



PresbEnews

November 23, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Advent begins November 27

Plan to join the fun on Sunday afternoon, November 27, when our church family will gather to prepare for Christmas.

4 pm - Crafts and activities, child-centered, all ages welcome

5 pm - Las Posadas – Children will look for a welcoming place, as Mary and Joseph did

5:15 pm - The "Welcoming Inn" will serve a supper for all in the Fellowship Hall. Please come!

6 pm - Advent service in the sanctuary, including lots of music and contemporary renditions of the search for shelter, "Las Posadas"

Concludes with the lighting of the Christmas tree outside



"Enhancing Our Conversation With God"

"I love the Lord, for He has heard me and listens to my prayer; for He has given me a hearing whenever I have cried to Him."

Psalms 116: 1-2

Giving to First Presbyterian Church

In addition to traditional methods, First Presbyterian Church offers the option of making financial contributions to the church electronically via the web or by texting. Contributions via the web can be made from the online giving link on the church's website, www.fpcbozeman.org or by scanning this QR code with your Smartphone. To give by text, simply text the amount of your gift and any designation to 406-278-6267. *Thank you!*





Christmas Movie Event



First Families and Presby Kids
watch "The Story of Christmas"
The DVD, story and activity books will be given to kids

Join us in room 102
on Sunday, December 4
following the 10:30 service
Pizza lunch included! (RSVPs helpful)



December is coming quickly! Mark your calendars for these upcoming church events.

Sun, Nov 27, 4 pm - Christmas Around the World Advent Celebration

Sun, Dec 4, 11:45 am - First Families & Presby Kids Christmas movie & pizza

Sat, Dec 17, 5 pm - Christmas at Rockhaven

Sun, Dec 18, 3 pm - Community Messiah Sing

For more information, contact the church office or look in upcoming editions of PresbEnews.

Children's Sunday School is Taking a Break this Sunday

Children's Sunday school is taking a Thanksgiving break Sunday, November 27.

Beginning in December, we'll be preparing for Christmas by learning the Bible's story of the birth of Jesus. If you can help with this important ministry, contact April Spoerl at 717-203-4116 or spoerla1@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for the Messiah Community Sing



Messiah Community Sing is Sunday, December 18 at 3pm. You won't want to miss this 15th year of sharing this music with our community.

Community Choir will rehearse Saturday, December 17 at 1pm. (Notice time change).

Contact Kathy Braun for questions at 539-3491

Birthdays this week

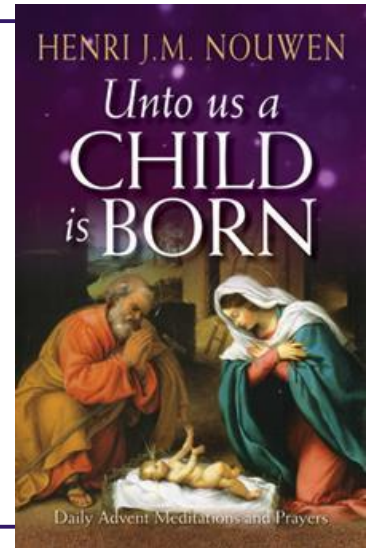
- 11/24 Dick Rote
Deana Berg
11/25 Betty Knutson
11/28 Larry Anes
11/29 Hans Swenson
11/31 Oscar Mendoza

Advent Devotional

Are you seeking spiritual growth during this sometimes-crazy pre-Christmas season?

Try an Advent devotional practice. Reflections from Henri Nouwen are collected in a daily format, including a scripture, meditation, and prayer. Meet Jesus again as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

These booklets are available at the entries to the sanctuary.



Service of Hope Sunday, December 4

Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service is hosting the ninth annual Service of Hope, Sunday, December 4, at 2p.m. at Dokken-Nelson for those wishing to set aside a time to remember a loved one who's passed away. The service will include a message of encouragement, candle lighting, and a memorial slide show* -the service is free and all are welcome. For info please call 587-3184. *To include a photo of your loved one please send by Tuesday, November 29 to info@dokkennelson.com or drop it off at 113 S. Willson.

Cookies Needed for Fellowship Time

Calling all bakers: We all love enjoying a cookie after Sunday church service, so if you could turn your oven on, find your favorite cookie recipe, and do a little baking the Deacons would surely appreciate your help. There is always a need for cookies. Thanks for your help.



Church Facebook page a source of up-to-date info!

Even if you're not a Facebook member yourself, you can still access the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman to get in on regular breaking news. If you'd like to interact with the content and others on the page, click the "Like" button at the top of the page if you're a Facebook member. Facebook-just one more way for us to interact with today's world!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

On Sunday we were treated to a fabulous feast in the Fellowship Hall. Sally Broughton and her crew put out a tremendous spread as a part of our annual Harvest Dinner. There was also some great entertainment as we dined, which preceded the other reason for our gathering, Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

During the festivities I remarked how Jody McDevitt had utilized a teaching moment for all of us during the previous Sunday's children's message. She was talking about shepherds when a precocious young boy informed Jody she was not a shepherd, rather she was a pastor. Jody seamlessly pointed out to the boy as well as all in attendance that the word pastor is derived from the Latin word for shepherd.

If you google the Latin word for shepherd you will find the verb *pascere* means to lead to pasture, or set to grazing, or cause to eat. These are all functions of a shepherd's vocation. I mean that in both the literal and figurative sense, because when Jesus repeatedly instructed Peter to, "feed my sheep," he was talking about us, Jesus' flock. And so our pastors carry on this rich tradition by leading us to God's green pasture, setting us to graze upon the word of God, and feeding our souls.

It is only natural for us, the flock, to show our appreciation for our wonderful pastors during the third week of November. We are entering a time of year when we clothe ourselves with an attitude of thanksgiving. We experience, as Dan Krebill mentioned in his sermon three weeks ago, the light and buoyancy of gratitude.

My problem is that I don't allow this experience to last. Despite being keenly aware of the many blessing bestowed upon me, I rarely take the time to acknowledge them — much less demonstrate my gratitude for them. Oh sure, I will sit at the table on Thursday and gratefully express my thanksgiving, but if it is like years past, then by the end of the day I will have both literally and figuratively lost that life-affirming light and buoyancy. Unless, of course, I choose to be different.

And that's what it boils down to, isn't it? A choice. I can continue to be a dour-puss, or I can float upon the illuminating petals of gratitude.

I will leave you with a benediction from yet another pastor we are blessed to have in our midst. Paul Krebill in his Words for Thinking and Thoughts for Meditation tells us, "Once you begin to count your blessings you realize the extent to which the richest dimensions of your life have to do with other people." Thanks be to you.