

Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Construction Update from the Trustees

Our big news is the new church roof. The earthquake had a silver lining! We have been worrying about our leaky roof for so long that it is a real blessing to have it fixed.

Most of the major building repairs are close to completion. We still need to install new flooring and ceiling tiles and bring furnishings back from our storage locker. There are a lot of little jobs involved now with putting things back together, so if you have a few hours to help, please check in with Elizabeth or Dale for job opportunities

We have been amazingly fortunate to be able to get these repairs done without borrowing money. Our insurance, FEMA funds, and your generosity have enabled us to pay all the bills as they have come in.

We indeed have reason to be thankful.



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Blessing Others

God has worked through us to help others in unanticipated ways!

- Metal studs were used to make raised garden beds, and wood scraps have become fuel for heat for a local family.
- Metal studs, salvaged wire, screws and other hardware have been used to shore up another family's earthquake-damaged home.
- Foam block from the old roof now lines the space between our church garden beds, serving as a weed-blocker and making it easier to tend the garden.
- Four local veterans received some of the salvaged foam block from our old roof. One is using the foam to insulate beehives, which he hopes will generate extra income while his wife undergoes breast cancer treatment.
- Another veteran, and single dad to a young daughter, is using the foam to better insulate their trailer home.
- A single mom and her two children are using salvaged material from the roof to build containers to grow food, flowers and herbs on their apartment balcony.
- Additionally, hundreds of pounds of "trash" was kept from being dumped in the landfill! Thanks to Debra Grundman for salvaging materials from the church construction and connecting people in need with those materials.



view from the rooftop
during construction



the finished roof

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

If you've been by the church lately you've seen lots happening: contractors working to complete our new roof, the garden beds thriving, the sanctuary being put back together, the lawns growing green. The inside painting is almost 100% complete and ceiling tiles will soon be installed. During these long months of virtual worship and Zoom meetings and Sunday School and Bible studies, weeks and weeks of connecting mostly by telephone and email when we have been mostly out of our building, our ministries have continued.

Throughout our history as a congregation our building has been the primary focus of our ministry together, and coronavirus hasn't changed that. AA met virtually at the beginning but has resumed face-to-face meetings, observing safe physical distancing and wearing masks. The Food Pantry adjusted their practices to reflect pandemic reality and they are still serving the hungry in our community. Debra Grundman, Brent and Ellen Koenen and others are caring for the garden beds and soon there will be a harvest of vegetables for the Food Pantry. Because of your faithful financial stewardship we have been able to continue supporting the Presbytery of Yukon and Alongside Ministries. Besides connecting congregations in South-Central Alaska, the Matanuska Valley, Fairbanks, North Pole and Delta Junction with the rest of the denomination, the presbytery serves and supports congregations in villages on St. Lawrence Island and in the Arctic. Alongside Ministries supports Protestant pastors in Europe; our primary relationship is with a congregation in Strasbourg, France. Many of their programs are an outreach to immigrants from Northern Africa who have never heard the gospel before.

One of the most amazing aspects for me has been seeing how God is working in unexpected ways. On the front page of the newsletter you can read how the discarded materials from our roof work have been used and re-purposed, making a significant difference in many lives. Many more young people have been involved in the Food Pantry's work, more than before the virus since some Pantry volunteers are in high-risk categories and had to scale back their volunteer hours.

We packed up the church offices and classrooms in February – before the virus came to Alaska – because we needed to make the earthquake reconstruction work easier for the contractors. This included 22 book boxes from my office and many more from the church library and Christian Education storage room. All the materials have been in a storage space while we are completing the renovations.

Pam Swanberg and Emily Berry helped me pack and while we were working Pam mentioned a friend of hers who travels back and forth from Alaska to Kenya to work with a theological seminary there, who might be willing to take some of my books. Last week Dale Berry moved my books back to the church and I spent several hours sorting them. Many of them came from my father's seminary office when he retired so it was a nostalgic process, but I boxed up ten boxes (more than half of my library!) for pastors in Kenya. There are a few boxes left for me to sort, and we will work through more once we move the contents of the church library and Christian Education storage room back to the building.

The pastors who will receive our books are hungry for any resources that will help them share the gospel with their people and they have little internet access. They will use our Sunday school curriculum, Bible studies, and my commentaries, pastoral care, theology and preaching texts to further their own study and be better equipped to minister with and for their congregations. It's an amazing blessing to me to know that our books and resources, some a legacy from my father and some provided by your faithful contributions to our congregation's ministry, can continue to prepare men and women to preach the gospel.

Jesus' kingdom parables in Matthew's gospel – the ones we are studying together this summer in worship – teach us that God works through us and in us in hidden ways that we often cannot see. But when we are given the gift of seeing – WOW!

It's my gift to be in partnership with all of you, in the building and out of it. May God continue to bless and grow the ministries we share together.

In Christ,

Piper



Wednesday night Bible study meets at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We have been studying comparative religions in the downloaded series: What our Non-Christian Neighbors Believe. If you would like to join, please email the office at Secretary@erpresbyterian.org and we will email you the study materials.



The church garden has been thriving this summer, thanks to the landscape committee and the abundant summer sunlight. We are always in need of eggshells and bags of coffee grounds from Starbucks. Crushed eggshells help deter slugs and coffee grounds function as fertilizer for the soil. If you have a little time and want to get your hands dirty, you are welcome to stop by and weed a garden bed or two. Harvesting usually starts in early August, so help will be needed – watch the weekly email updates for details. All produce will go to the Eagle River Food Pantry. Providing fresh, local produce is a great way to help our neighbors in need.



- 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
- Allison Denton 3-Aug
- Lloyd Pool 3-Aug
- Ruth McNearney 3-Aug
- Rhys Cottle 6-Aug
- Jennifer Cottle 10-Aug
- Simon Kiehl 10-Aug
- Amelia Kerner 14-Aug
- Sandy Charlton 16-Aug
- Bill Swears 17-Aug
- Chris Woodard 17-Aug
- Kierin Frick 17-Aug
- Teri Swears 17-Aug
- Matthew Hobbie 18-Aug
- Gay Stewart 19-Aug
- Melody Musick 20-Aug
- Brian Peterson 23-Aug
- Jim Mitchell 25-Aug
- Joanne Banks 28-Aug
- Kacie Kmak 28-Aug

Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Genesis 2:15
Genesis 11:9
Genesis 35:1
Exodus 13:18
Ruth 1:1
1 Kings 18:19
1 Chronicles 11:4
Isaiah 23:1
Isaiah 23:2
Isaiah 23:3
Jonah 1:2
Matthew 3:6
Matthew 4:18
Matthew 26:36
Luke 24:13
John 2:1
Acts 8:5
Acts 11:22
Acts 17:16
Romans 1:15

S I D O N G N I L E S O
J J O R A D A N C A R I L V E R
E S G A B A R C A N A V A M
R A E T B D C D H E L F O O
U M T B E T C D H E L F O O
S A H E T B E T C D H E L F O O
A R S N E T B E T C D H E L F O O
L I E S R F O M T L H I A T
E A M D E E A I E E I A C
M F A R S D U O H V L R
G H N O A E S C E E M
I J E M O A E S C E E M
T O W E R O F B A B E L

We are continuing to worship online during the Covid-19 pandemic

Please join us for Sunday Wroship @ 10 am on Facebook Live*

<https://www.facebook.com/ERPresbyterianChurch/>

*Videos of the worship services remain on FB to be accessed anytime. You do not need a FB account.

Zoom coffee hour follows worship @ 11 am

- Lloyd & Carol Pool.....July 6
- Myles & Megan Gobeille.....July 11
- Jerry & Joan Brossia.....July 21
- Bill & Teri Swears.....July 24
- Paul & Piper Cartland.....July 25
- Dale & Emily Berry.....August 12
- Dennis & Steph Spencer.....August 14
- Bill & Diane Walters.....August 23
- Jeff & Joanne Banks.....August 27

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*We know that all things
work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called
according to his purpose.*

ROMANS 8:28, NRSV