



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

*Good News Edition - December 2017*

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771

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## Congregational Meeting this Sunday

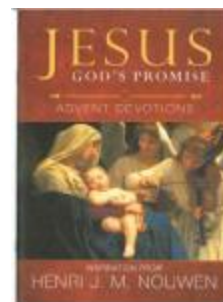
A special meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:30 worship service in the sanctuary for the purpose of hearing the report of the nominating committee regarding the election of a ruling elder.



*Co-Pastors' Corner...* Every year it seems that the pre-Christmas pace and hype are another notch higher. Decorations, music, sales events, and merchandizing are in full swing long before the snow starts flying. It's an exciting time of year for those who love Christmas. And what Christian doesn't love Christmas? After all, it's the celebration of God's amazing gift of the divine becoming human in the incarnation. It's the start of a whole new era that was ushered in with Jesus' birth.

Fortunately for those of us in the Christian church, there is another gift that is given to us at this time of year—the gift of Advent. Advent is that period of time that begins 4 Sundays before Christmas. Advent comes from a Latin word that means coming. In our worship and study during this time, we're invited to slow down the clock a bit and ponder what is coming with the arrival of Jesus. We of course take some of Advent to recount the preparations leading up to the birth of Jesus. But another part of Advent can be to think about what it means to prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives more fully now and in the future.

We invite you to join us in the respite from the holiday frenzy that Advent provides. Pick up one of the Advent daily devotional booklets available at church. Come to our Advent kick off event on Sunday, December 3 (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Join us in worship on the 4 Sundays of Advent. All of these will deepen your experience of Christmas when the celebration of that event actually does get here.



## *Enhancing Our Conversation With God*

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."  
Colossians 4:2*

## Session Notes November 16

Session was led in devotions by Dan Berg. Rev. Dan Krebill was the moderator.

In order to reduce the possibility of uncomfortable or potentially dangerous situations regarding security measures, Session voted to accept a submitted written draft of the church security policy as well as forming a task force to make recommendations for the safety procedures. This includes a daily lockup schedule, as well as schedules for evening and workday meetings and activities. There will be more on this as the procedures are solidified.

Donna Beck (physical aspects) and Ric Tieman (finances) are resigning from the management of 24 South Willson. Dan Berg and Debbie Ernst will take the positions, respectfully. They will recruit an additional person or so to work with them. This transition takes place as of January 1, 2018.

Highlights from the pastors are the planning of Advent including Lighting the Way to Christmas, The Messiah, Rockhaven Services, and the summer Youth Mission trip. Dan and Jody thanked the congregation and Session for the Harvest Dinner and gifts of gratitude they received on Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

There are still a few members who have not sent in their pledges. They will kindly be reminded so that the Session can balance the budget for 2018.

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held December 3rd after the 10:30 service for the purpose of electing a ruling elder to fill a vacancy on the session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Beck, Clerk

### **OMBUD: The person who will listen to your suggestions, concerns, complaints and compliments.**

*This quarter our **OMBUD** from the session is Debby Haynes she will be happy to answer your questions and listen to what you have to say. You can speak with her personally or contact her by phone (581-0925) or email [deborahc.haynes@gmail.com](mailto:deborahc.haynes@gmail.com) She 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 October 2017

October Income	\$61,438	Year to Date Income	\$434,636
October Expenses	\$43,453	Year to Date Expenses	\$452,487
October Balance	\$17,985	Year to Date Balance	\$-17,851

## 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](http://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!*



## “Called to God’s Story” Advent Event

How to get Advent off to a great start—come to the Advent event on Sunday, December 3 and consider how we are **Called to God’s Story!**

4:00 pm — Characters from the first Christmas story will lead children of all ages, telling the story of their call and teaching a hands-on activity

5:00 pm — Children will watch an excerpt from “A Charlie Brown Christmas” while the fellowship hall is prepared for supper

5:15 pm — Supper provided for all ages

6:00 pm — “Lighting the Way to Christmas,” an annual service of music and story.



This year, the theme will be “Finding Yourself in God’s Story,” with contemporary persons living the calls experienced by Elizabeth, John, Mary, and Joseph.

This is an intergenerational event, which means that there is something for all ages. If you are a senior, come and be blessed by spending time with children, youth and their parents. If you are a child, come and be blessed by activities designed to help you understand the Christmas story. If you are in-between, come and be blessed by being part of a church family. All are welcome!

## Christmas at Rockhaven

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 16, starting at 5 pm. We’ll be gathering in the Rockhaven Chapel for our annual “Christmas at Rockhaven” service, followed by a chili dinner in the dining hall.

Think Rockhaven in winter:

- snow on Sheep Rock
- the warmth of a wood stove
- the magic of a crackling fire
- the wonder of singing carols and hearing the story of Christmas  
the joy of being together.

Come, and bring a friend to this special time, a respite in a busy season.

## Special Services during the Christmas Season

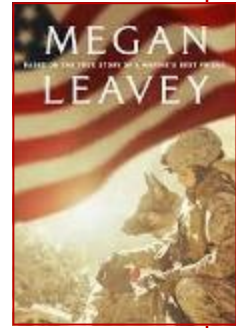
Please join us for all the celebrations

Sunday, December 3	4 pm Advent Celebration
Saturday, December 16	5 pm Christmas at Rockhaven
Sunday, December 17	3 pm Community Messiah Sing
Sunday, December 24	10:30 am (one service)
Sunday, December 24	5 pm Christmas Eve Family service
	8 pm Christmas Eve Traditional service
	11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Sunday, December 31	10:30 am Blessing of the Animals (one service)



### FIRST FRIDAY - DECEMBER 1

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, *MEGAN LEAVEY*. The movie is based on the true life story of a young Marine Corporal whose unique discipline and bond with her military combat dog saved many lives during their deployment in Iraq. When she is assigned to clean up the K9 unit after a disciplinary hearing, Leavey identifies with a particularly aggressive dog, Rex, and is given the chance to train him. Over the course of their service, Megan and Rex completed more than 100 missions until an IED explosion injures them, putting their fate in jeopardy.



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.



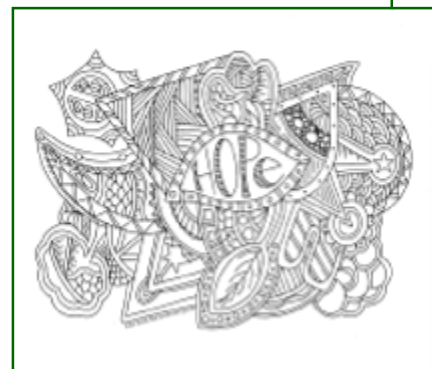
### Adult Sunday School Class During Advent

Adult Sunday School class begins a 3-week study of Advent hymns next Sunday. The season of Advent is a special season before Christmas when we take time to intentionally prepare for the coming of Christ. Pastor Dan Krebill will be leading a study of some of the great hymns of the church that are written for the Advent season to deepen our appreciation for this time of preparation. First up on December 3 will be "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates. The class meets in the church library from 9:30-10:15 on December 3, 10 and 17.

### Advent art for all

Do you like to color? For the four Sundays of Advent, we will have coloring pages and colored pencils available for your pleasure! Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are featured on four Advent coloring pages. You can take your artwork home to finish, then bring it back to church to be displayed with others.

In this hurried season, slowing down to create something beautiful can remind us of God's presence in our lives. All ages are encouraged to give coloring a try!



# *First Presbyterian Church Messiah Community Sing*

*Sunday, December 17 at 3pm*

*Lukas Graf, Director and Carrie Krause, Concert Master  
Featuring Second String Orchestra*

*Soloists: Erin Equall, Mandy Bowker, Reggie Mead and Logan Henke  
Organist: Joanna Ellison*

*Community Choir rehearsal is Saturday  
December 16 from 12:00p.m. to 3p.m.  
Please notice change in rehearsal  
time from previous years*





### The Presbytery of Yellowstone Seeks Stated Clerk

- A salaried, quarter-time position
- Some travel required (reimbursed)
- 3-year renewable term, beginning February 2018
- Geography includes southern and eastern 2/3 of Montana, with the presbytery office in Bozeman
- Desired attributes: servant leader, self-starter, proactive communicator, organized, accountable, technologically literate, mission-focused, and faith-driven

Must be a PC(USA) Ruling Elder or Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Responsibilities include record keeping, meeting coordination, election administration, clergy and congregational polity support and interpretation, general communication and administration

Application is available at [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org)

Applications will be received until December 15, 2017.

For more information contact Jody McDevitt, [jody@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:jody@fpcbozeman.org)



### Food Bank this Sunday, December 3

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.

### Follow My Blog!

[musingalongthewayblog.wordpress.com](http://musingalongthewayblog.wordpress.com)

As a result of the Called to Life classes as well as conclusions from the Spiritual Gifts class earlier, I have been encouraged to make available the BLOGS which I write and post from time to time. The ideas and opinions which I write are entirely my own and I welcome whatever thoughts or comments the reader may have.

----- Paul Krebill

### Improving church security

The session recently approved security policies regarding the 26 West Babcock (office and education building) door. Church members should note the following changes.

1. The door will be unlocked during weekday working hours, unless there is only one person in the building. If this is the case, then the doorbell will be placed above the door.
2. The door will be locked at the end of weekday working hours, unless it is a Family Promise hosting week.
3. For evening meetings, always ensure that someone attending has a key to open the door. (Contact Linda in the church office if your group needs a key.)
4. For evening meetings, all church groups should lock the door 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. All should be informed that late arrivals can be admitted by phone or text contact.
5. When leaving the building, be sure the door is locked unless there are 2 or more people still inside. Then, use discretion to decide.

A task group is working to develop additional policies for other aspects of church building security.



In memoriam of Betty Vaughn January 4, 1924 - November 22, 2017. A memorial service was held for Betty yesterday. Betty was a member of our congregation since 1952, active as a deacon and in Presbyterian Women. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her children, Elizabeth, Ron and Bob and other family members.

### *Birthdays this Month*

- 12/2 *Joy Ames*
- 12/3 *Jim Mitchell*
- 12/4 *Tom Hinman*
- 12/5 *Dan Holland*  
*Delia Turner*
- 12/7 *Jan Peace*
- 12/8 *Lenka Swenson*
- 12/9 *Henry Erwin*
- 12/10 *Bruce Pontius-*  
*Backman*  
*Kris Hall*
- 12/11 *Marcia Jarrett*  
*Jillian May*  
*Blake Babcock*
- 12/13 *Logan Kleinhans*
- 12/15 *Mary Hektner*
- 12/16 *Larry Gowney*
- 12/19 *Ashley Hickert*
- 12/21 *Judy Arkwright*
- 12/23 *Rhoda McCormick*  
*Ed Sedivy*  
*Mike Roser*  
*Debbie Ernst*
- 12/24 *Paul Visscher*
- 12/25 *Ruth Steele*  
*Doug Babcock*
- 12/26 *Terry Schaplow*
- 12/27 *Elliot Johnson*
- 12/29 *Joanna Ellison*  
*Kelly Meredith*
- 12/30 *Jim Hall*
- 12/31 *Sammylu Parsons*

### **Presby Cats wreaths will be in soon**

If you ordered a Christmas wreath from our Presby Cats collegiate group, the wreaths will be here any day now (early next week at the latest). We will be getting shipping information shortly. Those who ordered wreaths will be getting a phone call from one of our Presby Cats to let you know how to get yours. Also, if you did not get to order one, we will have a few extra wreaths ready to sell when they arrive. If you're interested in one of these extras, please contact Amy at 541-815-1608 or [amydesjardins@yahoo.com](mailto:amydesjardins@yahoo.com). Many thanks for your support of our spring break mission trip fund.

### **Called to Life Course Evaluations**

80+ church members participated in our recent 'Called to Life' Course in which participants discussed questions such as: Who is God calling me to be? How is God calling me to live? and What is God calling me to do? The Course was ranked good or excellent by 73% of the participants and 93% of the participants said they would recommend the course to others in the church. The biggest suggestions were around time, particularly for those who attended the time-limited Sunday morning class. They would have liked more time to dig into the questions and discussion. The things participants liked most were that the course was thought-provoking and it gave them a unique chance to connect through small groups and one-on-one with others in the church. Many liked the Word-Share-Prayer opening format that was featured in some of the classes.

Thanks to all the Facilitators and Participants who made the Course so enjoyable and worthwhile as part of our 'Year of Call!'

'Stay tuned' as we continue our focus on call through Advent, with exciting 'next steps' already planned into the New Year.....!

## Interfaith Forum December 6

*Civil Religion, How do our faith traditions interact with American civil religion?* Come hear the interfaith panel discuss what they see, and what this means for our faith and our world. The Interfaith Forum began more than ten years ago, and has grown every year since its founding. Regular panelists are Jody McDevitt, Rabbi Ed Stafman (Congregation Beth Shalom), Father Leo Proxell (Holy Rosary Catholic Church) and Ruhul or Shadmani Amin (Islamic Center of Bozeman). Each month additional panelists are added to the table, representing Bozeman's diverse religious community. A diverse audience listens, poses questions, and offers insights into the question of the day.



The forum is held on the first Wednesdays of the month at 12 noon, at Beth Shalom, 2010 W. Koch St. A brochure listing the year's topics is available at the church.

### Thank you!

Many thanks to those of you who so generously provided items and clothing for the refugee settling in Missoula. The response from the community was inspiring, showing love and concern for all of God's children.  
Gratefully, Nancy Rote



## Bells of the Bridgers Concert December 15

*Bells of the Bridgers*, Bozeman's community handbell ensemble, presents its annual holiday concert "News of Great Joy", Friday December 15, 7:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 Graf St, Bozeman. A variety of music of the season ranges from "Do You Hear What I Hear?" to "Good Christian Men Rejoice" with Bodhran, "March of the Toys", selections from *The Nutcracker*, "Trepak" and "Arab Dance", and more. The concert is free, a free-will offering will be taken.

## National Geographic Special on Christ's Tomb

When John and Judy Patterson showed their adventures to the Holy Land at the Adult Sunday School they mentioned the national Geographic Special *Secrets of Christ's Tomb*. It premieres Sunday, December 3 at 9/8c on the National Geographic Channel. The immersive, 3-D exhibition ***Tomb of Christ: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre Experience*** is open at the National Geographic Museum in Washington D.C. through the fall of 2018.



## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

In her sermon on Sunday, Jody McDevitt challenged us to express the ways in which we love the church. She then set forth several of the reasons she loves the church.

There are several instances in scripture wherein Christ is referred to as a bridegroom, and in some of those instances, especially in Paul's epistles, the inference is that it is the church which stands as Christ's bride. It is this notion of the church — being married to Christ — that I love.

Marriages are complex arrangements. They commence with publicly stated vows which are articulated with words like love, honor, cherish, and obey. But then after the wedding hall has been swept clean, the dishes washed, and the chairs stacked, the day to day act of being married begins.

Marriages are referred to as partnerships. The implication is that both parties to this arrangement are equal partners, and I love the fact that we are not alone in our life as a church. Some of the work we do as a church is hard. Really hard. But it is when we remember that Christ is walking beside us, shouldering some of the load, that our burden is eased.

A great example of this is the organization Love, INC. In this model a number of different churches have taken on an almost impossible task — namely to answer all of the cries for help in our community — and have banded together as one church with Christ as its partner. Another ministry we are involved with in this same vein is Family Promise. It, too, endeavors to accomplish seemingly impossible work, but with Christ walking beside it all things are made possible.

Of course these are ecumenical examples of Christ being wed to the church, and certainly there is strength in numbers. But what about little old First Pres? We can celebrate over one hundred and forty years of marriage to Christ. In and of itself, this is no small feat. It means we have gathered as a congregation over seven thousand times to love, honor, cherish, and obey our spouse. It also means we have passed the peace of Christ among one another that many times. We have looked into the face of another human soul and seen the face of our Christ looking back at us.

Jody also mentioned in her message we as individuals are called to the church, and we are collectively called as the church. I love the fact we are not alone in this endeavor. The one who calls us also stands beside us to help us answer the call.



### **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](http://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!



Rockhaven Chapel

# First Presbyterian Church

## December 2017



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  5:30pm First Friday	2
3 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 4pm Advent Celebration	4	5  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	6  7 pm Choir	7 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30am Women's Morning Book Group  5:00 pm Deacons	8	9
10 Family Promise 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	11 Family Promise	12 Family Promise  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	13 Family Promise  7 pm Choir	14 Family Promise 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30am Women's Morning Book Group	15 Family Promise  6pm Merry Munchers	16 Family Promise  12-3pm Messiah Rehearsal  5pm Christmas at Rockhaven
17 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 3pm Messiah Community Sing	18	19  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	20  7 pm Choir	21 7am Men's Bible Study 7:30am Women's Morning Book Group  7pm Session	22	23
24 10:30 Worship  5:00 Family Service 8:00 Traditional Service 11:00 Candlelight Service	25  Holiday Office Closed	26  Holiday Office Closed	27  No PresbEnews	28 7am Men's Bible Study	29	30
31 10:30 Blessing of the Animals						