



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

January 24, 2018

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
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## Year of Call Spurs Small Groups to Form

One of the fruits of the "Called to Life" course which was offered in the fall is an interest in more opportunities to share more deeply in one another's lives, encouraging and supporting spiritual growth. While we have numerous groupings of people who are dedicated to particular ministries and through those shared interests, have become supportive small groups, we recognize a desire for more. The Year of Call task group is responding by providing an organizing framework for launching new small groups.

The goal of small groups in our church is "to create environments where Spirit-driven, life-giving experiences can flourish." (words of writer John Ortberg) The ministry is undertaken to ensure members and attendees at FPC are able to experience a sense of community that feeds their hunger for spiritual community.

Are you interested? Would you like to give this a try? In the next few weeks, you have an opportunity to sign up for one of these small groups. So far, the following opportunities have been identified. In all cases, the groups are open to all ages and genders, singles or couples. The initial commitment will be for 6-8 gatherings of each group, and each group will determine its parameters and agenda for discussion.

1. 7 am on Monday mornings, at Perkins Restaurant. Hosted by John Patterson, this group will open up and expand a small group which began in 1982. The group meets for 1 hour weekly.
2. A weeknight gathering at the home of Brent and Rachel Turner, probably bimonthly. The group will set its schedule as it forms.
3. A weekday gathering hosted by Gail Weingart. The group will set its schedule as it forms.

Another group at another time or place, hosted by you? Speak to Kelly Meredith, Brent Turner, John Patterson, Jody McDevitt, or Dan Krebill!

Watch for a sign up insert in the Sunday bulletin, or contact [linda@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:linda@fpcbozeman.org), 586-9194.

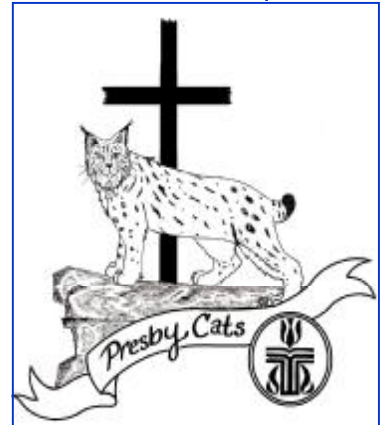
### *Enhancing Our Conversation With God*

*"Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness..."*

*John Baillie, British Author*

## Last chance to buy frozen cookie dough from Presby Cats

Presby Cats are finishing up the Elliots of Montana frozen cookie dough (& other products) sale on Sunday, January 28. You can still place your order on Sunday. Consider purchasing a tub of cookie dough to donate to the deacons for the weekly coffee hours. Presby Cats will be happy to bake the cookies for the deacons if you'd like! Look for Presby Cats with order forms in hand after church this coming Sunday. Or if you'd like to order before then, you can contact either Amy Desjardins at 541-815-1608 ([amydesjardins@yahoo.com](mailto:amydesjardins@yahoo.com)) or Kori Robbins at 406-560-5548 ([kori.robbins@hotmail.com](mailto:kori.robbins@hotmail.com)). All profits from this sale will support our upcoming spring break mission trip to Miami, Florida.



Thanks for your support!

## Annual meeting to be held on February 11

The session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, February 11, right after a luncheon following the 10:30 worship service. This is a week later than usual so that all financial reports, including the endowment report, can be up to date and accurate. Please plan to attend this important meeting that will review the last year of our church's ministry as well as to look what's in store for the current year.



### **PRESBYTERIAN SKIERS**

Greetings to all FPC skiers at Bridger Bowl. If you are on the slopes on a Monday, we would love for you, family, and friends to meet for some fellowship and lunch at 12:00 at Deer Park Lodge. Just stop and say "hello," warm your fingers and toes, and munch your lunch. Hope to see you there.

## Ask the Pastor at Adult Sunday School

Is there a question that you've always wanted to ask our pastors—about Christian faith or theology or about the life of faith? Continuing until the beginning of Lent, the adult Sunday school class will be devoted to exploring the questions that you have always wanted to ask. Each week, Pastor Dan will take up to 3 questions that have been submitted ahead of time and address them. Each week will also have the last 10 minutes of class time devoted to on-the-spot questions and responses. Dan is seeking questions to address now so that he can prepare for each class. Send your questions to [dan@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:dan@fpcbozeman.org) or text them to Dan at 406-223-2557. Questions can also be sent by postal mail at Ask the Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771.

When you submit your question, please indicate if you'd like to remain anonymous as the one who submitted it. The adult Sunday school class meets in the church library each Sunday morning from 9:30 – 10:15.

### *Birthdays this week*

*1/24 Jim Gannon*

*1/25 Bruce Wilson*

*Spencer Hallin*

*1/27 Stephanie Breen*

*Evan Spoerl*

*1/30 Margaret Heath*

*1/31 Shirley Sedivy*

*Dan Archer*

### Cleaning Kitchen

The Board of Deacons are doing a deep cleaning of the kitchen this Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. They ask that anyone who has food in the refrigerators or freezers to make sure it is labeled or it will be thrown out. Also any containers need to be picked up by then.

## Contemporary Religious Issues Forum

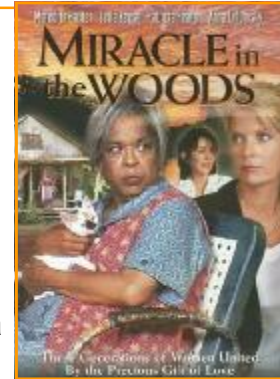
Grand Avenue Christian Church, at 110 South Grand will be having the second in a series of Contemporary Religious Issues Forums on Saturday, January 27. The guest speaker will be Bridget Wilkinson, Manager for the Downtown Bozeman Community Development Foundation. She will be speaking about upcoming developments in the downtown Bozeman area.

The event will be held at the church in Westlake Hall beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. The charge will be \$12 and will include a brunch. The Brunch Menu will include Breakfast Burritos (with condiments), Yogurt Parfait, Coffee Cake, Fruit Juice, Coffee & Tea. Reservations must be received by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 24 (today) and can be made by calling 586-6944 and leaving a message.

We hope to see you there.

## FIRST FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 2

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, **MIRACLE IN THE WOODS**. When Wanda (Patricia Heaton) and Sarah's (Meredith Baxter) mother dies and the estranged sisters inherit the family pecan grove, their conflicting plans for the future of the property are complicated by the appearance of a stranger claiming the land as her own. As the conflicted sisters struggle to find a common ground, the discovery of an elderly woman named Lilly Cooper (Della Reese) prompts the curiosity of Sarah's teenage daughter (Anna Chlumsky), who becomes determined to learn the secret of the mysterious squatter's past.



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.



### 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)

### 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!*



## Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

### God's Algorithm

It is frightening at times. My computer seems to know more about me than I do. It anticipates my next move — my next click — with uncanny accuracy. Sometimes I will pretend like I am indifferent to its offerings, I don't nibble at the bait, but ultimately it knows I will return to my time-honored preferences, my well-worn path. It knows.

I envision some engineer in a dimly lit room, drinking Mountain Dew and eating Skittles and writing the formula that captures all my past mood swings and feeds them into a massive data base where another formula extrapolates what my desire will be at any given moment so Google or Amazon or any other monolith of the tech frontier can profit from my need to be instantly gratified.

But then I remember I can disconnect. I can unplug. I can read a book or go for a walk. I can pray.

I can engage in conversation with my very Creator. I can talk to the One who knit me in the womb, who knows everything I have ever done. Everything I have ever thought. Blockchains to the nth degree. And the motivation for this isn't some corporate bottom line delivered via electronic impulses. It is love. Love delivered through a network of spiritual connections. Not a database, but a grace base.



### 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!