



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

December 13, 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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## Christmas at Rockhaven

Plan to come this 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

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)



## Enhancing Our Conversation With God

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

Matthew 1:21

*"Glory to you, O God. Humbly, we look forward to the gift of your love in the Christ Child. In Christ. Amen"*

*From Words for Thinking and Thoughts for Meditation by Paul Krebill*

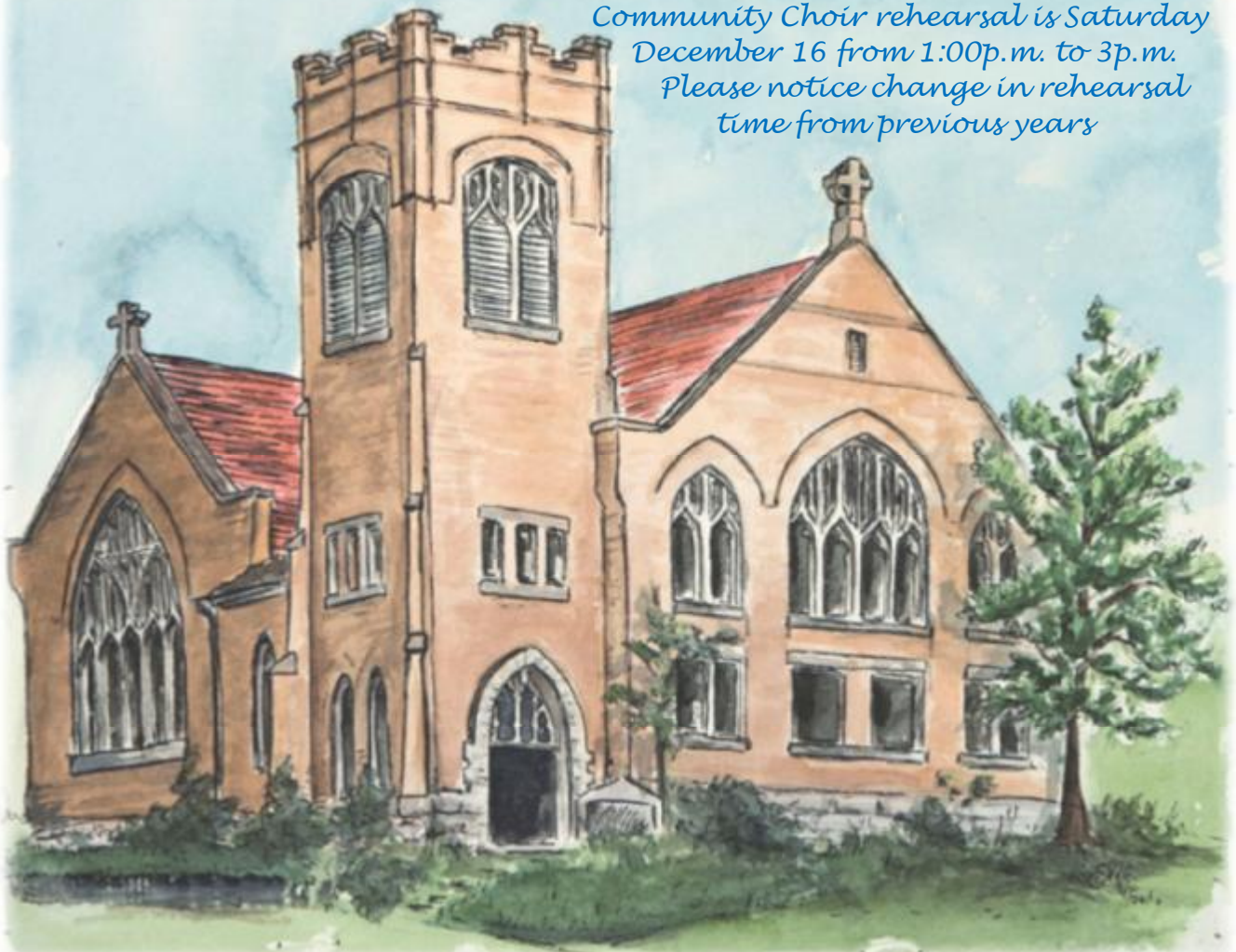
# *First Presbyterian Church Messiah Community Sing*

*Sunday, December 17 at 3pm*

*Dr. Lukas Graf, Director and Carrie Krause, Concert Master  
Featuring Second String Orchestra and other local musicians*

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

*Community Choir rehearsal is Saturday  
December 16 from 1:00p.m. to 3p.m.  
Please notice change in rehearsal  
time from previous years*





### Presbytery chooses John Patterson

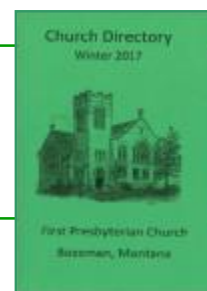
When the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convenes in St. Louis June 16-23, 2018, John Patterson will be there representing the Presbytery of Yellowstone as ruling elder commissioner. John was recently elected by the presbytery to this position, and will serve with the Rev. Dick Davis, minister commissioner, and Tamara Lucht, young adult advisory delegate.

The last time First Presbyterian Church was the home church for Yellowstone Presbytery's elder commissioner was 1990, when Suzanne Bratsky went to Salt Lake City. In recent years, Martha Krebill (2014) and Katie Holland (2012) were young adult advisory delegates, while Jody McDevitt (2012) and Dan Krebill (2008) were minister commissioners. But due to a rotation system for the selection of ruling elder commissioners, which was in place for many years, this opportunity was not available to elders of our church.

In coming months, John will be asked to read and prayerfully consider hundreds of pages of background material, overtures, and procedures. He will be assigned to a GA committee, which will meet for the first few days of the assembly and make recommendations regarding the committee's area of responsibility to the whole assembly. When the full assembly comes together, they will worship, pray, debate, and vote on hundreds of motions. Some of those will be simple, and others will be difficult and controversial. Often the impression which filters back to the churches is that GA is devoted to the controversial matters, but that is a false impression. The General Assembly oversees the health and well-being of congregations, world mission, and the church's witness in the world. It is entrusted with seeking the mind of Christ on behalf of the church, an awe-inspiring responsibility.

Please hold John in prayer as he prepares to represent all of us.

The new church directory is available at the back of the sanctuary or at the church office. Please pick one up!



### 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!



## 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)

## Weekday Parking at 24 South Willson

Where can I park when I am coming to the church on a weekday?

The church owns the lot on the northeast corner of Willson and Babcock. In this lot are 4 spaces designated for church staff and a number of spaces designated for tenants of 24 S. Willson who pay for those spaces. On weekdays, please do not park in any of the spaces with signs.

Spaces without signs are open to clients of the building tenants as well as those coming to the church for various reasons. We are starting a new system for authorizing use of these spaces in order to eliminate unauthorized use of the lot.

A red mirror tag indicates authorized use of a space. Tenants of the building, church staff, and others who are here regularly each have a tag. Temporary tags are also available in the church office. You can park in the lot, pick up a tag from Linda, put it in your car, and return it to Linda when finished. Please note that this applies to regular office hours, Monday-Friday.

After a trial period of 2-3 weeks, we intend to enter into a contract with Tow Zone to patrol the parking lot and tow vehicles which are parking without passes. The expense to get the car back will belong to the owner of the vehicle. If you have any questions, please feel free to let us know:

Donna Beck 587-4087 or 539-0917 (until Dec. 31st) Dan Berg 556-7156 or 599-1539 (after Dec. 31st)

***The entire lot is available on Sundays for church parking, and spaces which are not designated may be used without a tag in the evenings. Church goers are also welcome to park in the Architect's Wife lot (former Montana Motor Supply) on Babcock after 7 pm on weekdays and all day on Sundays.***

***Weekday Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9am—4pm and Friday 9am—3pm.***

## Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

This Saturday we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior at Rockhaven. This has long been a tradition for our church, among the many other wonderful traditions we practice. It has also long been my privilege to participate in this unique service, and this year I will again be among the many lending voice and spirit to the celebration.

Christmas at Rockhaven is unique not just because the worship service is a little bit different, but also because of its setting. I think we all agree that Rockhaven is a beautiful place, but in the midst of winter she is adorned with an extra layer of Advent magic; she is bundled in the nostalgic yearning for a simpler time.

Obviously the weather is always an issue at Rockhaven at this time of year, but for the most part it looks like it will cooperate this week. There might be a few flakes of fresh snow, but the temperatures should be fairly moderate, which will allow the chapel to be nice and cozy (in contrast to the brutal temperatures we suffered through last year.)

Those of you familiar with the writing in this space know that I am an unapologetic shill for all things Rockhaven. I never tire of expounding upon the gateway she provides for developing a closer relationship with our Creator. I am not the only one that has called Rockhaven a thin place, a location where the separation between the spiritual and physical realms is not as distinct as it is in the rest of our world. It is also a place where we can more easily be attuned to our call.

### Advent Call

Walking across the bridge  
to the meadow on the far side  
of the river almost feels like  
entering into Lewis' wardrobe  
and I find myself standing on  
holy ground.

The snow has muted most of the  
sounds that would otherwise disrupt  
my attention and allows my soul to drift,  
unfettered.

I open the ears of my heart and I hear  
not the voice of a stern elder, but that  
of a baby cooing. I open the eyes of my  
heart and I see this very same child  
reaching up to me, yearning to hold  
and to be held.

I am at peace.



#### 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!