

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - March 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 - Editor - presbenews@fpcbozeman.org
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Ash Wednesday Taizé Service Tonight, 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.

Why should I come? The contemplative style of worship is restful and deep, inviting worshipers to dwell in the presence of God. If you simply long for God, a Taizé service is an opportunity to draw closer to our source.



Co-Pastors' Corner...

One of the high privileges of serving as a Christian pastor is the opportunity to walk with individuals and families as they encounter the events of life. These can be joyous and celebratory, as in the case of the birth of or adoption of a new family member, as well as weddings and anniversaries, among others. They can also be more challenging when illness or injury threatens one's wellbeing, or when some other tragedy strikes.

Among the most special and sacred of such moments is to accompany individuals and their loved ones on the final journey toward physical death and end of earthly life. Such times can be sudden and brief, or they can also be more extended and drawn out. In both cases the journey continues following the physical death as we together celebrate the life lived and the eternal life in Christ realized. Even after that, the journey continues as we together find a new way of living into the future without our loved one who has departed us. As pastors of this church for the last 20 years, both of us have had numerous such experiences with church members and families. We have cherished each such experience that has been an enrichment to our lives as your pastors.

This year, we find ourselves on this journey, not as pastors, but as the daughter and son-in-law of Jody's mother who has been in hospice care since the middle of February. We are so grateful for the many expressions of love and support that we have received from this congregation that we love so dearly. Your Christian love is accompanying us as we walk this road together. While we journey ahead with deep and abiding faith in the promise of resurrection, we are awestruck by the power of God to work through the lives of those with whom we journey. Thank you so much.

As we enter into the season of Lent on March 1, this year's Lenten observance for us will be deepened as we witness, first-hand, the power of hope for resurrection that is such a powerful reality in our lives as God's children. Thanks be to God for the gift of life and for the gift of life eternal. We are already looking forward, more than ever, to the celebration of the glorious resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday—this year on April 16.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

Session Notes

Highlights of the February 23 meeting included:

1. Receiving the resignation of ruling elder April Spoerl whose family is moving to Tennessee this summer. We have definitely appreciated her serving on the Kids and Family Committee of Session with Holly Aloise.
2. The church budget income and expenses were essentially equal for January thanks to congregational giving.
3. Dan and Jody attended an excellent APCE educational conference in Denver in January.
4. As the congregation is aware, Jody's mother is nearing the end of her life and Dan and Jody have and will be taking family leave as needed to be with her. The Session approved changing Dan to a full-time position and Jody to a half-time position for up to the next three months.
5. An interesting Rick Steves (travel author) video series on Luther and the Reformation will be the focus of the adult Sunday School classes beginning 3/12/17.
6. 7 of the Presby Cats and Dan Krebill will be traveling to Chicago 3/11-3/18/17 for a Spring Mission Trip with DOOR Ministry.
7. To mark the beginning of Lent, a special Ash Wednesday Taize Service will be Wednesday, 3/1 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. All are welcome to attend. Plan to come and prepare yourself for the Lenten Season.
8. Session approved new Support and Endowment Management Board of Trustees members Kris Hall, Kelly Meredith, Cinclair May, Mark Williams and Jim Mitchell who are all looking forward to serving the church in this role.
9. The Deacons and Session have an annual joint dinner meeting, hosted this year by the Deacons, scheduled for April 6th.
10. John Patterson reported on the February 10-11, 2017 Presbytery Meeting and excellent Workshop by Stan Ott that he and Suzanne Bratsky attended as delegates. This led to plans for a late spring Session retreat for current and incoming Session members to focus on the exciting direction the Holy Spirit is leading us a 'Sailboat Church.'
11. Discussion continued relative to the 24 S. Willson property with several members of the Task Force present for the discussion.

Submitted by,
Elder John Patterson

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 January, 2017

January Income	\$54,221	Year to Date Income	\$54,221
January Expenses	\$54,297	Year to Date Expenses	\$54,297
January Balance	\$-76	Year to Date Balance	\$-76

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

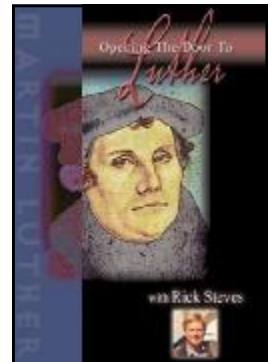
Haley Joel Osment and some charming animals make an enchanting story.

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.

Changes in Adult Sunday School Plans

If you were excited about the “Love An Other” course announced in last week’s PresbEnews, do not be disappointed! This course will be offered following Easter this year. You will have an opportunity to explore racial justice and racial reconciliation in the light of our faith.

The schedule has been revised for several reasons, however. On **Sunday, March 5**, the current study of *Do Not Live Afraid* will conclude with a final session. Then, on **March 12 and 19**, in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, we will learn from popular TV host Rick Steves by watching and discussing his public television special, “Luther and the Reformation.” Steves is a Lutheran, and he planned this program to explain the historic, economic, and social context of the Reformation, and how this tumultuous age helped Europe leave the Middle Ages and enter our Modern Age. Unlike many versions of Luther’s life which have been told, this version strives NOT to be “anti-Catholic Church,” but does lift up the theological themes of the Reformation.



Rick Steves will continue to educate us on **March 26 and April 2** as we learn about Lenten and Easter celebrations in Europe, including Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Italy, and Greece. Colorful festivities which have been celebrated for centuries begin with Carnival and conclude with Easter. What do these traditions offer us in the 21st century? What can we learn from them about living the Christian faith?

Adult Sunday school meets in the church library from 9:30 – 10:15 am each Sunday. All are welcome.

Presby Cats take off for spring break mission trip to Chicago

On Saturday, March 11, a group of 8 from our Presby Cats collegiate group will drive to Havre where they will catch the train to Chicago for a week-long mission trip. While in Chicago they will be working with DOOR Ministries which coordinates the work of mission trip groups wishing to minister in the inner city. During the week our group will be working in community gardening, serving at soup kitchens, helping at a senior daycare center, as well as other opportunities to serve. Every mission trip includes a little time to enjoy the sights of the local scene. Our group will be going up to the Skydeck of Willis Tower on Wednesday evening. And on Saturday, they will get to visit some of the great museums of Chicago. They'll board the train on Saturday afternoon and get back to Havre on Sunday, March 19, in time to drive back to Bozeman in the afternoon.



As it has in previous mission trips, our Presby Cats will be blogging about their experience at <https://presbycats.wordpress.com/> Check it out, along with the Presby Cats Facebook page. The group will be sharing their experience in worship on Sunday, April 2.

The mission trip delegation will be commissioned during the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 5. Many thanks for all of the financial and prayer support for this mission trip.

One way you can help out is to loan us any big or oversize duffle bags in which we can put our sleeping bags to check as baggage on the train trip. If you have such a duffle that you can loan, please contact Dan at dan@fpcbozeman.org or at 406-223-2557.

Cookie dough is here!

If you haven't yet received the frozen cookie dough and other products that you ordered from our Presby Cats, those items are now at the church. Please stop by during the week to pick them up, or get them during the coffee hour after each of our Sunday worship services. Thanks for your support!

Interfaith Forum on March 8 (THIS IS A 2ND WEDNESDAY!)

What happens when we marry outside our faith? will be the discussion at this month's Interfaith on Wednesday, March 8 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 panel includes Rabbi Ed Stafman, Dr. Ruhul Amin, The Rev. Jody McDevitt, The Rev. Leo Proxell and other invited guests.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

During World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. At the prompting of newly-elected Presiding Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill of the Episcopal Church in 1946, a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. On nationwide radio, he challenged members to raise “one million dollars in one hour” to help people and communities in need. During the first three years, Episcopalians raised \$3.8 million.

In 1949, church leaders from several denominations formed an ad hoc committee to organize an appeal aimed at supporting the separate campaigns of American churches. Their joint statement in support of this effort in essence conveyed the importance of strengthening the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas. Pulling together, they could prove to the world the great power generated when Christians united in a common cause.

In 1950, the title “One Great Hour of Sharing” was used for the first time. Its goal was to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. From the 1990s to the early 2000s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, most use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

Give Generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.



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!

Birthdays this Month

- 3/3 *Russell Milburn*
Adynn Small
- 3/4 *Earl Peace*
Stuart Cunningham
- 3/5 *John Shellenberger*
- 3/9 *Logan Cunningham*
- 3/11 *William Carlson*
- 3/14 *Ellie Lehrkind*
- 3/16 *Mattie Hickert*
- 3/21 *Lynn Bissell*
- 3/22 *Nancy Williams*
Trish Garnick
- 3/24 *Jim Craig*
- 3/25 *Jody McDevitt*
- 3/27 *Jacob Kleinhans*
Graham Overton
- 3/29 *Zephaniah Small*
- 3/30 *Tommie Johnson*
Ben Sinnema
Spence Erwin



Cookies for Fellowship Time

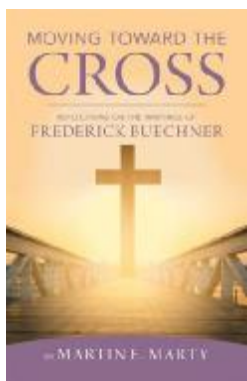
Calling all bakers: We all love enjoying a cookie after Sunday church service, so if you could turn your oven on, find your favorite cookie recipe, and do a little baking the Deacons would surely appreciate your help. There is always a need for cookies.

Thanks for your help.

Food Bank Sunday, March 5

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





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.

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)

Today marks the beginning of Lent, the six week journey we in Christendom embark upon in an attempt to more fully comprehend the sacrifice our Savior endured on our behalf. This year I will once again selfishly utilize this space to explore a predetermined theme via the medium of serialized fiction. The only two things I know at this point about our story are this theme and the fact that it will conclude during Passion Week.

Hope Comes Calling

Hope stared down at her breakfast. The yoke from her half-eaten eggs had stained the outer edge of the pile of hash-browns encompassing half of the oval shaped plate. Hope's left hand held a partially eaten bacon strip, in her right a fork whose slightly bent tine had already caught itself on the metal stud adorning her lower lip. She set the fork down gently and deftly grabbed the bottle of Tabasco sauce in front of her. Two dashes of its contents would surely make this too familiar meal come to life.

Hope Comes Calling possessed great beauty. Her striking features were a product of a dalliance the better part of four decades prior between the handsome son of a Mormon potato farmer and the fetching daughter of a Shoshone tribal elder. Although Hope was raised by her mother on the reservation, her existence was not denied by her father's family. Even after her father married another woman and had several blond haired, blue eyed children, Hope managed to spend time on their farm, sorting spuds in the fall and babysitting the younger ones.

But Hope's spirit felt most at home in Indian country. Despite her grandfather's practice of traditional native religion, her grandmother exposed Hope to a small Protestant church at an early age. Hope loved to sing European hymns translated into the Shoshone tongue. They conveyed an outward looking sense of inclusiveness that appealed to Hope's worldview surging through the mixed blood roiling in her veins.

Hope's thoughts were interrupted by a fit of giggling coming from the other side of the café table. She looked up and watched as her two daughters engaged in a bit of mindless folderol that only teenagers seem capable of. Augusta, the older of the two, nearly seventeen, was named for her paternal great-grandmother. Courtney, younger by two years, was named for Hope's high school friend, Courtney Stands Tall.

Hope and Courtney had met on the school's basketball team as freshmen. Neither were outstanding players, but because the team was so pathetic they were both forced to play more than freshmen should. They bonded through this adversity. After graduation Hope went off to community college, but Courtney stayed on the rez. She tried her hand at exotic dancing, then turned to meth to hide her shame. Courtney had struggled; she drifted. But throughout Courtney's ordeal Hope remained her steadfast friend, encouraging her, arranging for trips to rehab. And later it was Hope who had delivered the eulogy at Courtney's funeral.

Now here they were goofing around in a truck stop restaurant, Hope's homage to her Anglo and Native blood. Gus and Cort. They were the apples of Hope's eye: one the result of a brief union with a college sociology professor in Coeur d'Alene, the other a remnant from a failed relationship with a jazz musician in Berkley.

"C'mon you guys, finish your waffles. We've got miles to cover." ...continued next week



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Taize Ash Wednesday service 7pm Choir	2 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 6:30 7pm Deacons	3 5:30pm First Friday	4
5 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	6 5:30 Presbyterian Women Circle	7 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	8 7pm Choir	9 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Rockhaven Board	10	11 Presby Cats leave for Mission Trip in Chicago
12 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	13	14 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	15 7pm Choir	16 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group	17 6pm Merry Munchers	18
19 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	20	21 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	22 7pm Choir	23 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7 pm Session	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	27	28 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	29 7pm Choir	30 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group	31	