

*News and
Stories
from the
people of
FCC of
Anchorage*

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November 2020

The Northern Light

First Congregational Church of Anchorage



Message from the Moderator

The New Normal?

Yes, actually, there is a new normal at many places, including at FCC. Every year in November, we have a congregational meeting to approve the budget for the next year and do any other business thought appropriate and/or necessary for consideration by the whole congregation. That's normal for us. And since March, it has become newly normal for us to see each other and to meet via Zoom and not in person.

This year we are combining these two now normal things into another new normal, doing our budget business by meeting on Zoom, on Sunday, November 15, after church. As we all know, the value of the work and ministry of our church are priceless and beyond measure, and we also all know that their continuation requires approval of an actual dollars-and-cents annual budget. Thus, the reason for this meeting.

By this new normal combination, we are highlighting both the value of continuity and the value of flexibility in these so unpredictable times. It is a needed stability in the midst of the extremely destabilizing pandemic.

And as is usual and normal, YOU are a valuable part of FCC. I hope you are able to come to church by Zoom on the third Sunday of November and stay afterward for this as usual important meeting! Please let the office know if you cannot attend and wish to sign a proxy form. The proxy form allows someone else in the congregation (of your choosing) to vote on your behalf if you are unable to attend for any reason. We must have a quorum of members for the meeting, and proxy forms give members greater access to participate, and to that the congregation reaches a quorum at the meeting, so that business of the church can be conducted.

-Lynn Barber, Moderator



“Soup” Group Update



Jenna and Nathan Amber are expecting baby "Barney" (not his real name) around Thanksgiving time. To help them out, the FCC "Soup Group" is going to make meals that can be frozen and used as needed.

Jenna writes: "Pasta's always my favorite, anything Mexican-ish is a close second, or other freezer-friendly things like soups or casseroles are great too. Neither of us have food allergies. We're not too picky - I think our only real particularities are that I don't like shrimp and am not a big fan of hard-boiled eggs, and Nathan doesn't like olives. I think that's about it."

If you would like to help them out, please contact Kathy Means or Claudia Kniefel and we can arrange to have the meal delivered, or you can bring it to the church and put it in our freezer (labeled accordingly).

Check the Outreach Ministry update for ways to donate to those in need in the coming cold months in Anchorage.

Outreach Ministry

All 2800 books have reached Shungnak school. They have a low Covid rate at the moment, but it will be a while before these books get shared with the community.

We have received a photo and information about our student at the PanAmerican institute. Hopefully I will be able to get into town to put up photos of him on the Outreach board.

This month is the start of our drive to collect winter gear and socks for the folks of Beans Café. We are also looking at collecting gently used baby clothes and clothes and other useful items for the women and children at Clare House.

Collections are ongoing for FISH and the Children's Lunchbox. FISH is looking for canned fruit and vegetables.

There is a subcommittee for Open and Affirming. More information on this program will be presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting in November.

A representative from the Relations (Grandfamilies) program will meet with us at our November Outreach meeting to help with direction.

-Chris Walker, Chair

Fellowship Ministry

Our first-ever (at least in recent memory) Jack-o-Lantern Carving Contest was a scary success. We had winners in every category. The only slight problem was some people read “spiced cider” as “spiked cider” and were disappointed when they found out we weren’t serving an alcoholic toddy.



It's not too early to be thinking about what you're going to enter in next year's contest, tentatively scheduled for 5:00 pm on Friday, October 22nd. We'll have the same two age groups – 18 and under, over 18 – and two categories in each group – carved and non-carved (painted, decorated, etc.).

For November, we will have Afternoon Tea in the FCC Gathering Room every Wednesday and Friday at 3:00 pm. Also, please save the date for the Interfaith Council of Anchorage's annual Thanksgiving Eve Gathering in the early evening of Wednesday, November 25. This year it will be either virtual or a mix of in-person and online participants featuring prayers, readings, music, and thanksgiving blessings offered by our sisters and brothers in spirit from around the community. Watch for more information about the gathering in Daily Updates, on the FCC website, and on both the FCC and the Interfaith Council of Anchorage Facebook pages.

-Kate O'Dell, Chair



Christmas Pageant is fast approaching

“On November 15, 2020, the Fall Semi-Annual Meeting will take place via zoom.”

Life & Learning

Come one, come all. While we don't have much snow yet, the Christmas Pageant is fast approaching, and we would like to get everyone in the church involved. This year's pageant will be performed like a radio-drama during our Zoom service. We will have images shown depicting the storyline, but all voice-actors will not be seen. There are about 30 characters in the play—probably enough for everyone that wants to be involved. If you want to join in the fun, email Marcie at errico@gci.net and she will forward you a part and copy of the script. We will have a zoom run-through after church 12/6, with the pageant on 12/13 during the service. It should be a ball!

-Marcie Errico, Chair

Stewardship Ministry

In November of 2019, the congregation remained in the sanctuary for the Fall Semi-Annual meeting. A budget was presented and after a brief discussion was voted on. On November 15, 2020, the Fall Semi-Annual meeting will take place via zoom. A budget will be presented and voted on by the congregation. What a difference a year makes. What has not changed is the generosity of giving to support our church.

The 2021 pledge drive came without the “entertaining presentations” of past years. You have received a letter and pledge card. Many have been returned by mail, drop off and e-mail. Please continue to do so.

The month of November takes on a special meaning for Congregational Churches everywhere, given that our theological and spiritual roots are traced directly to the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower to the Separatist Movement of the late 1500s in England.

As always, the monthly meeting of the Stewardship Ministry is open to all. The next meeting is at 3:30pm on November 10, 2020, via zoom.

Blessings,

-Sharon Higgins, Chair

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CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS 2020

GIVE FOOD, GIVE HOPE



Thanks to your generous support we have been helping families for 48 years. Allow us to continue this wonderful tradition.

In the past, we bought food in "bulk prices", distributed the items by families, then asked parents to pick up the food at school. We do not think is safe for us to gather in big groups and decided to continue this tradition by depositing money instead, just as we have been doing for other needs such as medical aid and internet service.



Send your tax-deductable donation to
Panamerican Institute
P. O. Box 433872
San Ysidro, CA 92143
or online at
www.paischool.org



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A service that explores other
ways to engage our faith and
spirituality together.



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