

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE



A Great Heritage, A Great Future

Barbara Pederson
Nancy Schumann
Prayer Team Coordinators

SANCTUARY [*Sunday worship/music; sacraments: Rally Day; high holy days; Thanksgiving; ecumenical services; youth, scout, mission, confirmation and ministry appreciation Sundays; Vacation Bible School; weddings, funerals, etc.*]

Prayer:

Leader: Lord, we praise Your name for the birth and growth of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church. Thank You for the blessings that this congregation has experienced from its establishment on, in a variety of locations and more modest facilities.

All: We thank You for this sanctuary.

Leader: It stands as a monument to generations of devout followers of Jesus Christ who nurtured the growth of this church and its congregation.

All: May future generations of members carry forward with care and responsibility the legacy of AFPC.

Leader: We are grateful for those who have participated in worship through the years under the leadership of countless pastors.

All: Please bless us as we celebrate Your presence in our lives and the life of this church in the years to come.

Leader: May we continue to have open hearts and minds to hear and share God's call to be devoted followers of Jesus.

All: We pray that those who join us in worship will experience the congregation's welcoming spirit as a reflection of God's love and acceptance of all people. Amen.

DEPART THE SANCTUARY

YOUTH CENTER [*Senior High Sunday School-grs. 9-12 youth and teacher; scouts*]

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for our Sr. High youth, for the vital role they play in the life of our congregation. We thank You for their Sunday School class and teacher, for the fun and fellowship they enjoy in youth group, and for their service to our church, our community, and the communities they assist on their annual mission trips. We ask that You continue to guide them throughout their life journeys and along their faith journeys. We also thank You for all the support they receive from our congregation. Lord, we ask Your blessing for all who currently use this room and for all possible uses of the space in the future. Amen.

YELLOW ROOM [*Jr. High Sunday School: gr.7-8 youth and teacher; Offering Counters*]

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for our Jr. High youth, for the learning that occurs in their Sunday School class, for the excitement they bring to our Youth Sunday service, and for the significance of this time in their lives as they prepare to be confirmed. We also thank You for their Sunday School teachers, as well as for the individuals who count our weekly offerings in this space. We ask Your blessing on all who use this room. Amen.

PURPLE ROOM [*Session; Deacons; confirmation class and mentors; Vacation Bible School; Boy Scout Adventuring Team, Boy Scouts; Brownies*]

Prayer: Lord, we celebrate our confirmation class, 8th graders who meet here weekly in preparation for becoming members of our church. We thank you for the pastor, advisor and mentors who guide them toward this important milestone in their faith journeys. We are grateful for all the teams and committees who meet in this room to discern and do Your will. We also thank You for the outside groups, such as scouts who meet here as they seek to serve the community. We ask Your blessing on all who use this room. Amen.

PASTOR'S OFFICE [*Pastor Hatch; member counseling; small group meetings; staff meetings*]

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the blessings that we receive under the leadership of Pastor Nick. May he feel Your constant divine presence as he ministers to the spiritual and leadership needs of the congregation at AFPC. We praise Your name for providing him with the steadfast faith he demonstrates as he leads us in worship, preaches Your Word, prays with/for us and carries out the holy sacraments of the church. We rejoice in his compassion as he visits the sick and homebound, provides spiritual support to those who are experiencing life's joys, struggles and sorrows, and guides our youth through the confirmation process. May Pastor Nick continue to have patience, strength and conviction as he guides members of session and deacons in their leadership roles. May he continue to lead our congregation as we face and adjust to change. Amen.

CHURCH OFFICE [*Pati Tiedeman and subs; the "face" of AFPC to strangers, members, etc.; information and business hub of the church; creation of bulletins, Session packets, reports and Branches; record keeping, etc.*]

Prayer: We thank You for the blessed service of Pati Tiedeman as the church administrative assistant. We praise You for providing her with the special gifts of faith, hope and charity that she shares with us in the course of her work and beyond. May we continue to demonstrate our gratitude for her strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Thank You for the blessing of her presence on the front line, greeting all who enter the office with a smile, patience and kind words, for being prepared to assist all, no matter what the need, and for maintaining order in the church's operations. May Pati feel your presence as she continues to serve at AFPC . Amen.

CUSTODIAN [*Amy Christie; charged with all tasks related to keeping the church building clean and presentable*]

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the constancy and hard work of our custodian Amy Christie, one whose presence is sensed rather than experienced as she works alone early in the morning on Mondays and Fridays. May we recognize and demonstrate appreciation for the evidence of her efforts to keep the church orderly and clean. May she find blessings within and beyond the church. Amen.

CLASSROOMS: Rm. 3: *[drama storage room]*

Room 4: *[Sunday School: pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children , teachers; Summer Sunday School: students, teachers]*

Room 5: *[Sunday School: grades 4-6; Wednesday Women's Bible Study; small group meetings; Boy Scouts]*

Room 6: *[Sunday School: grades 1-3 children, teachers; Vacation Bible School; Brownie Troop; Cub Scouts]*

Room 7: *[Tuesday Adult Bible Study; small group meetings; Boy Scouts]*

Prayer: Dear Lord, we raise our voices in thanks for the children whose presence in these classrooms and elsewhere in the building is a clear indication of the commitment of this church to follow Christ's directive: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* May our church continue its dedication to nurturing the faith of children during worship (children's sermon), Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, scouts and other activities. May those who bring them to church and those who teach them experience the blessing of Your presence with them. Please give them patience and energy. Amen.

NURSERY *[In this room, our youngest are cared for by adult care-givers during worship.]*

Prayer: Lord, we give thanks for the families who attend our church, for their infants and toddlers, and for the loving and dedicated caregivers who keep them safe and happy during worship. We pray that they will all continue to feel Your love in this space. Amen.

THE MANSE

Prayer: Dear Lord, as we look toward the AFPC manse, let us thank You for the foresight of former church leaders in providing housing for the church's pastor and his family. What a blessing it was to enfold them into the church family. Though vacant for a number of years its rooms echo with the memories of those who lived there. Be with us as we explore opportunities for the future of this home. Amen.

STAIRWAY opposite Room 7 *[used by all who are able]*

Prayer: Lord, so many travel up and down these stairs and the other stairways within our church on Sundays and during the week, as they attend worship, Sunday School, meetings, and other activities. We are so thankful for all that goes on here in Your house, and for the people of all ages and abilities involved in doing Your will and Your work, and studying Your Word here. Please help us continue to be a welcoming and accessible place for all, including those with mobility issues and other physical challenges. We ask Your blessing on all who use the stairs, and on those for whom doing so is difficult or impossible. Amen.

UPPER HALLWAY [*a throughway between the sanctuary and fellowship hall; an informal gathering place for the choir, pastor and worship assistant before worship and members at other times; a place for display of news from ministries; a serving site for choir and youth mission turkey dinners; location for overflow seating*]

Prayer: Dear Father, may we feel Your presence in all that happens in this hallway connection between worship and fellowship. Amen.

CHOIR ROOM [*Music Director, Jerry Phelps; Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Children's Choir; soloists; instrumentalists*]

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the blessing of the AFPC music ministry, for Jerry Phelps, who with the support of the Worship and Ministry Team plans for choir participation during worship. We praise Your name for providing him with: musical gifts; the deep faith he demonstrates as he guides the choirs in the interpretation of sacred music; his positive interpersonal skills, and his quick wit. May he continue to be blessed with patience, energy and joy as he leads the choirs and plays piano or organ during rehearsals and services.

Prayer (continued): Bless those of all ages who lift their voice to Your glory. We celebrate the youngest as they prepare and sing songs of praise with joy and energy. They lift the spirit and heart of the congregation and remind us of Jesus' love for children. What a blessing it is to have the youth choir members raise their voices in Your praise during worship. We express gratitude for Chancel Choir members who continue to enrich our worship musically and serve in other leadership capacities at AFPC. May you continue to hold all these singers in Your gentle hands. Amen.

CONFERENCE ROOM [*Pastor and worship assistant; Caring Hands Crafters; Session Personnel Team; small groups*]

Prayer: Father, may Your presence be felt by all who enter this room. May the Caring Hands Crafters continue to minister to those in need through their handiwork (cancer patients, preemies, etc.). We pray You will continue to guide the Personnel Team and other small groups as they carry out the business of the church during their gatherings. Amen.

FELLOWSHIP HALL/KITCHEN [*Men's Wed. morning Bible study; Inter-age Sunday School projects such as college box prep; Vacation Bible School; coffee hours; Session, congregational and corporation meetings; turkey dinner mission fundraiser; game nights; church dinners; exploring membership class; mission drives including Care to Share; wedding, funeral and other receptions; Boy Scout Pack; Blue and Gold Dinner*]

Prayer: Lord, we celebrate and give thanks for the church family with whom we gather here to enjoy fellowship as well as to discern Your will and do Your work. We are grateful for all those who lead and attend meetings and gatherings here as we seek both physical and spiritual nourishment. Let us give gratitude for the cooking/baking gifts and the willingness to serve with which You have blessed our members. We thank You for Your presence with all who gather here. Amen.

OUT-OF-DOORS [*including the handicap lift, the courtyard, Boy Scout Eagle projects, bell, picnic grove, parking lot, plus – the community beyond*]

Prayer: Lord, we view the outside of our church building as an extension of the inside. We celebrate the presence of a wheelchair lift which makes the sanctuary accessible to those who cannot climb stairs. We give thanks and ask Your blessing on all those who quietly work to plant, weed and care for the courtyard and gardens. We raise in prayer those who plow the parking lot and shovel snow, as well as the one who mows the lawn. We are grateful for the Eagle Scouts who chose our church for their Eagle projects: the pergola, the walkway from the courtyard steps to the Christian Education wing entrance, the path between the church building and the manse, the dumpster enclosure, and the improved and more accessible picnic grove. When we greet each other or bid farewell in the parking lot, gather for lemonade in the courtyard or picnic in the grove, we feel Your presence and your blessing upon us.

We extend our prayers to the surrounding community, that all may feel welcome and that all might come to know You as we do here in our church, Your church. We ask Your blessing on the congregation of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church.

Lord, what do You want to do through me? Amen.