

leaving many families in limbo, according to Issa Spatrisano, Alaska's State Refugee Coordinator.

Despite the pause in new arrivals, Alaska's refugee resettlement office remains steadfast in its commitment to the over 1,000 refugees and immigrants who have made Alaska home in the past five years. Catholic Social Services continues to provide essential employment, health, and youth services to those in need. "The work doesn't end because new arrivals aren't coming," says Spatrisano.

One simple action step we can take is to write postcards to Alaskan government representatives asking to support refugees who are currently residing in Alaska, and to advocate for reopening the Refugee Admissions Program.

Postcards and addresses are available on a table in the narthex.

### **INVITATION TO JOIN HANDBELLS OR CHOIR**

The Handbells and Choir are always seeking new ringers and singers! If you love music and friendly people, we hope you will join us. Check out the handbells after the service today if you're curious, or come to a rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. (bells) or 7:00 p.m. (choir). Park in the back lot and text Lisa at 907-297-8917 since the doors are kept locked.

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Reverend Matthew Schultz  
[mschultz@firstpresanchorage.org](mailto:mschultz@firstpresanchorage.org)

Danna Larson, Director of Faith Formation & Mission  
[dllsitka@gmail.com](mailto:dllsitka@gmail.com)

### **First Presbyterian Church**

**616 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Anchorage, AK 99501**

907-272-6411

[fpchurch@firstpresanchorage.org](mailto:fpchurch@firstpresanchorage.org)

### **Announcements February 16, 2025**

**FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN** will meet following the "Time with Children" today. The children will be meeting downstairs in their classrooms.

The **CHILDCARE CENTER** is open today. Children five and under are welcome to go to the childcare center during the worship service. Parents need to take their children down so you can sign them in with our childcare providers. You can watch the service with your cell phone in the childcare room if you want to stay with your children.

### **JOIN US TODAY FOR:**

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Share Others' Joy

11:00 a.m. Worship and Faith Formation for Children

### **JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Today we explored how rejoicing in the blessings of others can help us grow in empathy and understand God's joy in a way that is less individualistic and more communal. As you go through this week consider how you can build relationships with others in our church community by celebrating another person's joy. We will conclude our series next week with our final discussion on "Practice Joy in All Times."

### **EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER**

Many THANKS for all of you who continue to help with the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter each Monday night. We have 11 Monday nights until we finish our season. This year over ten of the families have been able to move to more permanent housing and many have been able to continue in their work positions or find new jobs during the time they have been at the ECWS.

We are always in need of additional volunteers to support the committed volunteers who have made volunteering on Monday nights part of their weekly way of living out one's faith. Please consider joining us for one time or monthly in one of the following ways:

1. Preparing an evening meal (Sign up at the ECWS display in the narthex.).

2. Evening Hospitality (Provide hospitality and security from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: 3-hour shift.).

3. Overnight Hospitality (Provide security and hospitality from 9:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. (Overnight divided into 3-hour shifts).

Check out this list and find a way to help on one of the Monday nights!

February 17: evening meal; 4 overnight hosts

February 24: evening meal; 4 overnight hosts

March 3: evening meal; 5 overnight hosts

March 10: evening meal; 1 evening host; 5 overnight hosts

March 17: evening meal; 5 overnight hosts

March 24: evening meal; 1 evening host; 4 overnight hosts

March 31: evening meal; 5 overnight hosts

April 7: evening meal; 2 evening hosts; 5 overnight hosts

April 14: evening meal; 1 evening host; 4 overnight hosts

April 21: evening meal; 2 evening hosts; 4 overnight hosts

April 28: evening meal; 1 evening host; 4 overnight host

Contact Lorissa Jackson, Marcus Geist or Danna Larson for additional information and to get the application to fill out so you can help with hospitality.

### YOUTH GROUP MEETING

All youth 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us **this afternoon** from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. for your monthly youth group meeting. We will meet at Jim Powell and April Hoffman's home (2143 Churchill Drive) for pool, foosball and other games. Time will be spent planning activities for the remainder of the year and thinking about summer. Lunch will be provided. Bring a snack to share if you want.

### JOIN OTHER YOUTH AT THE 2025 YOUTH TRIENNIUM

What: Presbyterian Church Conference for Youth and Young Adults

Who: Youth in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and young adults

When: July 28-31 with a pre-retreat for Yukon Presbytery  
July 25 - 27

Where: Louisville, KY

Youth from First Presbyterian Church will go with other youth from our Yukon Presbytery.

Contact Danna Larson ([dllsitka@gmail.com](mailto:dllsitka@gmail.com)) for registration information. deadline to register is February 15.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS ON TUESDAY

All women are invited to join others from Immanuel, Eagle River and First Presbyterian Churches for our monthly Presbyterian Women's Bible study "God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." Our topic on Tuesday will center around "Air Quality" and will explore the many ways air pollution endangers the world's youngest and oldest citizens. Each month we are intentional about looking at our own community and state and identifying ways we can make a positive difference. This month's action items will include discussing:

1. What can your family or congregation eat instead of factory farmed meats?
2. What can you use instead of single-use plastics?
3. How can you help reduce pollution from cars?
4. What campaigns can you join that will protect the most vulnerable in our community and state?

### F.I.S.H. SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!

The fourth Sunday of each month is F.I.S.H. Sunday at FPC. This is the Sunday that the children and youth pack bags of rice for F.I.S.H. and we invite the congregation to bring pasta. This month our goal is to donate 150 pounds of pasta to help with those in our community who are in need of additional food to support their families. F.I.S.H. delivers food to those in our community who are homebound

### MERRY MAKERS

The Merry Makers knitters and sewists at FPC are looking for others to join our group. We have some small projects to make and would love to include all who could help with our next Christmas sale. Please contact Susan Schnering, 907-231-9030 or by email [sschnering@aol.com](mailto:sschnering@aol.com).

### SUNDAY COFFEE CLEAN UP

**Two more Sundays** for training to be a **deacon friend** and know how to **clean up after the Sunday coffee service**. Please come to the little kitchen by the coffee pots after church to have a brief training and join the team! You will be asked to help one Sunday every two months starting in March. **THANK YOU!!**

### U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

A recent executive order abruptly suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program as of January 27. This decision canceled the flights of 22 refugees who had already been approved for resettlement in Alaska this Febru

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, February 16**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Share Others’ Joy
- 11:00 a.m. Worship and Faith Formation for Children
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (offsite)

### **Monday, February 17**

*Presidents’ Day—office closed*

- 5:00 p.m. Emergency Cold Weather

### **Tuesday, February 18**

- 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study (at Immanuel)

### **Wednesday, February 19**

- 5:00 p.m. M&O Committee meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Choir

### **Thursday, February 20**

- 5:00 p.m. Deacons’ meeting

### **Sunday, February 23**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Practice Joy in All Times
- 11:00 a.m. Worship and Faith Formation for Children
- 12:00 p.m. F.I.S.H. service project