



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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### 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. The annual reports will be available on Sunday, February 4 or on the church web site [www.fpcozeman.org](http://www.fpcozeman.org).



### Co-Pastors' Corner...

More than halfway through our "Year of Call," it seems we have uncovered a mother lode of spiritual treasures in the simple word "Call." Initially, most of us probably imagined being summoned to action, to mission, and to service. But as we've explored this Biblical theme, we have uncovered depths of spiritual growth which look more like reflection, faith, and relationship with God. Our deepest calling involves both dimensions, for we are commanded both to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Midway through the month of February, Lent will begin. This season of preparation for the cycle of Holy Week with its remembrance of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection is traditionally a time of journeying inward. Lent reminds us that we are called to prayer, for prayer is our means of being in relationship with God, listening and sharing our inmost feelings. Several opportunities for answering the call to prayer are described in this month's newsletter. You are invited to consider being part of a newly-forming small group. You are invited to the adult Sunday school class on the Lord's Prayer. And you are invited to personal prayer using the devotional booklet, "Finding Peace in Lent."

A friend who recently celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination reflects on his life's journey.

*"Pathways open up before us and God calls us to choose which trail to take. Every turn and fork in the road is a choice and that includes even the unconscious decision to let inertia be the wind at your back. The challenge is to find the sacred and the holy, the meaningful and satisfying in the details and demands of each day.*

*And challenge is a good word here. There were stretches of time when routine took over and I just plodded away. Luckily, someone, something woke me to the moment and said: God is in this place – look at the bush, burning unconsumed. Notice it."* (Howard Shapiro, [www.rabbiunplugged.wordpress.com](http://www.rabbiunplugged.wordpress.com))

The bush is still burning in our sanctuary. Is God speaking to you?

### Enhancing Our Conversation With God

*"Learning to dialogue with God will never end because we are unequal partners God and us. Admitting that, bowing before it, helps open my ears. Pursuing God despite the differences helps open our mouths, and then our hearts."*

*by Phillip Yancey*

## Session Notes January 25

The January meeting of the Session highlighted many of the action-packed activities of First Presbyterian. Of special note was a discussion on church security. Brent Turner has a committee of people who are examining the security of the church throughout the week. They will develop a plan that will help keep the occupants of the building safe, while also maintaining a welcoming presence to the community. Currently, if only one person is in the building, that person may lock the door and require the visitors to press the doorbell on the Babcock entrance for entry.

A second exciting discussion revolved around the small groups that are forming as a result of the Call classes and the emphasis we have had in worship on Call. A sign-up sheet has been provided in worship for congregants who wish to form small groups around Call (which is a very broad area allowing smaller focus topics). The Session is hopeful that a continuing ministry can be further developed with small groups. Many successful small groups exist in our congregation, but not everyone has found a place in a small group, so we hope this offering reaches out to more people.

Finally, we discussed the plans for the Annual Meeting, which will be held on February 11 immediately after the 10:30 service. A lunch will be served, organized by our hospitality elder extraordinaire, Sally Broughton. Then the meeting will follow the luncheon. We hope that we have a good attendance so that everyone is informed about what the church has done in the past year and where we hope to go, as the Holy Spirit moves in each and every one of the members of our congregation. So many Spirit-led initiatives and programs exist in First Presbyterian Church. I am always in awe when I see the breadth and depth of our church's work.

Submitted by  
Deborah Haynes, Elder

**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 December 2017

December Income	\$55,753	Year to Date Income	\$538,335
December Expenses	\$43,680	Year to Date Expenses	\$538,335
December Balance	\$12,073	Year to Date Balance	\$0

## Lent begins February 14

Peace. . . how do we find it? The prayer of St. Francis expresses our longing for inner peace, for peace in relationships, and for peace in the world. This Lent, grow deeper in your search for peace by reflecting on and praying this prayer, guided by a daily devotional booklet available at church. The prayer calls us to transformation and to living a more gentle, self-giving life.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*and where there is sadness, joy.*

*Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;*

*to be understood as to understand;*

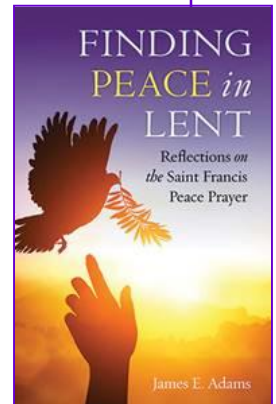
*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

### From the Co-Pastors



## Adult Sunday School to study the Lord's Prayer during Lent

Do you remember the first time you heard the Lord's Prayer? Most of us not only can't remember when we first heard this prayer, we can't remember when we memorized it--because our memorizing was not a conscious effort; it was simply the process of hearing the words until they were part of our very persons.

Yet most of us don't know much about this prayer, and we're inclined to recite it without thinking. Martin Luther, with his penchant for saying things directly, described the Lord's Prayer as the greatest martyr, "for everybody tortures and abuses it." It is mostly, of course, the abuse of familiarity. Because we say it so often and because its words have the flow of poetry, we are likely to speak it without investment of either mind or heart. Jesus warned, "In your prayers do not go babbling on like the heathen, who imagine that the more they say the more likely they are to be heard" (Matt. 6:7 NEB). It's ironic, isn't it, that the prayer Jesus gave us is probably the most frequent instrument of violation for the warning he gave us.

Beginning on Sunday, February 18, and continuing through March 25, led by pastor Dan Krebill, the adult Sunday school class will undertake a thorough study of the Lord's Prayer. The class meets in the church library from 9:30 to 10:15 on Sunday.

## **“Ask the Pastor” adult Sunday school class tackling some interesting questions**

Our “Ask the Pastor” adult Sunday school class continues for two more Sundays—February 4 & 11. To date, we have talked about:

- How our Christian understanding of the Jewish requirement for circumcision that we read about in the book of Genesis has evolved as Christianity became established.
- How we understand the Covenant Code in the book of Exodus that calls for, among other things, the “giving of your firstborn sons.”
- What the meaning of the phrase, “Lead us not into temptation. . .” means in the Lord’s Prayer. This question has resulted in taking up the whole of the Lord’s Prayer during the upcoming weeks of Lent in the Sunday school class.

Seeking to understand what is meant by predestination in our tradition. This discussion resulted in so much conversation, that we’ll continue with this on February 4.

## **Membership information meeting to be held on Saturday, February 24**

Do you have questions about First Presbyterian Church? Are you curious to know more about who we are as part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination? Is membership in our church something you’d like to consider? Please plan to come to an informal membership information meeting on Saturday, February 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church. Our pastors and church leaders will be on hand to share more about our church and its ministries and mission. Also included will be to share what’s involved for those who are interested in formalizing their membership in our church. The time will conclude with a light lunch. To sign up for the meeting, please call the church office at 586-9194 or email Linda at [linda@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:linda@fpcbozeman.org)

## **Presby Cats to nourish and entertain at February 25 fund raiser**

On Sunday, February 25, members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry will be serving lunch after the 10:30 service before hosting the annual talent and variety show. You’re invited to enjoy the lunch and you’re also invited to participate in the talent show if you’d like. To be part of the show, please contact James Schulz at 509-822-0866 or [jkschulz2731@gmail.com](mailto:jkschulz2731@gmail.com). Funds raised at this event will support the Presby Cats upcoming spring break mission trip to Miami, Florida.

## **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!*



### Food Bank this Sunday, February 4

Every Communion Sunday's we share God's love for us with communion and God's love for our neighbors-in-need by bringing grocery items to church. These food items are picked up by the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to be shared with those in need and at this time of the year, there is always a great need. Whether it be a can of soup or vegetables, pasta or peanut butter, these all go to help feed our neighbors. So as you prepare for church this week, check the pantry and see what you might bring to feed God's children.

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is always in need of non-perishable and non-expired items. Bring food 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. For information go to [gallatinvalleyfoodbank.com](http://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.com)



### Every dollar counts! Every can of food counts!



In 14 years of participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, First Presbyterian Church has contributed over \$2800 and 1800 food items to the Gallatin County Food Bank. Last year's totals were \$203 and 63 food items.

How does this work? On Super Bowl Sunday (February 4 this year), there will be soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary to collect your monetary contributions. \$1/person is suggested, but you are welcome to give more. February 4 is also our monthly Food Bank Sunday. Bring a food item (see list for suggestions) to help out neighbors in need. 100% of your contributions will go directly to the Food Bank. Thank you for being generous on this annual national feast day!

#### Greatest needs:

- Cold Cereal
- Chunky Soup
- Chicken Soup
- Tomato Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chili
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

#### To ensure food safety, we cannot use:

- rusty or unlabeled cans
- homemade items
- noncommercial canned or packaged items
- alcoholic beverages
- open or used items
- canned food items that have been frozen



### Thank you from the Deacons

Thank you to everyone who made Piety Sunday 2018 a success! The Board of Deacons is grateful to everyone who participated in this event. We raised \$236 for the Deacons' Benevolence Fund. It would not have been possible with all the great volunteers. Again, thank you so much, Rachel Minter



*Birthdays this Month*

- 2/1 *Ruth Welch*  
*Laurie Kolwycyk*
- 2/2 *Antoine David*  
*Bill Prunty*
- 2/5 *Linda Hinman*  
*Joyce Armour*
- 2/8 *Tricia Thompson*  
*Algerim Haynes*
- 2/10 *Joe Kolwycyk*
- 2/11 *David Driscoll*
- 2/13 *Richard Reiley*
- 2/14 *Anna Kolwycyk*
- 2/16 *Randy Kleinhans*
- 2/17 *Linda Svensrud*
- 2/18 *Barney Hallin*
- 2/20 *Mary Thompson*
- 2/22 *Emma Galinac*  
*Terry Nightingale*  
*Daniel Larimer*
- 2/23 *Fran Babcock*  
*Martha Aloise*
- 2/25 *Chuck Poremba*  
*Chuck Swenson*
- 2/26 *George McClure*
- 2/27 *Rob Minter*  
*Ev Lensink*
- 2/28 *Rita Fish*



**Small Groups Opportunity**

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? 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ A weeknight gathering at the home of Brent and Rachel Turner, probably bimonthly. The group will set its schedule as it forms.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 am on Tuesday mornings 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

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To submit online, copy and paste this URL into your web browser:

<https://goo.gl/forms/vDdwjGUu65gBFxx63>

-----Place in offering plate or return to church office-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_

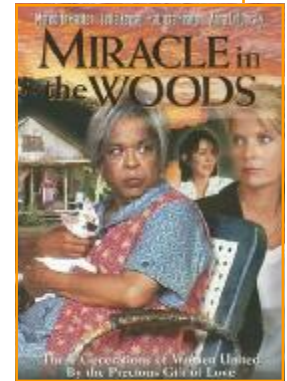
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive texts at this phone number? \_\_\_yes; \_\_\_no.

## 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.



### 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.



### Family Promise This Week

Our church is hosting Family Promise this week. Please welcome them and if you would like to help with this mission please contact Judy Arkwright at 388-2347.

## Love Inc Classes and Needs

Love INC is offering two **FREE** classes: Faith & Finances and Resolving Everyday Conflict starting the week of February 20. There are two ways to take part in these classes: be a **PARTICIPANT** by taking a class OR **VOLUNTEER** by being a coach, providing a meal, or helping with childcare during the class.

To get involved with either opportunity, contact Jane at 587-6395 or email [changeyourlife@loveincgc.org](mailto:changeyourlife@loveincgc.org) by February 6.

Personal Care Pantries: We need all personal care products but we especially can use **toilet paper**, laundry detergent, dish soap, baby wash, dental floss, and body lotion at this time. Reminder: We are discouraging the donation of bar soap as we have an over abundance and clients rarely want bar soap.

Linen Closet: We are in need of twin bed sheet sets and wash clothes.



### The Presbytery of Yellowstone Seeks Stated Clerk

- A quarter-time position, with salary + pension starting at \$16,000+
- Some travel required (reimbursed)
- 3-year renewable term
- 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 the position is filled.

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

## Interfaith Forum February 7th

*What Does Religion Mean to Me? Young people(20-29) from our faith traditions respond to this question.* 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 Wednesday 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.





## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2-5 AUGUST 2018

The 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held next August in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year PW celebrates its 30th anniversary! Be sure you are on our e-mail list so you don't miss one bit of news about the Gathering. E-mail [patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org](mailto:patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org) and urge all your friends to get on the list, too.

All Gathering lodging and activities will be at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. Nightly room rates are \$144 per room (up to four in a room). Gathering registration is \$425.

You can also bring a \$10 prepaid Target, Walmart, CVS or Walgreens gift card to the Gathering, to be distributed to three local Louisville ministries. This is an opportunity for women in your congregation unable to attend to also donate cards to these causes. Watch for more updates on e-mail and on the PW Web site at [presbyterianwomen.org](http://presbyterianwomen.org). Download the registration booklet from this site; under the Gathering tab select About the Gathering link. Registration opened on January 15th.



### PWP GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR GATHERING ATTENDANCE

Grants in the amount of \$500 are available in Yellowstone Presbytery to help with your expenses to the 2018 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. Presbyterian Women are strongly encouraged to apply for these grants so you can experience this amazing event. It's an opportunity to hear from inspiring speakers and learn more ways to live out our faith. We gather because we are women of faith responding to Isaiah's invitation: "Arise, shine, your light has come!" (Isaiah 60: 1) Selection priority will be given to women attending their first Gathering, *but previous attendees are also eligible for the grants*. Grants applications may be downloaded at the Presbyterian Women link at the Yellowstone Presbytery Web site: [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org)

### Attendance Grant Application for PW Churchwide Gathering 2018

Presbyterian Women in Yellowstone Presbytery  
Applications must be received by April 1st, 2018

For an application, paper copy or additional information please contact:  
Suzanne Bratsky [suzbratsky@gmail.com](mailto:suzbratsky@gmail.com) 406-539-0211  
Susan Gibb [susgibb@gmail.com](mailto:susgibb@gmail.com) 406-582-7413

## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

God of comfort,

You hear me complain quite a bit, Lord. I'm always whining about something, and more often than not it is about the weather. Truth be told, though, I've got it pretty easy. My house is nice and cozy. I have reliable transportation — heck, my car even has seat warmers. I've got clothes aplenty for dealing with different kinds of weather. If it gets cold I can throw on some insulated coveralls. When the snow starts to melt and my boots get wet, I can change into dry boots.

There are folks, Lord, that don't have it as easy as me. Whatever they can carry in their backpack is what they got. If it's twenty below, that's what they got. If it's snowing sideways, that's what they got. If it's forty above and the wind's howling and all the sidewalks are rivers, that's all they got.

The cynic in me says they choose to live that way. Then I come to my senses and kick myself for being so hard-hearted. No one — and I mean no one — would choose to be flying a sign in those conditions, or walking across town to check on a job opening, or braving the elements to get their one square meal for the day.

Lord, you told us we would always have the poor with us. Perhaps they are a reminder of how good I have it. Perhaps it is to gauge my reaction to their plight. Do I brush them off with a tsk, tsk, or do I get busy and do something? I guess that's up to me.

So this is the first step. I talk to you about it. I ask you to help me change my heart. Then I ask you to help them. And then I ask you to help me help them.

There are plenty of resources out there, and they all need money. That's something I can do. Those same outfits need volunteers, so that's something else I can do.

Lord, you are calling me. Let me not ignore your call. Your light is inside me; let me shine it on the world around me.

Oh, and one last thing. Soon enough it will be mud season, and then the rainy season, and then it will be hot and smoky. I'm sure I'll still be complaining and I'm equally sure I'll still be comfortable. So pour out your blessings, Lord, upon the Warming Center, and the Fork & Spoon, and Family Promise, and Love, INC, and the HRDC, and the Deacons, and everyone else that answered your call.

Amen



### **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

## February 2018



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7am Men's Bible Study 8 am Women's Morning Book Group  5:00 pm Deacons	2  5:30pm First Friday	3
4 Family Promise 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	5 Family Promise	6 Family Promise  7 pm First Bells	7 Family Promise	8 Family Promise 7am Men's Bible Study 8 am Women's Morning Book Group	9 Family Promise	10 Family Promise
11 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 11:45 Annual Meeting 7:15 pm Youth Mission Trip Meeting	12	13  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	14 Ash Wednesday  7 pm Choir	15 7am Men's Bible Study 8 am Women's Morning Book Group	16  6pm Merry Munchers	17
18 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	19 President's Day Holiday –Office closed	20  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	21  7 pm Choir	22 7am Men's Bible Study 8 am Women's Morning Book Group 7pm Session	23	24 Membership Meeting
25 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats Talent Show	26	27  7 pm First Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts	28  7 pm Choir			