



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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California Fires—One way to help

Among all the devastating news of disasters this fall, the news of fires in Northern California may be calling for our response. In Seeley Lake, Montana, where our board of deacons assisted the Presbyterian church in relief efforts, community members have now offered temporary housing to Californians who have lost their homes. Empathy and connections lead us to offer what we can to those in need.

Carol Shellenberger, who has been an active part of our congregation since 2008 and frequently fills our pulpit, is a retired Presbyterian minister with membership in Redwoods Presbytery, the region affected by the recent fires. The presbytery is coordinating relief efforts related to churches and their members. They have communicated the following opportunity to join in the response.

The Presbytery of the Redwoods will receive contributions toward fire relief and recovery, and distribute them to the places/individuals where the need is the greatest and the resources are at the least. This will be done at the congregational level where church leaders are the most closely connected to those in need. The congregations which have experienced the greatest impact from the fires are: First Santa Rosa, The Cove, and Church of the Roses. All three congregations are in Santa Rosa. While the fires have been tragic for all who have suffered loss, we are aware that some have greater resources for recovery than others. We are seeking to do the best we can in providing relief to those who are in greatest need and who have the fewest resources available. Checks may be sent to: The Presbytery of the Redwoods, 1226A Salvador Ave., Napa, CA 94558. Please mark your memo line: Fire Relief.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:16

November Presbytery Mini-Conference (November 3 & 4, 2017) First Presbyterian Church Bozeman

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. . .”

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

Come to the Yellowstone Presbytery mini-conference in Bozeman to learn how God is equipping you to do ministry. We start at 10:00 am on Friday, November 3, with

Building a Culture of Generosity presented by Rob Hagen.

In today's ever-evolving culture, it is important for churches to develop a culture of making disciples who understand that generosity is a Jesus way of life, not merely an annual "campaign". Important aspects to generosity include: vision, storytelling, and living year-round as generous stewards of all God has entrusted to us. For these efforts to be most effective, they must be able to reach across all generations and utilize a variety of stories and communication approaches. I look forward to being with you, hearing your vision and excitement about the church in which you serve, participating in an interactive workshop in which you will get hands on experience in developing a Culture of Generosity in your local church. I will also be available for individual consultation for churches building a culture of generosity

Reverend Dr. Rob Hagan – Ministry Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation, works with pastors and church leaders to cultivate generosity and promote stewardship within their congregations.

Following lunch and the time of worship with Dwelling in the Word; you will have the opportunity to choose from 3 workshops.

1. **'Called to Life' - a Year of Call at First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman**

Join us for an interactive discussion of how this focus on Call began in response to Stan Ott's February, 2017 Presbytery Workshop 'Transformed and Mobilized' on being Loved & Called - Gifted - Equipped - Sent. The Presenter is John S. Patterson, MD, Family Physician ('Retired') and current Ruling Elder FPC, Bozeman.

2. **Impactful Music for Sacred Worship**

Join Teaching Elder Debbie Funke and Ruling Elder Holly Aloise as they provide insight and resources to use in your worship services and explore the different ways music can enhance the worship experience. Ideas will be presented that will be helpful for smaller congregations with limited musical resources as well as for larger congregations looking to appeal to different styles and different generations. There will be philosophical discussion, innovative concepts, fun, and singing... Lots of singing.

3. **Christian Discipleship...**

is the relational process by which, “enabled by the Holy Spirit, Christians can actually be transformed. Those practices through which individuals can become like Christ in character and in power and thus realize our highest ideals for well-being and well-doing,... Ordinary individuals... can become, through the grace of Christ a love-filled, effective, and powerful community. This is the heart of the New Testament message.” So writes Dallas Willard. This seminar for pastors and Church leaders will explore theologically and practically how we may help people grow in their relationship with God, with one another and in an impactful way with the world into which Christ sends us... Presented by George Goodrich.

The welcome letter with lodging information is available on the Presbytery website at: <http://yellowstonepcusa.org/>.

2018 Stewardship

As we make our financial pledges this fall, it's good to remember the stewardship of our time and talents as well. In my 16 years at First Presbyterian, I've been continually inspired and motivated by the many volunteers in our congregation who give of their time and abilities to further the ministry of our church. From teaching Sunday school, working with our youth and college students, mission trips, serving with deacons, Rockhaven, Family Promise and Love Inc., to the continual upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful 100 year old building, many have answered God's call to participate in ministry at First Presbyterian. I love our music ministry and am grateful for our choir's dedication over the years, and to all the instrumentalists who offer their talents to enhance our worship. I am especially happy to have college students in our choir, and to have our high school and middle school ensemble sing for us on Oct. 29th.



Of course, none of these ministries would happen without financial support. In this "Year of Call," consider how God is calling you to commit to stewardship, both financially and with your time and talents. Let's share from our abundance, and love God by loving and serving others. It's in giving that we receive.

Alison Todd, Elder

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 5, 2017 HARVEST DINNER /PASTOR APPRECIATION

Please plan to attend our annual Harvest Dinner – Pastor Appreciation luncheon immediately following the 10:30 service on November 5. Lunch will be served about 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church. Join us for some delicious food, great entertainment, and a chance to say "Thank You" to all our pastors who so faithfully serve our church. No reservations necessary.

Birthdays this week

10/19 Milt Negus

10/21 Ilene Casey

Teagan Erwin

10/22 Judy Patterson

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!*



Mainly Music Memorial Concert THIS SUNDAY, October 22!

On Sunday, October 22 at 3pm. Mainly Music will feature our Memorial Concert honoring those members of our congregation who have passed away during this last year. Music offerings will feature selections from several of their memorial services. Musicians include Alison Todd, Matthew O'Sullivan, Russell Milburn, FPC Worship Choir and First Bells Choir, Larry Growney, Jay Pontius-Backman, and others.



Paul and Doris Krebill

Paul Krebill is turning 90!

Please join Paul and his family for an open house on Saturday, October 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. in the church fellowship hall when we'll be celebrating this special birthday and his 90 years of life.

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

During the next seven plus months we will be hearing plenty of examples of God calling people into action. Since this coming church year is designated as the *Year of Call* it only makes sense that we will be hearing stories of God's call. Many of these stories will come from the Bible, but perhaps of greater significance will be the stories we hear from people like you and me. This past Sunday, during the *Called to Life* class in between services, the attendees heard just such a story.

David Driscoll is one of the facilitators of the 9:30 class, and on Sunday he told us a poignant story of one of the times God called out to him. In this particular case God had to call out to David several times before the call was answered. We humans can be quite hard of hearing when it comes to being attentive to God's call. Fortunately God is well aware of this trait we possess and will continue calling us for as long as it takes. After all the Apostle Paul tells us that love is patient. Sometimes — as in my case — God's patience lasts for years, if not decades.

At the church we attended before moving here my wife, Christine, and I were both fairly involved with the Sunday School program. It was a young church with lots of children and almost all of the adults were called into action at one time or another out of necessity. For me it was hard work, yet it was also rewarding.

You don't have to be a social scientist to realize the demographics of FPC Bozeman are decidedly different than the church we previously attended. With not nearly as many children to tend to on Sunday mornings, far fewer adults are required to lend a hand. So Christine and I drifted away from teaching Sunday School. I drifted away, even though God was calling every year. For fourteen straight years I ignored God's call. I figured I had done my time; our kids were grown; it was someone else's turn. But God kept calling. God didn't nag, didn't beg, God just kept calling. And finally after fifteen years I answered.

Christine and I have committed to teaching together one week each month. We have taught a couple of times thus far and it is still hard work (at least for me.) The children still have boundless energy and I'm not as young as I used to be. But it is every bit as rewarding as it was way back when.

There is still a need for more Sunday School teachers, so God will keep calling. There is still a need for more of everything in God's kingdom, and God will continue to call. Lovingly. Patiently. Calling.



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!