



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN 

PresbEnews

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A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Rockhaven Summer Kicks off June 18



All are invited to join the festivities at Rockhaven this Sunday, June 18, for our annual Father's Day "Pig" Roast. The Rockhaven Operational Board will host dinner, providing pulled pork sandwiches and beverages. Please bring a potluck dish to share with others. The meal will begin at 5:30 pm. Come early to enjoy the peace and beauty of Rockhaven in June—when the river really runs through it!

Sunday evening vespers services begin the same night, at 7 pm. Dan Holland, one of our resident storytellers, will start this summer's theme, "The Water of Life." Musicians will include the Riverside Singers and accompanist Holly Aloise. Come raise the roof of the Rockhaven Chapel with your singing and praising God.

This will be the first of 11 weeks of Sunday evening potlucks (5:30) and vespers (7:00) at Rockhaven. Plan to be there. Rockhaven is a blessing for the church family, and for friends, too. Invite your friends to experience God's presence at the "thin place" we call Rockhaven.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Prayer, for most of us, is not a matter of a month-long retreat or even an hour of meditation. Prayer is conversation with God while driving to work or awaiting an appointment or before interacting with a client. Prayer can be the internal voice that directs the external action."

God Is With You Every Day by Max Lucado

Mission Team builds relationships

The adult mission team to Dakota Presbyterian Churches on the Ft. Peck Reservation in NE Montana experienced another year of building relationships through service to the churches. Each year the relationships mature, as the churches provide a dinner and opportunity to catch up on the year gone by. We are grateful for the hospitality provided by the Red Eagle Memorial (Ft. Kipp), First Presbyterian (Poplar), Mnisda (Chelsea) and Makaicu (Riverside) Churches.

This year the team served the Red Eagle Memorial Church in Ft. Kipp. This church, like the other Dakota Presbyterian Churches on the reservation, has a cemetery which has not been mapped or documented. Someone searching for an ancestor's grave would need to rely on the memory of church elders. The church asked our team to map and document the cemetery. Doing so honors the families, traditions, and those who have gone before. This is holy work.

The team spent 2½ days in the Ft. Kipp cemetery, collecting data on more than half of the 700-800 graves. Data collection begins with numbering and flagging all the graves in a row. Each grave is then photographed and its details are recorded in words. Some graves are easy to document, with detailed headstones and distinctive memorial markers. On the other end of the spectrum, there are graves which are detectable only by the presence of a river rock, some irises, or a depression in the ground. All graves are documented. When completed, the information will be available in a large notebook at the church, and also in digital form.

Time prevented the completion of the documentation this year, providing an obligation to return next year to finish the work. Accommodations at Ft. Peck Community College are likely to be available at a similar time next year, so if you are interested in joining this team, reserve the end of May-beginning of June and watch for details.

A more complete report will be provided to the congregation in the fall.



In the Ft. Kipp cemetery after a day of work are Suzanne Bratsky, Mary Ann Poteat, Mary Hektner, George McClure, Marcia Jarrett, Jody McDevitt, Jim Jarrett, Larry Growney, Jay Pontius-Backman, Chris Boroughs, and John Sacklin.



Imagine the life experiences of Chief Matowakan of the Sioux Nation, 1800 – 1885. On the reverse of his headstone is a scriptural reference, Matthew 16:13-20.

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!*





The Rockhaven Summer staff was commissioned last Sunday. Pictured are John Patterson, Lora Pierce, Scott Thrasher, Sarah Thrasher, Catherine Pierce, Rebecca Cooper, Arianne Hamilton, Shane Casey, James Niva, Travis Giedroc, and Jody McDevitt Missing: Camp counselor Ruthie Castle and Camp cook Kim McNab

Memorials help build treehouse at Rockhaven

This summer a new structure is being built at Rockhaven to help campers and others learn teamwork and grow in confidence. The structure, variously described as a low ropes course, a treehouse, and a play structure, will be south of the Dining Hall in the treed area around the creek. Children, youth, and adults will be able to safely climb, play, and learn in new ways. The treehouse will surely become a favorite feature of the summer camping ministry.

A gift from the Pat Donehoo estate is funding a significant portion of the cost of building the treehouse. Don Frye, Jr., Donna Mandeville, Harry McNeal, and Marian Cook all loved the ministry of our church at Rockhaven, and funds given in their memory which were designated for Rockhaven will also be used for this new structure.

In addition, several living donors have stepped up to fund the treehouse, which will also serve to attract rental groups desiring teambuilding programs. Approximately \$5000 is needed to complete the project. If desired, your gift may be in memory of a loved one, honored on a plaque on the site. The Rockhaven Operational Board thanks you for your support of this vision for ministry.



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!

Hello from your 2017-2018 Presby Cats leadership team!

by Presby Cats

Hello from your 2017-2018 Presby Cats leadership team! We are so excited for what God has in store for us this year. We are anticipating a year of growth, for many of you know, Presby Cats had many graduates this past year. We are busily readying ourselves for the hard work ahead. This year there are four of us on the leadership team.

Tanner Robison is a senior from Butte, Montana majoring in Chemical Engineering. You all know him from music ministry and Rent-A-Cat. He will continue to serve through the Rent-A-Cat mission, so if you have jobs, he's your man. This year Tanner will also be leading Presby Cats in the role of President.

James Schulz is a sophomore from Washington majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He will be leading our weekly Bible Study in addition to supporting the music ministry of Presby Cats. James has a great understanding of what it is like to be new to Bozeman, MSU, and Presby Cats. Us old folks will lean on him for advice with welcoming new members.

Amy Desjardins is a senior from Oregon majoring in Equine Science and Pre-Veterinary studies. You've seen her around First Presbyterian for a few years. She is our go-to-girl for all things food and music. We are grateful for her coordination skills and her musical talents.

Sara Mo Vanacht is a senior from St. Louis, Missouri and Atlanta, Georgia. I'm in awe of the blessings that God has brought me through Presby Cats and First Presbyterian Church. You will be hearing from me on the blog and other social media. I'm also excited to bring some of my experience to Presby Cats fundraising and to supporting the planning of the mission trip this year.

We have such a fun time ahead. Some of the things happening this fall are: PresbyCatszapalooza, a hike and communion service at the Rockhaven cross, Fall Retreat, whitewater rafting and high ropes courses, and our after-service lunch and Bible Study. This year's Spring Break mission trip will be to Miami, Florida... More details to come this fall!

Anyways, here is something to ponder... **WHY Presby Cats?** This is a question we've been really thinking about and praying about. From free food to Rockhaven to great community, we all have a place in our hearts for this incredibly important ministry. But still... **What makes us special?** As the leadership team continues to evaluate and reflect upon these questions, I would love to hear from the congregation...

Why do you support Presby Cats? Why is it special to you?

Happy Summer Time!

Sara Mo & Presby Cats



From left, Sara Mo Vanacht, Amy Desjardins, James Schulz and Tanner Robison

*Editors note: If you would like to look at or comment on the Presby Cat blog go to:
Presby Cats comment-reply@wordpress.com*

*First Presbyterian Church
Mainly Music*



Mainly Music Concert

Heidi Osgood-Metcalf will present a piano concert of original music in our sanctuary this Saturday, June 17 at 7 pm. This concert will feature her photographs and is sponsored by Mainly Music. No admission charge but donations to the Church are gladly accepted.

Thank you to 2017 VBS Volunteers!

Hosting a Vacation Bible School of 150 children requires about 150 volunteers to form a learning, playing, snacking, music-making, faith-filled ecumenical community. Thank you to the following FPC members who are volunteering next week.



Wyatt Guenther – Games
Mitchell Larsson – Games and Music
Shelby Guenther – Kindergarten shepherd
Alyce Larsson – Shepherd
Jim Bratsky – Carpentry
Lyndsey Babcock – Craftivities
Suzanne Bratsky – Administrative Team, Craftivities
Sally Broughton – Craftivities
Jody McDevitt – Administrative Team, Floater
Laura Larsson – Floater
Judy Gregg – Nursery
Ashley Driscoll – Preschool shepherd
Lori Ingram – Snacks
Nita Vaughn – Snacks
Emily Thrasher – Administrative Team, Stories & Drama
John Patterson – Stories & Drama

Birthdays this week

*6/14 Julie Small
6/15 Danielle Berg
6/16 Mike Marjanen
6/17 Scott Thrasher
6/18 Dwayne Arscott
6/19 Brooks Hallin
Ellie Lewis
Chandler May
6/20 Nancy Rutkowski
Paula Thomsen*

Many thanks as well to those who donated to the Snacks fund!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

I am well aware of the old adage, “God’s timing is not our timing,” but there are instances when God’s timing seems, well, curious. I realize I am at risk of being labeled a heretic, but hear me out.

As you may know, Christine and I hosted a Farm Day for the youth of the church back on May 21st. It was a perfectly lovely day and fun was had by all in attendance (including a couple of much older youth.) The critters were also for the most part compliant and enjoyed the extra attention. The only things missing, though, were any goat kids young enough to bottle feed. We had some young of the year, but they were almost four months old. At that age they more resemble sassy teenagers than babies that are content to sit in your lap and drink from a bottle. And therein lies the rub.

Five days later our main herd doe decided to give birth two weeks premature. She produced a stillborn male and a tiny, tiny female. We’ve had babies born that small before, but they’ve not ever survived more than a day or two. This one, though, despite her frailty and delicate features, managed to make it through that critical period. We certainly did our part to help, but since her mother had only one kid to deal with, this precious little doeling had lots of helicopter moms hovering over her.

After the first week our confidence grew in her ability to survive. She became adept at nursing and we were no longer forced to bottle feed her. She started to fill out, and although she is still small by any measure, we don’t have to worry about breaking bones when we pick her up. She is also starting to act like a kid. She runs and bounces and even mixes it up a little bit with the others. Fortunately the others all seem to sense how fragile she is, so they treat her with kid gloves.

All of this is well and good, but it is hardly newsworthy and it is certainly not worth calling God’s sense of timing into question. There is, however, more to the story. Despite becoming more and more acclimated to the role of being a young goat, this precious creature still wants to cling to humans. Or at least to follow them — everywhere.

The goats and I have a ritual each morning if the weather and my schedule allow for it. I let them loose out into the pasture for an hour of grazing on the lush spring grass (and weeds.) Unfortunately the baby (and at this point that’s all we call her is “baby”) is too small to navigate through the thick growth. So she gets left behind in my care. I normally have a routine while the goats are in the pasture and baby is right there behind me every step of the way, including when I go into the house (and thus far anyway she has managed to be housebroke.)

At first I thought it was just me that the baby was so attached to, but she will now do the same thing with Christine and even with some guests we’ve had. And so I have no doubt that had this baby been around when the children from church were out here, she would have been the star attraction.

I don’t know if my little conundrum qualifies as great theological debate, but it does provide me with an opportunity to brag about our special little girl. And heck, we don’t need an official Farm Day to extend an invitation to anyone that wants to come out and spend time with our sweet baby. But you better hurry; she’s likely to turn into a sassy teenager before you know it.