



PresbEnews

March 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 - Editor - presbenews@fpcbozeman.org

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Thank you from Dan and Jody

Thank you to all who have supported us through the passing of Jody's mom, Jean McDevitt, from this life to the next. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, cards, hugs, thoughtful expressions, and the gift of time to be with her in her final weeks through a glorious celebration of her at her church, Abington Presbyterian Church, in Abington, PA. One family member observed that of all the expressions used to describe death, the one which suits Jean best is "she has joined the Church Triumphant." We are confident that the heavenly choirs are better organized now than they were a few weeks ago, that improved systems are in place for welcoming newcomers and nurturing friendships, and that the entire operation is running more smoothly. 😊 And we are more grateful than ever for the promise of everlasting life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Mainly Music Organ Concert

The next Mainly Music Organ Concert will be Sunday, April 2 at 3pm. Featuring Joanna Ellison, Alison Todd, Jay Pontius-Backman, Holly Aloise, Matthew O'Sullivan, Timothy Bell, Connie Campbell-Pearson, Adam Muhlestein, as well as soloists Larry Growney, Thomas Lee, Sara Herdina and Mandy Bowker. Please mark your calendars.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Is anyone among you in trouble? He should turn to prayer. Is anyone in good heart? He should sing praises....The prayer offered in faith will save... his sins will be forgiven. A good man's prayer is powerful and effective."

James 5:13-16

FIRST FRIDAY - April 7



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, *Me Before You*. “26-year-old Louisa Clark played by Emilia Clarke is a happy, outgoing woman who lives with and supports her working-class family. After losing her job at a local cafe, she is hired as the caregiver of Will Traynor played by Sam Claflin, a former successful banker and once active young man who became paralyzed after being involved in a motorcycle accident two years prior. Louisa has no experience but Will's mother believes her positivity will help lift his spirits. ...she learns that Will has given his parents six months before taking him to Switzerland for assisted suicide. He cannot deal with the pain and suffering of his disability and wishes for his old self to come back, but because this isn't a possibility, he has asked his parents to do this one thing for him. Louisa secretly makes it her mission to change his mind ...to try and prove to Will that life is worth living, despite his disability.” How do we handle the topics of love, redemption, the value of life, and assisted suicide? What do we do when the wishes of a loved one are so opposed to our own?

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.

Deacons Distributing Easter Food Baskets

Once again the Board of Deacons will be distributing Easter Food Baskets to needy families this year. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary for volunteers who wish to aid in this great mission. You may help with set-up, delivery or especially donations (or all three!) Volunteers will meet at the Senior Center on April 14 at 1 p.m. to assemble and then deliver the baskets.

Please contact Mike Roser at 406-580-5818 for more information.



Birthdays this week

3/22 Nancy Williams

Trish Garnick

3/24 Jim Craig

3/25 Jody McDevitt

3/27 Jacob Kleinhans

Graham Overton

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!



Big Sky Handbell Musicians 36th Annual Handbell Festival

Free Closing Concert Saturday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Belgrade Special Events Center on 220 Spooner Road in Belgrade.

Featured in this closing concert will be “Reflections on Kelvingrove” under the direction of the composer, our weekend clinician and conductor, Jason W. Krug. “Reflections on Kelvingrove” was commissioned by **Bells of the Bridgers** in honor of founding directors Pat Dickensheets and Wanda Myers. Handbell ringers and congregations at First Presbyterian and BUMC have already enjoyed this wonderful arrangement in worship since the **Bells of the Bridgers’** World Premier in concert in 2015. Nearly 30 handbell choirs from MT and ID will be “playing our song”, and many more.



Family Promise Celebrity Servers Event



Family Promise's 5th Annual Celebrity Servers event is happening Thursday, April 6th from 6-9 p.m. at Unknotted Café. Celebrity Servers is an annual event in which local celebrities volunteer to serve a meal to event attendees. It is an exciting, fun, and engaging event to meet other Family Promise supporters, invite your friends to tag along, and enjoy a fine meal. Tickets can be purchased at www.familypromisegv.org or by calling the Family Promise office at [406.582.7388](tel:406.582.7388). We hope to see you there!



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

Hope Comes Calling (continued)

The balance of the drive to Dallas had been fairly uneventful, save a couple of minor detours to avoid prairie wildfires. Although Hope was a child of the Rockies, she still maintained an affinity for the vast flatland of the American Midwest. She knew fires helped regenerate the grassland ecosystem, which ranchers used to transform cellulose into edible protein for millions of human beings. Still she cringed when they drove by the charred carcasses of livestock and miles upon miles of burned fence.

The rugged skyline of Dallas brought an abrupt end to Hope's prairie thoughts. This was a big city; Texas in all of its glory. In the midst of this horizon to horizon sprawl Hope rose from a table in a quaint little coffee shop as her friend, Meredith, approached.

"Meredith, it's been too long." They hugged as if it had indeed been a long time. "I took the liberty of getting you a caramel latte."

"Good old Hope, you always remember everything."

"The key word there being old. That's something I can't say about you. You look great, Meredith."

"Yeah, well, appearances can be deceiving," Meredith paused and looked down at her coffee. "There's no easy way to say this, but I've been diagnosed with breast cancer." Tears welled up in the corners of Meredith's eyes and Hope's eyes quickly mirrored them.

"Oh, sweetheart, I'm so sorry. When did you find out?"

"A couple weeks ago."

"I wish you would have told me sooner. I just drove a thousand miles and I could have been praying for you that whole time."

"I know, but I was afraid that if I told you, then you wouldn't come. And I wanted to tell you face to face."

Hope held Meredith's trembling hand in her own and gently stroked it. She thought back to Kaku's hand that she had held not two weeks prior. This hand was still full of vitality. There was fight in it. Resilience. Hope smiled at her friend, "We drove through some of the Kansas country that had burned so bad. As I was driving I noticed this one small patch that didn't burn, an oasis of yellow in the sea of black. So I pulled over and walked over to it. It was some delicate bunchgrass. By all rights it should have burned, but it didn't. So I picked a little bit of it. I thought I would use it in a traditional ceremony in the parking lot of Energy Transfer Partners. You know, to create this great irony in our fight against your company, but now I know what I have to use it for. I need to pray for you with every fiber of my being."

Meredith shook. Her tears flowed unabated. "Hope, I'm scared."

"Me too, but fortunately the Lord is among us." Just then Augusta and Courtney walked in. They had seen a store in a strip mall across the street and had gone to check it out. As Meredith attempted to dry her eyes, Hope made awkward introductions, "Gus and Cort, I'm sure you don't remember Meredith, because you last met when you were both toddlers. As it turns out pipeline issues are the least of our worries right now, because Meredith just told me she has breast cancer."

The girls were both stunned. They'd been looking forward to the insight Meredith could bring in the struggle both held dear. Then light flashed across Courtney's face. "Hey mom, let's smudge some of that grass you picked in Kansas for Meredith."

"Way ahead of you child, and I like the way you think." ...continued next week