

The NORTHERN Light

Featuring the people and events of First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage

February 2020

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Moderator's Message

They say time flies fast when you are having fun. That must have happened in January. We were busy at the church making new plans for 2020.

There are many events scheduled for February. If you have not attended a Roots of Joy Meeting, I suggest you make an effort to attend at least one. I know it is hard to get out at night in this weather but it will warm up next week. Family Game Night is the 14th. Bring your favorite game. Snacks are served.

We have two new members, Jack and Jane Reamy. They are a wonderful addition to our church family. If you have a friend that may be interested in our church please invite them to visit.

The Creating Liturgia group that meets Thursday morning is casual and fun. I know a lot of you have talents that we can use or even suggestions as to things we can do. If you have no talents you can do like me, come anyway. The winter months are long and what better way to spend those cold days attending some fun events and learning about one another.

We look forward to seeing you on Sundays and any other events you can attend.

Always remember: "So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."
Corinthians 13:13

Happy Valentines,

-Louise Smith, Moderator

Name Change for *Creating Liturgia*

What is in a name? We decided perhaps it's time for a little tweaking, and we are starting with laying out a list of ideas we would like to pursue over the coming year and a name change.

Here are our ideas:

- Bags for King Tech
- 2nd Thursday will be set aside to work on our history books
- Put together the quilt squares the church made some 25 years ago
- Paraments for different seasons
- Meet with King Tech
- Tour King Tech
- Support UAA day care project
- Find new big vases
- Decorate for the seasons
- Cull the storage room stuff
- Replace hymnal book marks
- Continue making Prayer Shawls and comfort caps
- Plan and hold another craft Bazaar
- Clean kitchen
- LEGO project for Providence pediatrics ward if they are interested

If any of these projects gets your juices flowing, come join us Thursday mornings at 10:00.

Oh, and if that doesn't work maybe the name change will. We are now the SOUP GROUP! Because when we're done working, we pause for a lunch of homemade soup and bread.

- *Claudia Kniefel*

Online Giving

As we leap into the year 2020, did you know that in addition to cash or check, First Congregational Church also accepts donations and pledges securely online with a credit card? To use this quick and simple method, just scan the QR (abbreviation for Quick Response) code noted here, or go to www.fccak.org/give. As always, we thank you for your financial participation and generosity in the work of our wonderful First Congregational Church.



Other Ways of Giving

WILLS AND BEQUESTS provide a simple way to make a gift that will keep on giving after your lifetime. Designating a charity in a life insurance policy or retirement account is commonly used, or declaring a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate to a charity is also used. The charity will be notified of your gift upon your death.

LIFE INSURANCE policies, that are no longer needed for family protection, or are specifically purchased to benefit an organization (ie., First Congregational Christian Church), can be given during your lifetime. This gift will benefit the organization upon your death, but is irrevocable once the ownership of the policy has been transferred.

More Ways to Give

To you members and friends that are over 70 1/2 years of age last year:

Of course you know that you need to make Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your 401k or other qualified tax-deferred retirements plans. What is not universally known is that you are allowed to make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) directly from the retirement plan to a charity of your choice, up to the amount of your current RMD, thus reducing the taxable part of your RMD. You do not have to itemize deductions to get credit for a QCD. A QCD directly lowers your taxable income.

Your retirement plan may send a check directly to the donation recipient at your request, or, in some cases, you may write a "charity check" directly on your Retirement Plan. You may NOT make a QCD from your own bank account after taking an RMD. Check with the bank or broker that manages your retirement plan. Here is a link to an article that discusses the use of a QCD:

<https://www.fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qcds>.

If you want to discuss this option informally, you may talk to Fermen Dillon.

Community Scam Updates

Notification Advisory for Victims Affected by David Bukoski's DOS-For-Hire Booter Service *From the*

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Lent

Lent is quickly approaching, with Ash Wednesday starting the season off on February 26th this year. Lent is a wonderful time for reflection and working on our inner selves, and it's a season of the church that I have grown to appreciate more since moving to Alaska. There is something about the daylight cycle here that makes Lent make more sense to me. We are all beginning to recognize that the sun is returning near the middle of February but are also aware that this anticipation is going to last awhile—summer will not be here for a few months still.

It's during this liminal space, this in-between time, that we can reflect on the past and look to the future. What things do we need to remove from our lives to create more peace and balance, and what might we add that will help us live our lives more fully, be better connected to people and the world around us, and have more joy? Just as the sun is steadily increasing its influence, and the plants and animals are beginning to prepare to open themselves to the world after the long dark winter of Alaska, we need to take the time to prepare ourselves during the coming season.

As a church community, there will be occasions to reflect, explore, and connect during this time of Lent. We will start the season with a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on February 25th, and there will be opportunities to engage with Lenten themes every Tuesday night during Lent at the *Roots of Joy* service. *Roots of Joy* is an informal group, and we tend to have a lot of fun together while exploring the various facets of our faith. There are also Lent Devotionals available on the Narthex table, please feel free to take one home.

-Krystal Poindexter

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The government is asking that members of the community who believe they may be a victim of Bukoski's criminal activities, to please contact (907) 271-3041 to reach the Victim-Witness Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Alaska.

The victim-witness program of the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Alaska, provides information, services, and support to individuals during federal prosecutions. Case updates will be provided on the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Alaska website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ak/case-updates>. **A restitution hearing in this case is scheduled for May 5, 2020, at 10:30 A.M. in Anchorage.**

According to public court filings, Bukoski became the subject of a federal investigation when FBI agents began investigating individuals in the United States and abroad operating what were suspected to be the longest running and most prevalent DoS-for-hire services. These websites, which offered what are often called "booter" or "stresser" services, are a mechanism by which criminals can manipulate (in most cases stolen) bandwidth and architecture for the purpose of damaging the targeted victim's access to the internet by flooding them with internet traffic with the intent of causing damage or financial loss. The FBI's investigation ultimately identified Bukoski as one of the individuals operating and profiting from one of these booter services under the domain "quantumstress.net."

The investigation revealed that Bukoski made a number of different subscription plans available to his approximately 70-80,000 subscribers between 2011 and 2018, all of which entailed payment by the subscriber in exchange for some period of access to attack infrastructure controlled by Bukoski. It was further revealed that Bukoski's booter service had been used both by individuals outside of Alaska to attack Alaskan victims, as well as individuals in Alaska to attack others outside.

This case was the product of an investigation conducted by the FBI's Anchorage Field Office and the FBI's Cyber Initiative and Resource Fusion Unit (CIRFU). The case against Bukoski was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Alexander of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Alaska.

FCC Monthly 2020 Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

- 10:30 am - Worship/Sunday School
- 11:30 am - Fellowship Hour

Mondays

- 6:00 pm - Community Bell Choir

Tuesdays

- 10:00 am - Lectio Divina
- 7:00 pm - Roots of Joy Service

Wednesdays

- 5:15 pm - Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays

- 10:00 am - Soup Group

Other Events and Meetings

02/09 - Outreach Meeting, 12:15 pm

02/11 - Stewardship Meeting, 3:30 pm

02/12 - Interfaith Harmony Week, 6 pm

02/14 - Family Game Night, 6pm

02/16 - Council Meeting, 12:15 pm

02/19 - Fellowship Meeting, 3:30 pm

02/20 - Worship Meeting, 6 pm

02/23 - Intergenerational Handbell Practice

02/23 - PF Activity

02/25 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, 5 pm

02/26 - Ash Wednesday

02/28 - Food and Fun, 6 pm

People of FCC

Senior Minister

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter:
907-272-8363 (work)
jacobp@fccak.org

**Organist, Director,
Northern Lights Ringers**
Caroline Valentine

Director, Chancel Choir
Lori Wasko

Administrative Assistant
Krystal Poindexter 272-8363
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FCC Church Sexton
Scott McClure 272-8363

Wedding Coordinator
Sandra Skaggs 622-1777

Contacts

Serving the NACCC
Sharon Higgins,
Year-Round Delegate
Claudia Kniefel,
Board of Directors

Serving the PNACCC
Kate O'Dell,
Year-Round Delegate

"Church isn't some community
you join or some place you
arrive. Church is what happens
when someone taps you on the
shoulder and whispers in your
ear, 'Pay attention, this is holy
ground; God is here.'"

-Rachel Held Evans