.

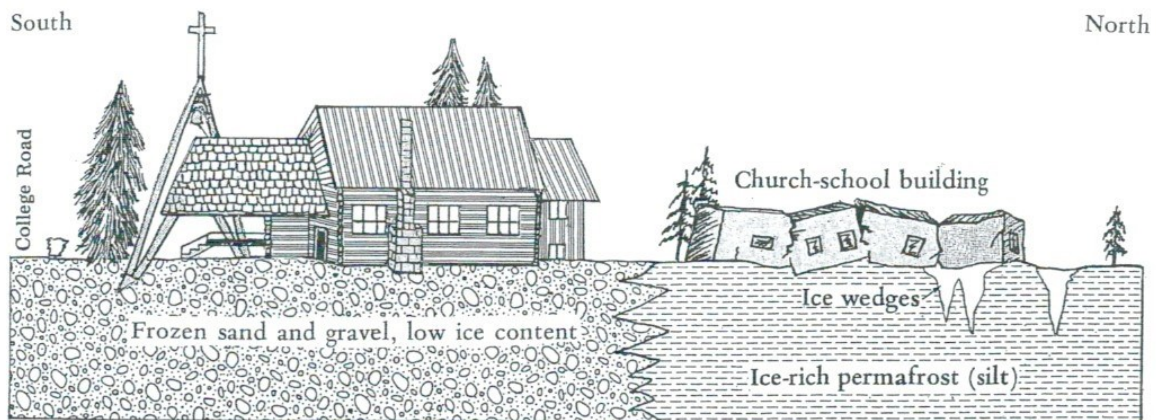


Figure 49. Diagrammatic sketch of sanctuary of the University Community Presbyterian Church and former church-school building in College. The sanctuary was built on perennially frozen flood-plain sand and gravel that contains scant ice. Thus, there has been little subsidence of the building. In 1955, the former church-school building was constructed 30 feet to the north, on ice-rich permafrost, across the boundary between the flood-plain gravel and retransported silt. Permafrost under the heated block building soon thawed, and as the building subsided it was distorted and had to be razed 6 years later.

Perhaps by Divine guidance, or simply because of luck, Reverend Bingle built his church in the right place. The school building built just behind the church quickly failed because of being built over ice wedges. Reproduced from Troy L. Péwé, *Geologic Hazards of the Fairbanks Area Alaska*, Special Report 15, Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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 ('24)	388-0544	Clerk of Session
Joe Krizek ('24)	460-4294	
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	

Board of Deacons

Judy Fowler-Morris ('26)	388-5629	Acting President
Carol Nielsen ('25)	388-8154	
Sarah Lanstra ('25)	378-3929	
Melissa Bierer ('24)	474-0106	
Janet Johnson ('24)	687-7148	
MariJo Larson ('26)	322-9425	

Worship Service Leaders

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

