

Currents

June/July 2019



A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Earthquake Recovery Update

Next Saturday, **June 8, from 9am to 5pm** will be a workday. We'll be relocating power, lighting, and communications wiring above the ceiling inside the sanctuary. No experience is necessary- team leaders will provide guidance- but volunteers must be comfortable working on a stepladder. Please let the office know if you can assist for 4 or 8 hours. Lunch will be provided. Work will continue Sunday, June 9, from 12-4pm.

There is a new link on the church website (erpresbyterian.org) where we will post updates on the progress of the earthquake repairs and renovations. Since we will periodically show church financial information, the link is password protected. To access the link, type in the password: Psalm462. That verse says: *So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.* We trust God as he leads us through this process just as we have trusted him to guide us this far in our journey!

FROM THE PASTOR:

Summer Notes!

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! The calendar still says spring, but the days are long and mostly bright and warm, green is everywhere, and anyone who can be is outside enjoying Alaska's beauty. For many of us that means long weekends camping and fishing and hiking; for others summer means trips and family reunions. For all of us summer can be time to take a break from some of our everyday activities and reconnect with family and friends.

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For me this summer will involve significant downtime. We have been planning for my sabbatical for a couple of years, and I am now counting down the weeks instead of the months until the start of my rest time. June 30th will be my last Sunday in worship until October 6th. I have been trying to resist making day-to-day plans for my months off, because the point of the sabbatical is *sabbath*, and sabbath means rest instead of constant activity. My nature is to plan and to stay busy, so the idea of deliberately *not* planning my days and weeks has been an adjustment!

In July sabbath rest will look like a wedding since our son Cameron is getting married in his Anchorage backyard on July 20th. Our families are returning to Alaska to help us celebrate, just like last September for Christa and Mike's wedding day. Our oldest son Connor and his family (grandbabies 😊!) will come from Texas for ten days, one of my brothers for two weeks and the other for one week, and both Paul's and my mom will be able to come too. I'm so grateful for the gift of extended time off to spend with our family.

In August I am going to rest by reading, working on house projects as we continue to clean up from the earthquake, walks in the woods – assuming all the momma moose and their babies have relocated – and a week camping in a rented RV, enjoying Alaska. We will let you know how that works out because we are going to bring the dogs, so it will be us and Murphy and Elly. We've never done the RV experience before, but I'm looking forward to it and seeing some places in Alaska we've not visited yet.

September's sabbath will be more walks in the woods, hopefully not so many house projects, and a week away somewhere – probably Hawaii – for me and Paul. We can't remember the last time we took more than two or three days just to be with each other without any work or family commitments. I am so thankful for the time to spend a week of uninterrupted time with my husband. In August or September I may also try to get to Texas for some more grandbaby time, especially since my grandson Colin will start kindergarten this fall.

During the three months I am out of the office, my good friend David Dobler will be here. He is a former executive of our Presbytery, former pastor of Jewel Lake Parish in Anchorage and a past General Assembly Moderator. David also served as the President of Sheldon Jackson College and as the presbytery executive in Alaska Presbytery until his retirement several years ago. David and his wife Laura live in Anchorage, next door to his oldest son and his family. He loves cross-country skiing, singing, preaching, and Alaska. I am so glad that you will be able to get to know and learn from him as he leads worship, preaches, moderates the Session and congregation, and gives pastoral care in my absence.

During my time off, I am going to focus on this verse from Zephaniah 3:

The LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing."

I am going to find time to be quiet, to focus on *being* instead of doing, to rest in the sustaining and joyful love of God. In the last twenty-plus years of ordained ministry I haven't found much time to rest, in part because of the demands of ministry and in part because it takes more than a week or two off to be able to disconnect and slow down. I will miss all of you and keep you in my prayers and heart, trusting you to God and to the Session and to David. I look forward to returning in October, rested and ready to be part of the life and ministry of ERPC once again.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Amen and amen!

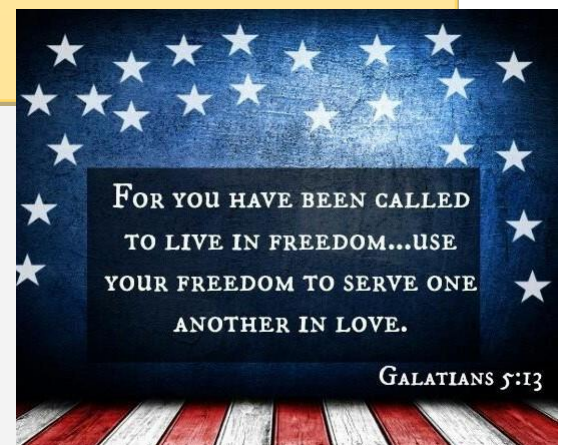
In Christ,

Piper



Yard Sale

Our annual garage sale is **Friday, July 12**, during the Eagle River Bear Paw Festival. The proceeds will go toward our 2019-2020 Christian Education curriculum. It's a great opportunity to clean out those attics and garages! Items may be dropped off during office hours or after worship on Sundays.



Youth happenings

On Sunday, June 9, following the Dads' barbeque, we will have our first monthly Youth Group event, led by Christian Education chair, Whitney Lewis. We'll head to Mount Baldy for a scenic hike and reflection.

On June 30, we will commission three ERPC youth for their participation in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT). PYT is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church USA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which happens every three years. The theme for the 2019 event is "Here's My Heart". This is the first time ERPC has sent youth to attend the conference. The Yukon Presbytery is sending approximately 12 youth from as far away as Barrow, Alaska to PYT, which will be held at Perdue University in Indiana, July 16-20. We are excited for our young people to participate and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return!



There will be a barbeque celebrating Dads on the Sunday before Father's Day. Please join us for hotdogs and hamburgers on June 9, following worship. A sign-up for sides is on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.



The Trustees would like to involve more people in running the sound system on Sunday mornings. Paul Cartland will offer a **training session** on Sunday, June 9th after worship. Just get your lunch at the Dad's BBQ and join the training, which will take about 45 minutes. On the two following Sundays, the 16th and 23rd, there will be 'live' follow-up training during worship. No prior technical knowledge needed, just a desire to help. Questions? Talk to Paul.

Piper Cartland.....3-Jun
Suellen Novak.....4-Jun
Katie Malecha Zagya.....5-Jun
Linda Armstrong.....5-Jun
Jim Asher.....7-Jun
Elizabeth Hobbie.....11-Jun
Allison Petroccia.....12-Jun
Devin Homan.....15-Jun
Penelope Hobbie.....16-Jun
Kaylynn Gerke.....17-Jun
Debbie Ossiander.....17-Jun
Miriam Frick.....19-Jun
Cameron Cartland.....20-Jun



Mike Saylor.....22-Jun
Louis Rasic.....23-Jun
Jane Capozzi.....26-Jun
Gabe Freimuth.....27-Jun
Jill Montague.....29-Jun
Pam Darnall.....29-Jun
Paul Cartland.....1-Jul

Sarah Coburn.....1-Jul
Rachel Rasic.....9-Jul
Abbie Spencer.....10-Jul
Chelsey Homan.....11-Jul
Gary McCarthy.....12-Jul
Hayley Banks.....15-Jul
Wes Freimuth.....16-Jul
Chad Preiss.....21-Jul
Chelsea Berry.....22-Jul
Jessica Frick.....23-Jul
Kay Witt.....26-Jul
Bill Musick.....30-Jul
Luca Rasic.....31-Jul



Wes & Tess Freimuth...8-Jun
Jay & Debbie Ossiander 17-Jun
Bill & Becky Musick....17-Jun
Louis & Rachel Rasic.....20-Jun
Ralph Kiehl & Evleen Kelly 12-Jun
Brent & Ellen Koenen....29-Jun
Jeff & Gail Duft.....30-Jun
Lloyd & Carol Pool.....6-Jul
Myles & Megan Gobeille...11-Jul
Jerry & Joan Brossia.....21-Jul
Bill & Teri Swears.....24-Jul
Paul & Piper Cartland....25-Jul

Garden/Landscape Committee

Thanks to the children and adults who helped plant our pea pods, potatoes, carrots and green beans-all plants are beginning to sprout! The produce that comes from these garden beds go directly to the Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry to be distributed to the people in our community in need.

Thank you to our committee chair, Brent Koenen, and those who have signed up to help water and weed the garden, and mow the lawn. There is space for more volunteers, so please sign up-- weeding is particularly important in June, as the plants get established.

This year the Food Pantry and Trustees are working with a Boy Scout to build compost bins as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The plan has been approved and construction will begin soon.

If you are interested in joining the garden committee, please contact Brent Koenen at 306-3516 or bekoenen@mtaonline.net



The **Eagle River/Chugiak Chinooks** baseball season begins in June, with the home game opener on **June 6** at Lee Jordan Field. At 6:30, there will be a ceremony honoring our own Lee Jordan, founder of the Chinooks, with the game to follow at 7:00.



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As each part does its own special work,
it helps the other parts grow,
so that the whole body is healthy and growing
and full of love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NLT

