

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - April 2017

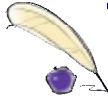


A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors

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Co-Pastors' Corner

...As we draw near to Holy Week and Easter, often our church focus seems to be on the traditions established over the years. We have traditional hymns and worship rituals, beginning with Palm Sunday's "parade of palms" sung to "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." On Maundy Thursday we read traditional scriptures and observe the Lord's Supper, remembering the last supper. Good Friday varies year to year, but always we observe the day with our ecumenical neighbors. On Easter Sunday, we sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" and share in a communion meal which reminds us of the resurrection. And we can't forget the fellowship meals which are established traditions—the Seder Dinner and the Easter Breakfast. Most families also have their own traditions, observed at home.

Traditions carry culture and, at their best, religious traditions also communicate faith. Recently the adult Sunday school class has been watching a Rick Steves' documentary, *European Easter*. Some of the traditions portrayed are foreign and even strange to us, such as the Slovenian monster parade held on the day before Lent begins. Some seem far removed from their religious origins, such as gifts given in a custom-made chocolate Easter egg in Italy. Still others clearly are intended to convey religious understandings from generation to generation, such as the Semana Santa (Holy Week) parades in Seville, Spain.

What do our traditions communicate? Do we practice them "because we've always done it this way" or because they have meaning in our lives? Do our traditions touch memories and create continuity with the past in a helpful way? Do they speak to the future, grounding younger generations in truth and beauty? These questions are important as we approach a week of traditions. Are we paying attention to the meaning behind the traditions, or just going through the motions?

One way to ensure that the trappings of tradition enhance rather than obscure our religious observance is to return to the source. As Holy Week begins, read the Biblical story again, or for the first time. It is told in variant ways in all four gospels. (In Matthew, read from chapter 21 to the end; in Mark, begin with chapter 11; in Luke start at 19:28; and in John, begin at 12:12.) The substantial amount of text devoted to this last week of Jesus' life tells us how important it is to the gospel writers.

And when you enter into the traditions, enjoy the gifts of previous generations while you pass on the most important aspects to the next generations. We look forward to sharing this special season with all.

Holy Week Schedule April 9-16



April 9—Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 am

At the 10:30 service, we begin with a palm procession led by the youth and conclude with the shadow of Christ's passion.

April 13—Maundy Thursday

Seder Dinner / Communion— At 5:45 pm, a Christian remembrance of the Passover dinner.

April 14—Good Friday

Ecumenical Worship – At 12:00 noon, First Baptist Church, 120 S. Grand

April 16—Easter Sunday

At 6:30 am, Sunrise Service at Rockhaven

At 8:30 am, celebrate the Easter message with communion.

At 9:00 – 10:00 am Easter Breakfast, in the Fellowship Hall

At 10:30 am, celebrate the Easter message with communion.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"We can approach God with confidence for this reason: if we make requests which accord with His will He listens to us; and if we know that our requests are heard, we know also that the things we ask for are ours." *1 John 5:14-15*

Session Notes March 23

- 1) Devotions were led by John Patterson based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." (NRSV)
- 2) Co-Pastors' report noting their ongoing ministries and the current adult education series as well as preparations for Holy Week, the adult mission trip to Poplar and a sincere 'thanks' from Jody and Dan for the church's support around her mother's recent death.
- 3) John Patterson commented on the privilege he had to travel to Chicago with the Presby Cats mission team in Dan Krebill's place.
- 4) With Deacon Mike Roser representing the Deacons, Session reviewed the 3/2/17 Board of Deacons Minutes which noted their numerous ministries.
- 5) The discussion time was led by the Rev. JP Carlson, liaison to our congregation from the Presbytery's Pastoral Ministry Team, with the purpose to become acquainted and to share with the Presbytery what we're doing in our church's ministry. Questions addressed ranged from "Based on scripture and vision of this congregation, how are things going?" to "How are you equipping and training people in the church to live out their spiritual gifts and calling to follow Jesus Christ?" This was certainly a good chance to reflect and share the many ministries of our congregation.
- 6) Session approved a Rockhaven request to approach the congregation for donations for the additional \$8,000 needed, in addition to funds donated by Pat Donehoo, to complete a children's tree fort and a low ropes course at Rockhaven.
- 7) Lengthy discussion continued relative to the 24 South Willson property, with several members of the Task Force present for the discussion. Following a time of prayer regarding the decision, Session voted to 'stay the course' and continue to own and rent the property of 24 South Willson.

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 February, 2017

February Income	\$39,322	Year to Date Income	\$93,543
February Expenses	\$39,502	Year to Date Expenses	\$93,799
February Balance	-\$180	Year to Date Balance	-\$256

Adult Sunday School Explores Racism and Christian Faith

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 on **April 9, 23, 30, and May 7**. The class meets from 9:30 – 10:15 am in the church library.



Rev. Denise Anderson, left and Rev. 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. Co-pastor Jody McDevitt will lead this study.

The study is especially timely for those considering being part of the adult mission trip to the Dakota Presbyterian Churches on the Ft. Peck Reservation later this spring.

Spring Splash for First Families and Presby Kids!

Families with kids are invited to a swim-and-pizza party held at the Holiday Inn on Sunday, April 9, from 12 noon – 2 pm. Come splash in the pool or soak in the hot tub with your church friends. RSVP so we can order the right amount of pizza to Jody McDevitt at 586-9194, 551-3262 (cell), or jody@fpcbozeman.org.



Interfaith Forum on April 5

“Passover, Does this Jewish festival play a role in other faiths?” will be the discussion at this month's Interfaith on Wednesday, April 5 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.



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!

Session decides to maintain ownership of parking property

Following the information sessions regarding various options related to the future of the church's parking property and the subsequent survey of the congregation last fall, the session took the first couple of months of 2017 to carefully consider how to proceed with the 24 South Willson property and professional building. At its meeting on March 23, the session decided to retain ownership of the entire property for the foreseeable future. This is in line with the original plan that was in place when the property was purchased where the rental income from the building covers the monthly mortgage payments, with the long term goal of developing a surface parking lot. In order to continue the rental operation of the professional building, the session authorized the refinancing of the mortgage to add up to \$50,000 to the loan in order to address some needed maintenance matters in the building as well as to resurface the existing parking lot. As a result of these decisions, no further conversation will take place with developers interested in the property.

Presby Cats lead worship on April 2

Both of our Sunday worship services on April 2 will be led by members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry group. Among those students leading will be some who were part of the recent spring break mission trip to Chicago. They will be sharing their experiences of seeing the face of God in the city. Come and support our collegians as they share their faith.



Mainly Music Community 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 be sure to attend.

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. 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. Nearly 30 handbell choirs from MT and ID will be "playing our song", and many more.

Holy Week Schedule April 9-16

Maundy Thursday service, April 13, 7 pm

The holiest days of the Christian year are centered around Christ's death and resurrection. Each year we remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, the evening before he was crucified. We gather to hear the story and obey his words, "Do this in remembrance of me." Our observance this year will follow the style of Taize, with simple songs, reading of scripture, prayer, and silence accompanying the communion meal. The service will be held in the church library following the Seder Dinner in the fellowship hall.



Seder Dinner, April 13 at 5:45 p.m.



As part of our Lenten observance for the last quarter of century, we have been celebrating the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday which falls on April 13 this year. This community meal and the remembrance of Jesus actions prior to his arrest bring special meaning to all of us as we follow Jesus through Passion Week. After the conclusion of the Passover meal, we will have dinner followed by celebrating the Last Supper as Jesus did with his disciples. Plan to join in the observance and if you have family or friends who would like to attend, please invite them!

The Passover meal will be celebrated at 5:45, followed with a full lamb dinner. Please make your reservation by returning the bottom of this form to the collection plate, or call the church office at 586-9194 or e-mail to linda@fpcbozeman.org with the number attending and if children will need the nursery.

The dinner will cost \$8.00 for adults
Helpers are needed for the dinner, please call office at 586-9194 to sign up!

Name _____ Number in party _____

Number of children in nursery _____ (If child care is not required, the nursery will not be open)

I/ we can help with (circle) prepare serve clean up

Good Friday service, April 14, 12 noon at First Baptist Church

The crucifixion of Jesus took place on a Friday at noon, and it has been a long-standing tradition for the downtown Bozeman churches to gather on Good Friday to mark this most somber of days in the Christian year. This year's observance at First Baptist Church will focus around what the gospels collectively report as what Jesus said from the cross, the "seven last words." In addition to First Baptist and First Presbyterian churches, Bozeman United Methodist, Grand Avenue Christian, Holy Rosary, and St. James Episcopal Churches will be participating. Plan to worship with our downtown neighbors, remembering the fullness of Christ's story.



Holy Week Schedule April 9-16



Easter Sunrise at Rockhaven, April 16, 6:30 am

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark. . ." begins the 20th chapter of John's gospel, the Easter story of resurrection. All are invited to enter the mystery of an early morning service in the chapel at Rockhaven. The sun will be rising as we remember that the Son is Risen! A continental breakfast will follow the service.

Easter Breakfast, April 16, 9-10 am

Can you help? Please contact Linda (linda@fpcbozeman.org, 586-9194) in the church office if you can provide a breakfast casserole for the church's traditional Easter breakfast. Signing up for this is very helpful so we can provide the right quantity of food. All are welcome to this lovely fellowship tradition, hosted by the youth of the church and their families.

Easter Morning Breakfast



Deacon's Easter Baskets

Once again the Board of Deacons will be distributing Easter Food Baskets to needy families this year. There is a sign up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary for volunteers who may 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 any further information.

Ecumenical Taize Prayer Service

What: Taize prayer

When: Palm Sunday, April 9th, 7:00 - 7:50 PM

Where: Resurrection University Church, 1725 S. 11th Ave., Bozeman

Who: All are warmly welcome! This month's prayer will be led by Christ the King Lutheran Church

Why: "We need silence to be alone with God, to speak to him, to listen to him, to ponder his words deep in our hearts. We need to be alone with God in silence to be renewed and transformed."

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 - 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. 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.

Family Promise Needs You



Our next hosting week for Family Promise will be April 16-23 and if you are able to help with a meal we certainly would appreciate it. Just contact Nancy Rote at 219-3154 and she will be happy to give you details. In addition, we are in need of more volunteers who are willing to spend the night in a classroom on comfortable air mattresses.

Those who have not gone through the training and have questions about how you can volunteer, please call Judy Arkwright at 388-2347.

New in the Church Library

Our church library has many resources for understanding and living our Christian faith. You may be interested in these new acquisitions.

Reformation Christianity, edited by Peter Matheson. This is volume 5 of *A People's History of Christianity*, a series designed to open up what was really happening among the people when historical events took place. Social, political, and religious issues were deeply entwined in this period of momentous upheaval which resulted in “Reformations.” Multiple scholars contribute chapters on spirituality and worship, catechesis and discipline, sexuality and gender roles, life cycle mores, relations with Jews and Muslims, and lay theologies. 2017 marks 500 years since Luther is credited with beginning the Reformation. Learn more about this remarkable period in history.

Addict in the House: A No-Nonsense Family Guide Through Addiction and Recovery, by Robin Barnett, Ed.D., LCSW. The challenge of addiction affects many, many families. This very readable book offers a step-by-step guide from accepting the reality of the disease to surviving repeated cycles of recovery and relapse. Barnett writes from her perspective as a sister, a psychotherapist, a drug and alcohol treatment provider, and an addiction specialist on a nationally televised show. Read this book for its wisdom, practical advice, and reassurance that you are not alone.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program—Restoring the Streets in Syria

In 2012, civil war broke out in Syria, where ISIL's presence continues to create violence and fear. More than 250,000 people killed, and 13.5 million others have had to leave their homes to seek safety in Lebanon, Europe, and the United States.

Thanks to our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was able to respond to this refugee crisis soon after it began. Working with churches in the region, primarily the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, PDA helps Syrian refugee children in Lebanon continue their education and provides refugee families food, shelter, and heating oil. Across the denomination, PDA assists efforts by congregations to resettle Syrian refugees. Their welcoming hands bear witness to our biblical imperative to extend hospitality to the stranger and the foreigner.

But One Great Hour of Sharing gifts do more than help refugees build new lives in a new country—they enable PDA to assist displaced Syrians seeking to return to the country they love. Though the threat of ISIL remains and the civil war still rages, a number of Syrians are replanting their lives in their homeland. Some live in Homs, where more than 40 houses and apartments have been rebuilt through a partnership between PDA and the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. This project allows families to begin the long process of building new lives.

With our contributions to this important offering, more homes will be rebuilt, and the streets of that dark city block will again be filled with light, with people living in peace. Our gifts support this continuing work and the many other essential ministries made possible by our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Give Generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Adult Mission Trip to Dakota Presbyterian Churches Seeking Participants



May 30-June 3, 2017, will mark the third mission trip of FPC Adults to the Dakota Presbyterian Churches of the Ft. Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana. In the first two years, we built relationships with people of the churches, receiving their hospitality and enjoying fellowship with one another. We learned about Dakota culture and saw many interesting sites on the reservation. Our service was always at the request of the church leaders. The first year we documented and cleared overgrowth from a church cemetery. Last year we replaced three large wooden crosses, did a significant amount of yardwork, and provided repairs to a church build-

ing. Participants also share in daily Bible study and spiritual reflection times.

This year our service will be cemetery documentation at Red Eagle Presbyterian Church in Ft. Kipp, as well as other assignments they may have for us. Once again our trip is being coordinated by Patrick and Sudi Pipe, who were active members of our church while students at MSU and who have returned with their family to live in Poplar. The dormitory at Ft. Peck Community College will be our home for the week.

Four training sessions will prepare the group for cross-cultural learning and service, and build the team.

Dates for these sessions are: Thursday, April 6, 2:30 – 4 pm, Thursday, May 4, 2:30 – 4 pm, Thursday, May 11, 2:30 – 4 pm, Thursday, May 18, 2:30 – 4 pm.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, please contact Marcia Jarrett (388-6314, marciajarrett@littleappletech.com) or Jody McDevitt (586-9194, jody@fpczozean.org).



SPIRITUAL GIFTS MINISTRY



CLASSIFIED ADS

Mission Co-worker Participate in the third FPC mission journey to the Dakota Presbyterian Churches of the Ft. Peck Reservation in NE Montana. Dates: May 30-June 3, 2017. Join a team of FPC members and grow in your faith from the experience. An attitude of openness to learning and cultural sensitivity is more important than specific skills. Training will be provided in four 90-minute sessions in April-May. Contact Marcia Jarrett at 388-6314 or marciarjarett@littleappletech.com for more information.

Small Group Ministry Coordinator The Spiritual Growth Committee is in need of someone to assume the role of Small Group Ministry Coordinator or to assist with the small groups program. The focus of this role would be to open up better lines of communication between the existing small group ministries as well as create new opportunities for fellowship. Call Brent Turner at 600-8073.

Sunday School Workers Christians who care about our children and want to share our faith with the next generation are needed for various roles in Sunday School. Lead teachers, helpers, and story readers comprise the teaching team each week. Your commitment can be for a few Sundays, for once a month, or more. Training provided. Willingness to be a proactive volunteer (signing up in advance) is greatly appreciated. Contact Jody McDevitt at 586-9194 or jody@fpcbozeman.org to discuss options.

Sunday School Snacks Coordinator Keep track of the snack supplies in the Sunday School cabinet. Purchase (reimbursement provided) snacks as needed, and purge when necessary. Time required: 1 hour/month. Contact Jody McDevitt at 586-9194 or jody@fpcbozeman.org.

Deacons' Easter Baskets Helpers Meet at the Senior Center at 1 p.m. on Good Friday, April 14, for what is always a fun and rewarding activity. Assemble food baskets, then deliver. (Donations are welcome, too.) Call Mike Roser at 580-5818 with any questions.

New Members Coordinator Keep track of church visitors and work with church staff and Hospitality Committee to plan for periodic membership inquiry sessions. Help with invitations and hospitality for these sessions. Time needed: weekly tracking of visitors (20 min) and, periodically, several hours of coordination. Contact Dan Krebill at 586-9194 or dan@fpcbozeman.org.

Easter is upon us! This joyous season of rebirth and renewal presents a good opportunity for us to examine what we're currently doing for the church and community. Then, if we don't feel that we're doing as much as we should – or if we feel that we're not doing the things that God is calling us to do – it's a good time for positive action.

If you want some ideas about possible new ministries in which you could get involved, look at the new Spiritual Gifts Ministry brochure. It has just been updated and can be found in the pew racks in the FPC sanctuary. (This edition has a white background with a colored SGM logo on the front and replaces the previous yellow edition.) The brochure explains the Spiritual Gifts program and gives a sampling of the many ministries available in our church. You might also want to consider the specific positions listed in the Classified Ads portion of this article. If you feel called to participate in any of the activities listed in either the brochure or the ads or would like to get involved in the church or community in some other capacity, let me know. I would be delighted to help you find a way to be of service which will be fulfilling to you throughout the Easter season, the rest of 2017, and perhaps for years to come.

Jane Hodges
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
jhodges680@mcn.net or 586-6338

Prayer Chain More members are needed NOW. Help others by praying daily for 8-12 people or families. Receive prayer requests by email. No experience necessary. No meetings required. Get more info without any obligation. Contact John Hodges at 586-6338 or jhodges680@mcn.net for an orientation and/or member handbook.

Hospital Visitors This program has existed since 2001. There are currently 6 church members actively involved in visiting hospitalized congregation members and more are needed. Visit an average of about once a month at times when the co-pastors are not available. Training is given. This ministry has been a blessing to those who participate. Call Chuck Broughton at 585-3544 for more information.

Summer VBS Volunteers Ecumenical Vacation Bible School is June 19-23 in the mornings. Volunteers are needed to serve as shepherds and for snack preparation, music, crafts, stories & drama, games, and carpentry. Youth (entering grades 7-12) and adults, there is a place for you in this community of learners. Training provided. Contact Suzanne Bratsky at 539-0211 or suzbratsky@gmail.com to discuss your involvement.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASSIFIED ADS con't.

Spiritual Gifts Ministry Helpers Two helpers are needed to talk to church members about the ministries in which they are currently involved and see if they would like to make any changes. Report back to the Spiritual Gifts Coordinator, who will then contact the members for further discussion, if changes are requested. Work at the time of your choice and make contacts either in person, by phone, or by email. Contact Jane Hodges at 586-6338 or jhodges680@mcn.net.

Memorial Fund Monitor Work with church office staff to monitor gifts to the Memorial Fund. Communicate with committee chairpersons and families when funds accumulate for particular ministries, ensuring that the wishes of donors are honored. Training provided; after that, time requirement is 1-2 hours per month. Contact Linda Best at 586-9194 or linda@fpcbozeman.org.

Handbell Ringers First Bells needs substitute and regular ringers. Read music? Great! Don't read music? That's OK, too. All that is needed is a desire to be part of this fun group. Rehearsals are on Tuesday from 6 – 7 pm, with summers off. Let Kathy Braun know at 539-3491 if you are interested.

Love INC Volunteers Helpers are needed in many areas, such as budget counseling, home and car repair, providing clothing through the "Clothes Closet," and matching our volunteers with people in need of assistance. Call Bill Anderson at 248-961-7170 to learn of the many other options. Note: Everyone is invited to support Love INC by attending the Plant the Seed Dinner/ Fundraiser on April 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 at the MSU Sub Ballroom. The speaker is the founder of Love INC nationwide. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table for 8 people. Call Katie Anderson at 624-6118 for more information.

Food Bank Sunday, April 2
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



Birthdays this Month

- 4/1 *Isabelle Harris*
Gene Renner
- 4/2 *Dylan LeBlanc*
- 4/4 *Peg Biekert*
- 4/5 *Sandy Archer*
Tyler Martindale
- 4/7 *Rena Easton*
Gerri Lewis
- 4/9 *Bill Anderson*
- 4/11 *Vern Bandy*
- 4/12 *Maggie Kleinhans*
- 4/14 *Bernice Meyer*
- 4/21 *Ted Williams*
Mary Armstrong
- 4/22 *Harriet Tamminga*
Chris Shanafelt
- 4/23 *Judy Harrison*
- 4/25 *Jenny Beard*
- 4/26 *Kristen Martindale*
Brent Turner
- 4/28 *John Hodges*
Meghan Heim

Thank you from Love INC

Love, In the Name of Christ would like to thank all of the kids, and those slightly older, who were so kind as to donate shoes and other items to Love INC for distribution to those in need in our community. Your response was overwhelming, and a lot of people will be helped, through YOU, who in the Name of Christ, are showing your Love.

Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

Hope Comes Calling (continued)

The gray sky was seeping a light drizzle as the girls exited the car. They'd driven southwest from Dallas about an hour and a half in search of an appropriate spot. At one point Augusta had asked, "When will you know we've found the right spot, mom?" To which Hope replied, "I'll just know."

They drove down the interstate at first, then on a four-lane state highway, and now were parked along a two-lane county road that ran parallel to a stretch of the Brazos River. As Courtney put on her rain slicker, she asked, "Why the Brazos, mom?"

"I like the sound of it," Hope paused for a moment and adopted her homeschool teacher voice. "It is the longest river in Texas — over eight hundred miles. The early explorers thought it resembled the arm of God. So we will be praying for the Creator's arm to be extended down to care for Meredith."

Augusta and Courtney easily navigated the slightly muddy bank sloping down from the car to the river's edge. Hope and Meredith held each other's hand as they made the journey in a much more deliberate fashion.

"Meredith, are there pipelines under this river?" asked Courtney.

"There's a few. My company even has one that's still operational. You have to get all that oil in the Permian Basin over to Houston somehow." Meredith looked up into the mist falling from the slate above. "Speaking of my company, you realize they're going ahead with the Dakota Access, right?" The other three nodded forlornly. Meredith went on, "The new administration is pretty hawkish about the whole thing. TransAmerica will probably happen, too."

Hope smiled. "Lately I've been struck by the irony of how much fossil fuel I burn as a part of my job to challenge the fossil fuel industry. But that's not why we're here today. No, today we come here for something far more important than the struggle to preserve the environment. Today we struggle to preserve the spark that resides within our spirit."

Hope opened the small leather pouch hanging from her neck and carefully poured the dried grass into her left hand. With her right she fished a wooden match from her pants pocket and briskly struck it against the back of her flexed thigh. The match ignited and Hope deftly cupped it in her hand like an old, grizzled cowboy lighting a roll-your-own cigarette. Allowing the flame to dwindle until it was almost out, Hope brought her hands together and exposed the delicate grass blades to the match's dissipating energy. One by one the ends of the blades turned orange as the spent match fell from Hope's grasp. She shielded the smoldering grass in her left hand as her right slowly fanned it. A visible wisp of smoke rose from the clump and Hope gently blew it toward Meredith. Augusta and Courtney took turns cupping their hands around the tiny trail of smoke and blowing it onto Meredith.

Hope began to pray in a barely audible whisper, "Creator we stand beside your healing waters in the reach of your long arm of compassion. We pray your mercy upon our sister. We pray for Meredith to be strong in the face of what lies ahead."

Hope blew the crumbling black embers from her hand. The four women held each other in a long embrace as the river water lapped at their boots.

...continued next week



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6 pm Presby Cats Birthday Party
2 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 3pm Mainly Music Organ Concert	3 5:30 Presbyterian Women Circle	4 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	5 7pm Choir	6 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 2:30 pm Adult Mission Trip Meeting 7pm Deacons	7 5:30 pm First Friday	8
9 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	10	11 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	12 7pm Choir	13 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 5:45pm Seder Dinner 7 Maundy Thursday Service	14 12pm Good Friday Service at First Baptist 1pm Easter Basket Distribution at the Senior Center	15
16  Family Promise 6:30 am Rockhaven 8:30 Worship 9:00 Easter Brunch 10:30 Worship	17 Family Promise	18 Family Promise 6pm First Bells	19 Family Promise 7pm Choir	20 Family Promise 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group	21 Family Promise 6pm Merry Munchers Presby Cat Rockhaven Retreat	22 Family Promise 2pm Barbara Van'tHul Memorial Service Presby Cat Rockhaven Retreat
23 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	24	25 6pm First Bells 7 Boy Scouts	26 7pm Choir	27 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Session	28	29 9:30 am New Members Information
30 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Class 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats						