



# PresbEnews

February 22, 2017

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

Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771

(406) 586-9194 - [www.fpcbozeman.org](http://www.fpcbozeman.org) - Editor - [presbenews@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:presbenews@fpcbozeman.org)

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## Youth Climb the Walls

On Sunday afternoon, February 19, members of the youth group challenged themselves at Spire Climbing Center. Some were first timers, others more experienced, but all had fun and reached beyond their own expectations. Pictured are Julia Johnson, Danielle Berg, Alyce Larsson, Mitchell Larsson, Shelby Guenther, Martha Aloise, Louise Milburn, Josephine Milburn, and Wilson McMakin.

Not shown: Wyatt Guenther

## Enhancing Our Conversation With God

*"Speak to me, Lord. Help me to understand the message of Scripture, the lessons of Jesus, and the urgings of the Holy Spirit."*

*Our Daily Bread - August 23, 2016*

## 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](http://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 - March 3

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, *SECONDHAND LIONS*. “For young Walter, being stuck on his “crazy” uncles’ farm on the plains of Texas is the last place on earth he wants to spend the summer. First, shocked by their unconventional behavior, including ordering an African lion through the mail, Walter soon gets caught up in their mysterious past. The rumors that his uncles were bank robbers or maybe even worse are hard

to believe, but they do seem to have an endless supply of cash. Little by little, an amazing story comes to life. The tales not only bring him closer to his uncles, but also teach him what it means to believe in something...whether it’s true or not.” Robert Duvall and Michael Caine along with Haley Joel Osment and some charming animals make an enchanting story.

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.

### Adults explore racial justice and reconciliation, *Love An Other*

Some call it “America’s original sin”—the sin of racism. How do we move towards the redemption of this sin? How is this both a systemic and a personal need? The co-moderators of the PC(USA), the Rev. Denise Anderson and the Rev. Jan Edmiston, have asked for this topic to be on the agenda throughout our denomination during their two-year term. To further the discussion, they have provided short videos in which they discuss a book, *Waking Up White*. In addition, Denise Anderson is the teacher in a series entitled *Love An Other*. Both of these resources will be the basis of discussion in adult Sunday school during the season of Lent, beginning March 5.



Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston

The topic is timely for all Americans, and the calling is clear for all Christians. If we believe in Christ’s call to unity, justice, and equality, we have work to do.

This class will challenge us all. It is particularly relevant for those engaged in our mission with the Dakota Presbyterian churches. Please join the discussion, learn from these two church leaders, and commit to making our world look more like the just and peaceful world God intends for us.

### *Birthdays this week*

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2/22 Emma Galinac  | 2/26 George McClure |
| Teri Nightingale   | 2/27 Rob Minteer    |
| Daniel Larimer     | Ev Lensink          |
| 2/23 Fran Babcock  | 2/28 Rita Fish      |
| 2/25 Chuck Poremba |                     |
| Chuck Swenson      |                     |

**Ash Wednesday Taizé Service  
March 1, 6:30 pm**

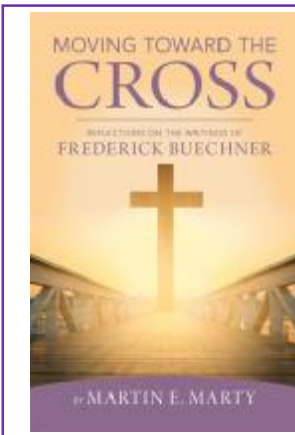


**What is Ash Wednesday?** Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent, the season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our human frailty and need for God.

**What is a Taizé Service?** In 1940, an ecumenical monastic community was founded in Taizé, France. Over the years, they developed a distinctive contemplative worship style using simple music and prayer. The Taizé Community attracts more than 100,000 pilgrims each year who come to engage in worship, prayer, Bible study, sharing, and ecumenical work. Our service will follow this style.

**Where and when will it be?** We will hold the service in the church library on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 pm. It will begin promptly and conclude in time for choir practice at 7 pm.

**Why should I come?** The contemplative style of worship is restful and deep, inviting worshipers to dwell in the presence of God. If you long for a time of peace and quiet prayer, you will find it in a Taizé service. If you long for God's will to be known to you, you may experience that in a Taizé service. If you simply long for God, a Taizé service is an opportunity to draw closer to our source.



**Lenten devotional booklets offered for use**

Two of the finest Christian theological writers of our time are brought together in the devotional booklet chosen for our use this Lent. Martin Marty, professor emeritus of church history at the University of Chicago and senior editor at the Christian Century since 1956, reflects on the writings of Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian minister and author of more than 30 books. Each day, a scripture verse is illuminated by both writers, and a prayer suggests how we might begin our own communication with God. Pick up one of these at the sanctuary entrances, and grow in faith this Lent.

**Welcoming Bozeman -**

**Coffee Conversations on Monday, March 6 at 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church**

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, new ideas, understandings, and friendships.

Change and understanding begin in conversations; the more we have, the bigger the difference we can make in our community. 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 (8-10) meetings guided by a facilitator.

## Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Harlem, MT (circa 1952)

Woody Allen once said, “Half of life is just showing up.” Or perhaps what he said was, “Eighty percent of success is just showing up.” Regardless of what the quote actually was, the emphasis was on ‘showing up.’ And so it is that if you happen to show up for early service on a Sunday morning, you are likely to see Nancy Williams there. If you happen to attend the late service, chances are quite high you will see Nancy there as well. Likewise your attendance at adult Sunday school will coincide with Nancy’s. Rockhaven? She’s there. The fact of the matter is Nancy shows up for just about everything on our church calendar. But that’s not the most amazing part of her walk of faith. No, what sets Nancy apart from somebody, say like me, is her willingness to rub elbows with strangers. Being a champion of the newcomer comes easily to Nancy, because it started early in her life.

Growing up in Harlem in the forties and fifties was an idyllic affair. Nancy had seventeen cousins in her generation all living on farms within a twenty-five mile radius. She knew everyone in that section of Montana’s Hi-line. She even got along with the kids from the nearby Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Swedes, Germans, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, it didn’t matter; they were all her neighbor. Then one day in seventh grade, a new girl moved to town. Nancy, in her easy, quiet way, just naturally made friends with the new girl. She would become Nancy’s best friend for the next sixty years.

There are two mottos that guide Nancy William’s life. The first can be found on a bumper sticker, but that bumper sticker isn’t on her car. She keeps it in her bedroom, and it simply says, “Angels are watching over me.” This helps Nancy through the tougher times in her life. Like when she rolled her car on a lonely stretch of Nevada highway a few years back. Or when her son, Donald, died in an accident two years ago. Or in the aftermath of her divorce in the early eighties. Angels watching over her.

The other motto is for every day. It’s her walking around creed, a guiding light for regular life. It comes originally from Teresa of Avila, a nun in the sixteenth century. More recently St. Teresa’s words have been made into songs, but perhaps most famously they were made into legend following World War II. There are various accounts of this occurring at cathedrals throughout Europe at the conclusion of the war, but the gist is the same. Liberators would find a statue of Christ with his arms outstretched, but his hands missing as a result of the constant bombardment. As legend goes, a local sculptor would offer to replace Christ’s hands on the statue, but the parishioners preferred to just place a plaque at its base with these words from Teresa of Avila:

*Christ has no hands but your hands  
No body, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes with which  
He looks compassion on the world  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.*