

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - January 2017



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

Happy new year!

The start of a new year is always an opportune time to set goals for the things we hope will happen in the next 12 months. One such goal for our church in 2017 is one that we'll undertake right away—a renewal of our church's commitment to Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC). During the month of January, we're going to be hearing more about the work of this local cooperative ministry that our church has been part of for more than 20 years. Gallatin County Love INC is a partnership of more than 40 Christian churches in the Gallatin Valley that seeks to meet the needs of people in our community by putting them in touch with those who can best help them. Most often those needs are met by members of partner churches who have stepped forward to offer their talents, skills and abilities for this ministry. We'll be hearing from some of the folks in our congregation who have been volunteering with Love INC over the years. They will be telling us how meaningful it has been to be part of this vital clearinghouse ministry. We'll also hear from a staff member of Love INC in preparation for an orientation meeting that will be held at our church on Sunday, January 29. This orientation meeting will be an opportunity for those in our church who would like to get detailed information on how they can volunteer their time, talents and abilities for this ministry. Our new church ministry contacts for Love INC are Bill & Katie Anderson. They are eager to help us renew our support of and participation in Love INC.

As your pastors, we want to once again offer our full support of this community ministry. We have seen many people helped by Love INC over the years, which in and of itself is inspiring. In addition to the results that we have seen in terms of clients' needs being met, we have been equally inspired by the ways that our church members who have volunteered with Love INC have been fired up for the ministry gifts that they have to offer. As the ministry of Love INC flourishes, our own church's mission commitment is strengthened.

Please join us this month in making a new commitment to Love in the Name of Christ. For more information about Gallatin County Love INC, check out its website at: <https://loveincgc.org/>

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

I lifted up my voice in prayer, his high praise was on my lips.

If I had cherished evil thoughts, the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard and given heed to my prayer.

Blessed is God who has not withdrawn his love and care for me.

Psalm 66:17-20

Session Notes

Session had its last meeting of the year on December 22nd. The minutes were approved and correspondence was read.

Evan Spoerl was introduced and approved for confirmation. The rest of this class will be introduced and presented for approval at a Special Session Meeting January 12th after which they will be confirmed on January 15th at the 10:30 service.

Session approved the free will offering of the Messiah Sings to be donated to Presby Cats, Messiah scores and the Warming Center.

Bill and Katie Anderson are now the FPC church ministry contacts for Love INC. Bill updated the session on Love INC and presented an agenda, naming January Love INC month. There will be an orientation meeting on January 29th after the 10:30 service for those who wish to participate.

Another item to report is the ongoing work on the new church website. Our meeting ended with prayer.

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. 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 November, 2016

November Income	\$36,142	Year to Date Income	\$457,479
November Expenses	\$40,726	Year to Date Expenses	\$468,332
November Balance	-\$4,584	Year to Date Balance	-\$10,854

Diversity Concert Sunday January 15

Mainly Music presents Diversity Concert on Sunday January 15 3pm. Celebrate diverse people making diverse music contributing to the joy of all. Young and old, varied culture and religious traditions with spiritual and secular vocal and instrumental pieces. Concert is cosponsored by Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association. No admission but a free will offering will be received.

**MERRY MUNCHERS
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2017**

It's time for the next round of Merry Munchers!! All adults are welcome, whether you are a church member, a friend of First Presbyterian, or visiting in the Gallatin Valley.

THIS IS A POTLUCK WHERE EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES.

HOST PROVIDES THE MAIN DISH.

You do not need to volunteer to be as host to participate.

Name(s) _____

Guests: CIRCLE BELOW the dates you will participate.

FEBRUARY 17 MARCH 17 APRIL 21 MAY 19

HOSTS: PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR A DATE (6 guests unless indicated):

____ FEBRUARY 17

____ MARCH 17

____ APRIL 21

____ MAY 19 ALL GROUP PICNIC. All participants will gather at one house. We need one host to volunteer for the site and beverages. Everyone else will bring the food.

PLEASE LEAVE THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR AT THE OFFICE.

QUESTIONS: CALL Sally Broughton 585-3544 or email at hawgeemt@gmail.com.

**DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**



Food Bank Sunday, January 8

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

Second Semester of Presby Cats (and fund-raising) Gets Underway

With the start of the spring term at MSU on January 11, our Presby Cats collegiate ministry resumes weekly gatherings on Sunday, January 15 with lunch, fellowship and Bible study every Sunday after the 10:30 service. But before that, they'll be gathering for a new year dinner and party on Saturday, January 14. The Lutheran and Methodist collegiate groups have been invited to help kick off the new semester together with this event.



As Presby Cats gets going again, we'll be hearing more about the upcoming spring break mission/study trip to Chicago that will be happening in March. As always, fund-raising is a key to the success of these trips. Presby Cats will once again be selling Elliott's of Montana frozen cookie dough and other products this month. So be on the lookout for Presby Cats with order forms in hand starting on Sunday, January 15. In addition, the ongoing Rent-a-Cat program continues. Please contact Tanner Robison at tanner.h.robison@gmail.com or 406-498-2751 for odd jobs and airport transportation in exchange for a donation to the mission trip fund.

If you would like to help with the Presby Cat Lunches please call the church office at 586-9194 or email linda@fpcbozeman.org and sign up Sundays through April.

Welcoming Bozeman – Coffee Conversations

Would you like to get to know others of different backgrounds in an informal, friendly setting? Would you like to be part of creating a community of welcome for all? The “Welcoming Bozeman” task force of the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) is offering a format which has been successful in other parts of the country at bringing people together. All are welcome.

Our community's success depends on making sure everyone who's a part of it feels welcome here. By recognizing the contributions that we all make to creating a vibrant culture and a growing economy, we make our neighbors feel more included and our community more welcoming to everyone who calls Bozeman home. From the diversity of different opinions, religions, cultures, and backgrounds spring forth fresh perspectives, friendships and understanding.

Join us around the table as we gather people of diverse faiths and cultures to talk, to gain understanding, and to start new friendships. These conversations will be small group meetings (8 per group) guided by a facilitator. This month's conversations will be held at Temple Beth Shalom from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on Mon., Jan 16, Thurs Jan 19, and Mon, Jan 23. Email Amanda Cater at catera@mcn.net to reserve a spot.

Stereotypes cannot outlast friendships. We look forward to seeing you!

Welcoming Bozeman is a task force working with Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association to create a more welcoming place for everyone to call home. We believe Bozeman has always been an accepting community. We don't care where you came from or what you look like; we care about what kind of person you are. We want people to know that our community is always willing to extend a hand in friendship to those who want to be a part of it.

Birthdays this Month

1/1 Mona Negus
1/4 Betty Vaughn
1/5 Don Mathre
Erica Hoffman
Aidar Haynes
1/8 Betsy Crabs
1/9 Mary Bradford
Steve Spoerl
1/10 Meri Sharon Lewis
1/12 Christine Holland
1/13 Ric Tieman
1/14 Don Frye III
1/15 Alison Todd
McKinley Hall
1/17 Lyle Biekert
1/18 Jennifer Frye
1/19 Linda Miller
1/20 Fritz Dickensheets
1/21 Suzanne Galinac
Scott Thompson
Chuck Broughton
Jeffrey Bissell
1/22 Jill Brauss
Cheryl McNicholas
1/23 Helen Craig
Wade Spoerl
1/24 Jim Gannon
1/25 Bruce Wilson
Spencer Hallin
1/27 Stephanie Breen
Evan Spoerl
1/30 Margaret Heath
1/31 Shirley Sedivy
Dan Archer

Special Announcement

Christine and Dan Holland are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie, to George Lehman. Katie and George are both elementary school teachers in the Billings area and plan a wedding sometime in 2018



(although not at Lambeau Field.) Many of you fervently prayed for Katie after her accident nearly ten years ago. It warms our hearts to share the positive results of your prayers.

Salam Neighbor Showing

Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association presents two showings of the award-winning film "Salam Neighbor" on Thursday, January 26 and Wednesday, Feb. 8

at 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Large Community Room in the Bozeman Public Library

FILM SYNOPSIS: The story of 85,000 Syrian refugees living inside Jordan's Za'atari camp, just seven miles from the Syrian border. As the first filmmakers allowed by the United Nations to register and set-up a tent inside a refugee camp, two Americans plunge into the heart of the world's most pressing humanitarian crisis.

Watch the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6SxPSZVD9o>

Plan ahead for February Presbytery event

On February 10-11, 2017, First Presbyterian Church in Billings will host a presbytery gathering featuring nationally known church leader, the Rev. Dr. E. Stanley Ott. Author of *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*, and president of the Vital Churches Institute (VCI), Stan's passion is the transformation of the mainline church. Stan teaches the principles of congregational vitality, transformation, missional endeavor, and leadership. Understanding spiritual gifts will be the starting place for workshops and discussions aimed at using our gifts to become more vital as disciples and congregations.

While this event will include the annual meeting of the Presbytery of Yellowstone, congregations are encouraged to send more than their pastors and requisite ruling elder commissioners. All Presbyterian church members are welcome.

Do Not Live Afraid Book Study

"Fear is a great motivator, but it is not a saving one," writes John Indermark, a United Church of Christ minister and author of spiritual formation books. All the fear in the culture around us makes this a good time to study the message of God's angels when they appear to startled humans. "Do not be afraid."

Two opportunities to read and discuss Indermark's book with others will be offered this winter. On Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, beginning on January 8, Dan Krebill will lead the adult Sunday school class, which all are welcome to attend. To make the study more widely available, Jody McDevitt will also lead a group at a time to be decided.

The books will be available in the church office or at the first gathering of the groups. There is no charge for the books.

Potential meeting times for Jody's group: Tuesday mornings (10 am); Wednesday afternoons (4 pm); Thursday afternoons (1 pm). Express your preferences at this Doodle poll: <http://doodle.com/poll/rp45ihnr46c5vkdy>, or call the church office.

Confirmation Sunday, January 15

Following our fall confirmation retreat and classes, nine students have expressed a desire to publicly affirm their Christian discipleship and become members of First Presbyterian Church. On their confirmation journey, they have learned together about baptism and discipleship, worship and prayer, communion and community, and living in Christ. The group has read the Bible as foundation for each theme, and read the gospel of Mark individually. They will meet with the session Thursday, January 12, and formally profess their faith at the 10:30 worship service on January 15. This is a joyous occasion not only for these students and their families, but for our congregation.

Please remember these young people in your prayers, giving thanks for the gift of faith: Rodney Aloise, Danielle Berg, Shelby Guenther, Wyatt Guenther, Julia Johnson, Annie Kolwyck, Mitchell Larsson, Graham Overton, and Evan Spoerl.

FIRST FRIDAY - JANUARY 6, 2017

Join 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, **SPOTLIGHT**. “*Spotlight* tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions... team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston's religious, legal, and government establishment ..” Questions that we will consider are: Who’s at fault when institutions are broken? Who is responsible when the weak and vulnerable are exploited?



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 DO NOT RECYCLE PAPER CUPS

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



Interfaith Forum on January 4

Climate change: A religious issue? What is the role of religion in discussions and finding solutions to climate change? Will be the discussion at this month's Interfaith on Wednesday, January 4 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.

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!*



Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

On Christmas morning the church hosted its sixth annual *Blessing of the Animals*. This was the first time in this run of years for the Sunday after Christmas Eve to fall on Christmas Day, but there seemed to be just as many humans as normal in spite of the inclement weather. There was also the normal amount of barking (including a few arf-arfs from the bell choir) to make it the same warm and inviting event it always is.

During the service Dan Krebill read us a children's book written by Max Lucado. Entitled *The Crippled Lamb*, it tells the nativity story from the perspective of a young lamb named Joshua who helps keep the Christ child warm on that blessed night so long ago. Later in the service I brought a young goat into the sanctuary to be blessed. This young doeling isn't crippled and certainly hasn't played a role anything close to Joshua's magical journey, but she still has a story to tell.

Jambalaya was born in July. A friend of mine had started a goat breeding operation the previous year and I had given her a mature doe to help fortify her efforts. In exchange I was to receive the pick of the litter from this doe's first batch of kids. I fell in love with Jambalaya's color the first time I saw her, and I integrated her into my herd in November. That is when Jambalaya's story begins.

Like humans, goats are social animals. And like most animals there is a hierarchical structure to a goat herd — a pecking order, if you will. Jambalaya entered my herd on the bottom rung and the two oldest goats have gone out of their way to make sure she stays there. They are mean to her; they make sure she gets last choice when it is feeding time; they force her to sleep by herself in their shed. I attempt to intervene on her behalf, but their stereotypes and prejudices are hard to overcome. I guess that's what is meant by a herd mentality.

But Jambalaya has survived. She is tough. She made it through that horrible cold snap we had last week. Her portly physique assures me that she hasn't missed any meals. And she has developed her own distinctive voice that she isn't afraid to let the world hear.

I hope I am able to learn the lessons Jambalaya is attempting to teach me. Too often in my life I have adopted the herd mentality. I am resistant to change; I cling to the familiar; I am xenophobic. There is a refugee crisis in our world that I have thus far only experienced on television and in the newspaper. When the time comes, though, for a Jambalaya to settle into our human community, I pray God will give me the change of heart to be a welcoming light.



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship One service only	2 Office Closed	3	4	5 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Deacons	6 5:30pm First Friday	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	9	10 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	11 7pm Choir	12 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Session	13	14 Presby Cat New Year Party
15 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship Mount Ellis Choir 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 3 pm Mainly Music	16 Martin Luther King Holiday office closed	17 6pm First Bells 7 Rockhaven Board 7 Boy Scouts	18 7pm Choir	19 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group	20 7pm Presby Cats Movie Night	21
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	23	24 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	25 7pm Choir	26 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7 pm Session	27	28 HRDC Community Connect
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	30	31 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts				