

October 2018

# Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE: OCTOBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, October 28, 2018**

immediately after Worship Service, for the purpose of electing officers, approving Pastor's Terms of Call, reviewing and approving Bylaw changes, and other business as can be properly brought before the congregation.

## *Fall is Here!*

We are happy to welcome Gretchen Clayton as our new music director. Gretchen will be playing for Sunday morning worship and leading the choir. Once she has had a few weeks to ease into her position here we will schedule a meeting of the choir to talk about the choir schedule.

Soon after the choir meeting we will invite everyone who is interested in adult Christian Education to come for a get-together and talk about some options for the fall and winter/spring. There are a couple of new Advent studies as well as video-based series on the Creeds of the Church and the life of Peter that look very interesting. Watch for more information in the weekly emails as well as the Sunday bulletins.

VISIT US ONLINE [ERPrebyterian.org](http://ERPrebyterian.org)



### INSIDE this issue

- From the Pastor
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Presbytery Meeting Needs
- New Music Director
- Friends of Our Troops  
Christmas card mailing
- Kids Page
- October Calendar
- Financials



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is World Communion Sunday, celebrating our oneness in Christ with Christian brothers and sisters all around the world. World Communion Sunday was first celebrated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1930 when Shadyside's pastor, Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, served as moderator of the General Assembly. Dr. Kerr and his staff wanted to bring churches together to understand the connections that those who follow Christ share. Though the celebration of World Communion Sunday was adopted by the denomination in 1936, it wasn't until the years during and immediately following the Second World War that the idea caught on and began to spread to churches all over the world. People recovering from the ravages of war began to realize that the way to hold together is to celebrate what binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ, our unity around the Lord's Table.

The website Ministry Matters says, "The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal—when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance—and of Jesus' sacrifice." So on World Communion Sunday we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the primary way Christians remember both our Lord's sacrifice for us and our unity around the Table. "World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom."

When we emphasize unity, we say that worshipping and fellowshiping together is one of the most important aspects of our faith, because the church IS the body of Christ in the world today. *"There is no substitute for living around other Christians," write Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon of Duke Divinity School. A "primary way of learning to be disciples is by being in contact with others who are disciples" (Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony). We grow in discipleship as we strive with others to hear God's Word, feed the hungry, welcome strangers and love one another.* It's with our brothers and sisters in faith that we experience the presence of Christ and learn through our successes and our failures what it is to live the life of faith – how our faith works, to use the theme we've been exploring in worship these last weeks.

This month we are privileged to host the Fall meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon – the biannual gathering of pastors and elders representing churches from all around Alaska. We will worship and eat together and feast at the Lord's Table, hearing the gospel in Korean and Inupiat Eskimo, Siberian Yupik and English. We'll see visible evidence of our unity in Christ as well as the work we still need to do to attain that unity. Hosting Presbytery is a lot of work, and I know many of you are already working hard to prepare for the gathering. It also takes a lot of faith that all our plans and preparations will go smoothly, our guests will be fed and housed and that the presbytery will accomplish the work that is before us.

One of the most powerful witnesses to me of community and communion is seeing our congregation come together in faith to do the work God gives us. You all demonstrate the strength of your faith every day in big and small ways. It's a blessing to see your faith at work and to work with you as we serve our community, our presbytery and our world.

In Christ,

Piper



Lorinda Mitchell	2-Oct
Patti Malecha	3-Oct
Barbara Jordan	4-Oct
Travis Duft	4-Oct
Donna Asher	7-Oct
McKayla Peterson	8-Oct
Ethel Dougherty	9-Oct
Colin Ossiander	10-Oct
Elias Gobeille	13-Oct
Bill McCarthy	14-Oct
Alex Davidson	15-Oct
Dale Berry	15-Oct
Joan Brossia	15-Oct
Nancy Davis	17-Oct
Paige Saylor	17-Oct
Dave Charlton	19-Oct
Joshua Saylor	26-Oct
Jay Ossiander	31-Oct



Jerry and Ruth  
McNearney  
October 2

Mike and Paige  
Saylor  
October 14

Tony and Allison  
Petroccia  
October 29



## ***Presbytery Meeting Needs***

The Presbytery Meeting is just around the corner (Oct. 11-13) and we are still in need of volunteers and food. The number of attendees that will need housing and transportation is still unknown, but please consider making your heart and home available. A team captain for Saturday is needed as well as additional people for the support team on Friday and Saturday. We will be feeding up to 70 people breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks throughout the meeting. All this food must be prepared, cooked and baked. If you have not done so yet, please look at the board in the Narthex or call Allison and see what you can sign up for.

## ***New Music Director***

We are happy to introduce you to Gretchen Clayton, our new Music Director. Gretchen & her husband Matt and their two boys Isaac (7) and Silas (20 months) moved to Alaska from Iowa in the summer of 2017. They have over 15 years of ministry experience, pastoring a Wesleyan church in Washington, MO, and starting a non-profit youth center as a ministry of the church. Gretchen has taught in the public & private school systems, as a choir assistant for a large choral program in Washington, MO as well as private piano & vocal lessons for over 10 years, and has experience leading music for congregations since 2002. She currently is the Development Coordinator for Adult & Teen Challenge in Wasilla, a faith based ministry that helps young men struggling with substance abuse addiction.

We are excited for her to join our Church Family!

## **Friends of Our Troops**

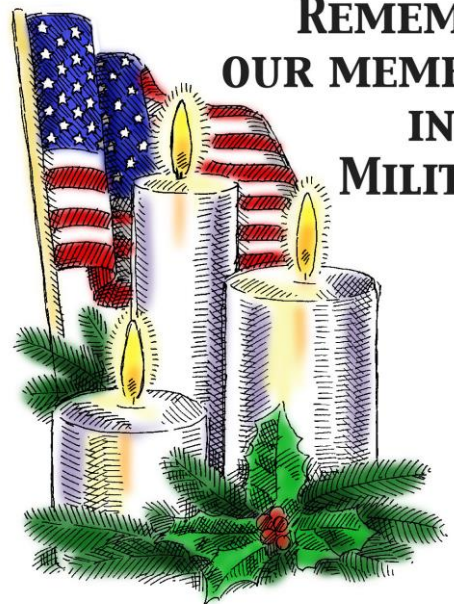
### **Christmas Card Mailing**

Every year we take part in this amazing program that will send the Christmas cards that we write to our deserving military members serving our country. All you need to do is write a message in a card provided and place it in the basket. Collection of cards will have a deadline of November 19.

If you have a stash of extra Christmas cards at home and you would like to donate some, please bring them to Allison in the office. These cards can NOT have any glitter, or 3D items, or anything that can fall or flake off. Envelopes are not needed

There is a table set up in the sanctuary with cards and instructions. Please take a moment or 2 when you are here to support our troops and bring them a little holiday cheer.

**REMEMBER  
OUR MEMBERS  
IN THE  
MILITARY**




## Eagle River Presbyterian Church

PO Box 771337

Eagle River, AK 99577

Phone: (907) 694-5753

[www.erpresbyterian.org](http://www.erpresbyterian.org)



O LORD my God,  
you are very great!  
You are clothed with

*Splendor and*  
**MAJESTY.**

PSALM 104:1, ESV