

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - December 2016



A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Co-Pastors' Corner...

How did it happen so quickly that December is here? With dustings of snow and the Christmas "spiders" hanging on Main Street, there's no question that this special season has arrived, a season of memories and hopes, traditions and new beginnings. Happy Advent to all.

In the most recent issue of *Presbyterians Today*, the magazine's interim editor, Sue Washburn, has written daily devotional reflections for Advent on the theme, "A Journey of Memories." Memory is heightened by this season, when we feel high expectations and intense emotions. Some of our memories are good, and some not so good. Some touch the core of our faith, such as a memory of the first time we felt awe at God's gift of Christ. Some reach the places in our hearts where we experienced disappointment or grief. Christmas memories are strong—just ask a child. Christmas memories are long-lasting—just ask an elder.

What are your memories of Advent and Christmas? For most people, the answer begins with our experiences of family. We recall special meals, stories told and retold, gifts given and received, time spent together. We may also recall frantic shopping, parties with excessive drinking, tension which erupted in fighting, and bills to be paid after the event—memories which stir more regret than joy. As this season begins, remember that you are making memories for the future, for yourself and for others around you. Choose ways of observing the season which reflect its message of love and peace.

As a church, we come together in this season to share the memory of Christian tradition, the stories of our faith, hope, and love. We're making memories together. We're teaching our children that Christmas is so much more than Santa Claus, we're showing families that they have a church family around them to love and support them, we're wrapping our arms around those who feel alone, and we're welcoming strangers into our midst because we remember that Christ came as a stranger into a world which could be hostile and needed to know of God's love. Together, we are living our way into the future God holds before us, fueled by memories of God's promises.

You are invited to all the memory-making times described in this newsletter. Invite someone else to join in, too.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"To pray is to walk in the full light of God, and to say simply, without holding back, 'I am human and You are God.'"

Henri Nouwen

Session Notes November 17

Session met November 17th which was a week early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The highlights were the advent and Christmas planning, the dedication of the Higher Ground Coffee Hut in memory of Pat Donehoo, Our Harvest Dinner and Pastor Appreciation, the Advent Dinner, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Rockhaven Christmas Service and the Messiah Community Sing. There was a concern as to why we do not advertise in the religious directory along with others. It has been a topic for Session in the past and decided it was too expensive for the amount of exposure it gives. John Patterson, our Ombud, did not have any concerns to report from the congregation. Session will hold a special Session meeting December 13 for the purpose of setting the 2017 budget and deciding where half the free will offering from the Messiah Sing will be donated. The other half will be donated to the Presby Cats. Our next meeting will be December 22nd.

Submitted by,

Donna Beck, Clerk

OMBUD: *The person who will listen to your suggestions, concerns, complaints and compliments.*

This quarter our OMBUD from the session is John Patterson, he will be happy to answer your questions and listen to what you have to say. He will be available in the library after Sunday services or you can contact him by phone (587-9722) or email jspatterson972@gmail.com. He will follow-up with Session.

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Thank you for giving your time, talents, and financial contributions.

Without your generous support we could not do all the great things we do to Glorify God.

Below is a table showing our financial status as of the end of October, 2016

October Income	\$49,252	Year to Date Income	\$421,337
October Expenses	\$43,931	Year to Date Expenses	\$427,834
October Balance	\$5,321	Year to Date Balance	\$-6,498

Stewardship campaign winds up

Many thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge of financial support for the church's ministry in 2017. The pledge totals are such that the session will be able to make some modest increases in the coming year. There's still time to get your pledge in if you haven't yet done so. Just give Linda a call in the church office, 586-9194 or email at linda@fpcbozeman.org to make your pledge today.

First Presbyterian Church Messiah Community Sing

Sunday, December 18 at 3pm

*Lukas Graf, Director and Carrie Krause, Concert Master
Featuring Second String Orchestra*

Soloists: Catherine Savery, Claire McCahan, Andrew Major, Darin Small

Organist: Joanna Ellison

*Community Choir rehearsal is Saturday
December 17 from 1:00p.m. to 3p.m.
Please notice change in rehearsal
time from previous years*



*No admission charge but donations are gladly accepted
For more information call 586-9194 or Kathy at 539-3491*

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)



Dear Congregation,



Each year you bless us with your love and support, and then honor us with words of appreciation. We are humbled by your thoughtfulness and kindness. Thank you for the wonderful Harvest Dinner, which this year was really a Harvest Feast! We are looking forward to attending "A Little Night Music" in February, and we will enjoy dinner at the Olive Garden thanks to you, too.

With gratitude for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ,

*Your co-pastors,
Dan Krebill & Jody McDevitt*

Rhapsody, MSU Student Acapella Group will hold a Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary Friday, December 2 at 6pm. It's free!



Food Bank Sunday, December 4

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is always in need of non-perishable and non-expired items. Bring good items to either church service on Sunday and leave in the basket in the narthex or bring to the front of the sanctuary.

During the week they can be brought to the church office.

For more information go to www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.com

Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Advent is a time when people who don't have a church home often gravitate toward a church. Invite a friend who may be seeking, and remember to be a welcoming presence at any of these special services this month!



Sunday, Dec 11, 10:30 am	Mt. Ellis Academy Choir joins us in worship (see article p.5)
Saturday, Dec 17, 5 pm	Christmas at Rockhaven (see article below)
Sunday, Dec 18, 3 pm	15 th Annual Messiah Sing (see article p.3)
Saturday, Dec 24, 5 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service, led by children and youth of our congregation
8 pm	Christmas Eve Traditional Service, with Worship Choir and First Bells
11 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Sunday, Dec 25, 10:30 am	Christmas Day Blessing of the Animals – (see article below) (No 8:30 service)
Sunday, Jan 1, 10:30 am	Worship God as the New Year begins (No 8:30 service)



Christmas at Rockhaven – Saturday, December 17

With the wood stove burning and a fire in the fireplace, lights twinkling, and Christmas carols in the air, the chapel at Rockhaven is a warm and welcoming place for an old-fashioned Christmas celebration. All are invited to this tradition of worship and fellowship, which will be held on Saturday, December 17, at 5 pm.

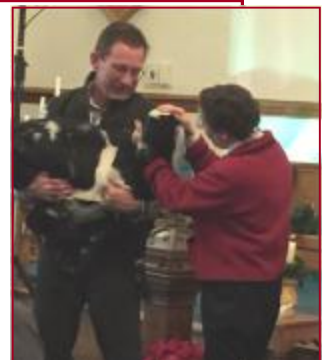
Following the service, “taxi” service will be available to help everyone descend the hill to the dining hall, where chili and fixings will be ready, thanks to members of the Rockhaven Operational Board. Each year this event offers a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend or two. Show our hospitality and share our special place. Please plan to attend!

Christmas Day Blessing of the Animals

It was 2011 when Christmas Day last fell on a Sunday, and that's when our church tried something new. While in many churches a service of “Blessing of the Animals” is held in October, honoring the feast of St. Francis, we thought that Christmas Day was also a fitting time to welcome animals into our building. After all, animals welcomed Jesus into their home on the first Christmas!

The service was so well received by both humans and their beloved pets that it became a tradition, and this year we will observe our 6th annual Blessing of the Animals service. We have welcomed (and blessed) dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, chickens, a lizard, stuffed animals, and a number of pictures of favorite horses over the years. The pets have behaved extremely well, and their people have followed suit.

So on Christmas Day 2016, we will hold one service only, at 10:30 am, and pets on leashes are invited to attend.



Birthdays this Month

12/2 Joy Ames
12/3 Jim Mitchell
12/4 Tom Hinman
12/5 Dan Holland
Delia Turner
12/7 Jan Peace
12/8 Lenka Swenson
12/9 Henry Erwin
12/10 Bruce Pontius-Backman
Kris Hall
12/11 Marcia Jarrett
Jillian May
Blake Babcock
12/13 April Spoerl
Logan Kleinhans
12/15 Mary Hektner
12/16 Larry Growney
12/17 Karl Spoerl
12/19 Ashley Hickert
12/21 Judy Arkwright
12/23 Rhoda McCormick
Ed Sedivy
Mike Roser
Debbie Ernst
12/24 Paul Visscher
12/25 Ruth Steele
Doug Babcock
12/26 Terry Schaplow
12/27 Elliot Johnson
12/29 Joanna Ellison
Kelly Meredith
12/30 Jim Hall
12/31 Sammylu Parsons

Mt. Ellis Academy Sings in Worship December 11

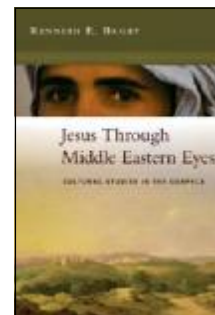
On Sunday, December 11, the choir of Mt. Ellis Academy will once again share their music of the season in our 10:30 am worship service. For several years, this youth choir led by Leisel Rogers has presented a cantata of Christmas music with us. This year, the music will be carols and hymns arranged by noted sacred music composer John Rutter. Our own Worship Choir will be joining them for some selections.

Mt. Ellis Academy is a Seventh Day Adventist high school located east of Bozeman. With both local and boarding options, the student body includes a significant number of international students. They enjoy singing in our church, and we enjoy having them share their music!

Plan to be in worship to welcome and share the joy.

Adult Sunday School Class looks at Christmas through Middle Eastern Eyes

For each of the 4 Sundays of Advent (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, & 18), the adult class is using a resource based on New Testament Professor Kenneth E. Bailey's book, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*. The focus is on the birth stories of Jesus as we find them in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Each week we'll address one of these questions. 1. Where was the manger and what was the inn? 2. Three surprises: his ancestors, Joseph and Herod. 3. Salvation and the wise men. 4. Herod's atrocities and Simeon's welcome. Dr. Bailey brings fresh answers to these and other questions regarding the Christmas story. Join us as we gain some new insight on this old and cherished story. The class meets in the church library on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15. *Please note that there will be no adult Sunday school class on December 25 or January 1.*



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!*



First Friday December 2



The Presby Cats will be joining us at 5:30 for a spaghetti dinner - movie – popcorn – and ice cream for dessert as we discuss the implications in our lives from a Christian viewpoint of the movie for the month, *CASABLANCA*. Identified as “the best Hollywood movie of all time ...this romantic lovers’ triangle between the impossibly heroic Czech Resistance leader (Paul Henreid), his beautiful wife (Ingrid Bergman), and her ex-lover (Humphrey Bogart) is still the same old



story. . but the new 4K resolution scan achieves the richest most dynamic image possible. So no matter how often you have seen this timeless classic that won 3 Academy Awards including Best Picture, you won’t want to miss this showing. If you will be bringing children, please call the church office to arrange for a sitter and allow us to provide appropriate movies for the younger set.

REMINDER FOR RECYCLERS

Be sure to use the recycling center in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure all items are in the bins, if they won't fit through the holes pull it out and open the door.

PLEASE FLATTEN ALL CARDBOARD!!! It has to be done and takes up less room. If anything doesn't fit in the container it may be left on top of the center.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY RECYCLING IN THE KITCHEN!!!
THANK YOU!!



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.

Interfaith Forum on December 7

“Caravan” by Carol Lynn Pearson Enjoy “A Happy Journey Through the Wisdom Tales of Judaism, Christianity and Islam” which premiered at 2015 Parliament of Religions will be the discussion at this month's Interfaith on Wednesday, December 7 at noon at Temple Beth Shalom. In a world growing smaller, in a nation growing more and more multi-religious, in a community becoming more diverse, the Interfaith Forum is an opportunity to understand our neighbors and build peace.

The Interfaith panel is also on the radio the second Tuesdays of the month from 8:00-8:30 am. Tune in to KMMS, 1450 AM, to hear more interfaith dialogue.

Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

Our family spent the Thanksgiving holiday in, of all places, Las Vegas, NV. That's right, Sin City. Our youngest daughter moved there about a year ago. She wanted to work and live in a warmer climate and Las Vegas certainly has that — except it wasn't very warm last weekend. Oh, it was pleasant enough, but it wasn't really shorts and t-shirt weather. Perhaps it didn't seem as warm, because it hasn't been very cold here yet.

We've had an exceptionally mild November. The snow pack is off to a miserable start and there is hardly any ice on the lakes and ponds. Oh sure, winter will be here soon enough, perhaps even by the time you read this, but in the meantime it is sometimes hard to get into the spirit of the season when the season doesn't cooperate.

I've never been to the Middle East, but I envision its climate and topography to be somewhat similar to Las Vegas — or at least like the place we had a picnic at on Friday. That was when we loaded a bunch of turkey sandwiches into the car and headed for the hills. The Red Rocks Canyon area is just past the outskirts of town and leads up into the mountains that surround the valley in which Las Vegas is located. Unlike the valley floor, there is vegetation in the hills: short grass, scrub oak, lots of different cacti, and thick brush. There was enough growth that it might even be able to sustain a flock of sheep. So as I enjoyed our picnic, I was reminded of the birthplace of a famous shepherd.

I looked up the average rainfall in Bethlehem. It gets almost five times more precipitation than Las Vegas does. I guess that might prove why there aren't any famous shepherds from Las Vegas. But during the winter both places get just as cold at night — cold enough that an expectant visitor might just be desperate enough to spend the night in a livestock barn.

As we drove back into town from the hills, the dominating view is the outline of the casinos along the strip, Sin City, but my thoughts were on a village a half a world away, where we were saved from our sins.



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!



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Deacons	2 5:30 First Friday	3
4 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	5 5:30 pm PW Campus Circle	6 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	7 7pm Choir	8 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group	9	10
11 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship Mount Ellis Choir 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	12	13 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	14 7pm Choir	15 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Session	16 6pm Merry Munchers	17 5:00pm Christmas at Rockhaven
18 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3:00pm Messiah Community Sing	19 5:30 pm PW Campus Circle	20 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	21 7pm Choir	22	23	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 8 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
25  10:30 am Christmas Day Blessing of the Animals	26 Holiday-Office closed	27 Holiday-Office Closed	28 7pm Choir	29	30	31