



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

July 11, 2018

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Rockhaven this week

All are invited to join the festivities each Sunday throughout the summer at Rockhaven Camp. At 5:30 p.m. please bring a potluck dish to share with others and stay for vespers at 7:00 in the chapel. Vesper leaders are Dan Holland with musicians Holly Aloise, Joanna Ellison, and Cheryl McNicholas.

Rockhaven is located at milepost 67 on Highway 191, towards Big Sky.

Funds for Kori Robbins

My name is Kori Robbins, and I grew up in the small community of Anaconda, in the southwest corner of Montana. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in History at Montana State University in 2015, and as of 2017, have been working towards my Masters in American Studies. I am a founding member of the Presby Cats.



In August, I will be moving to New York City to pursue a year of service as a Young Adult Volunteer with PC(USA). I'm trading in my mountains for skyscrapers and wide-open spaces for the concrete jungle. I'm looking forward to serving in a community different from my own!

Each YAV is asked to raise a portion of that amount; this year it is \$4,000. This money goes towards housing, transportation and other costs.

Donations can be sent to the following address:

Presbytery of NYC, Attn: James Tse, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, New York 10027

Checks can be made out the Presbytery of NYC. Please make sure "Kori Robbins – YAV" is written in the memo line.

Kori will also be collecting donations to mail herself if you would like or bring them to the church office.

Thanks to everyone who have contributed!

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!"

Psalms 4:1

Session Notes June 28

- 2018-2019 Session Committee Assignments: Kids & Families: Holly Aloise, Brent Turner, Mitchell Larsson; Worship: Nancy Bast & Alison Todd; Mission & Outreach: Charlie Mandeville; Hospitality: Debby Haynes; Spiritual Growth: Kelly Meredith; Finance: Debbie Ernst & Frank Schurz; Facilities: Dan Berg; Leadership & Personnel: Kris Hall; Rockhaven Board: John Patterson.
- Session received a 'thank you' card from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Billings, for the flowers from FPC Bozeman on the occasion of St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary.
- Debby Haynes will continue as Ombud through the summer
- John Patterson gave a slideshow presentation about General Assembly, including the social activism 'Hands and Feet' Initiative emphasis of the Assembly. This prompted a discussion of some of the social issues here in Bozeman that could be topics for discussion within our own congregation.
- Jody noted a community 'Toward Right Relations' seminar regarding the 'Doctrine of Discovery' will be held at FPC on 9/23/18. Also, Jody is on the planning team for a 'Faith, Science & Climate Action' Conference, hosted by the Montana Faith and Environment Coalition. The Conference will be held at the Emerson October 12-13, 2018 with some of the breakout sessions at FPC.
- Session approved a free will offering during an upcoming Matthew O'Sullivan organ recital at FPC 9/16/18.
- Dan and Jody will be on vacation July 2-7 and then taking Continuing Education at Ghost Ranch, July 8-14. Carol Shellenberger will be preaching and available for pastoral needs in their absence.
- The Mission Committee reported a successful mission trip to the Fort Peck Reservation with the possibility of another cemetery recording trip to Poplar in the Spring of 2019.
- Session is planning a special summer 'brainstorming' meeting to consider next steps following our 'Year of Call' as we consider how to 'Put Faith Into Action' in the coming church year.
- The annual summer Session picnic will be July 26 at Dan and Jody's home. The 8/23/18 Session meeting will include a focus on how each Session Committee plans to 'put faith into action' in the coming church year.

Submitted by John 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, fpc-bozeman.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!*



Memorial Service for Shirley Sedivy

In memoriam of Shirley Sedivy January 31, 1938 - July 9, 2018. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on August 4th. Shirley was a member since 1965 and was very active in getting elevators in our church. Our prayers go to her husband Ed, who has been a life long member and their family.

Graveside Service

Cleo Jones, a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church, passed away in November. A grave side service will be held here in Bozeman on Saturday, July 28, at 11 am, followed by a lunch at the Jones' home in Bozeman. Cleo's church family and friends are warmly invited to both gatherings.

A Note from Dave and Judy Arkwright

“We are almost unpacked and do like our house here in Sun City. We visited Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City and even met two ladies who previously lived in MT.”

Their new address is 10602 W. Meade Dr. Sun City, AZ 85351

Birthdays this week

7/11 Owyn Campbell

7/12 Mary Lensink

7/14 Doris Heckerman

7/16 Wilson McMakin

Miriam Frye



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!

John Patterson's 'TOP 10' from having attended the 223 General Assembly as a Ruling Elder Commissioner from Yellowstone Presbytery.

- 1) **To have seen that the PCUSA, rather than dying, is very much alive and well** – That, indeed, we're reforming for the 21st century under the inspiring and certainly motivating leadership from our new Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson. It's apparent we're getting beyond being an 'institution' that only worships together on Sunday morning - as we deal with issues like gender identity, gun violence, suicide, climate change, racial and social injustice among others. For us to be a vital congregation we need to and our Session will be looking at how we're called as a church in these and other areas right here in Bozeman. And, the PCUSA is there to help and support us.
- 2) **To have shared the experience with 2,000-3,000 other Presbyterians** – Commissioners and advisory delegates, staff, registered observers (like Judy) and over 1000 volunteers from St. Louis. We are a 'connectional church.' WE are the PCUSA.
- 3) **To have experienced and shared wonderful Worship, music and Communion** with a diverse group of speakers, musicians and worshippers in different styles and languages.
- 4) **To have been part of the election and installation of our new Co-Moderators:** ruling elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri and teaching elder Cindy Kohlman both of whom are excited to be helping lead us as Co-Moderators during the next two years.
- 5) **To have had the experience of being on the Social Justice Issues Committee** – discussing numerous resolutions such as: 'On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church,' a 'Declaration on Where We Stand Regarding Concerns About Direction Towards Autocracy That This Country Is Taking,' 'Responding to Racist Nationalism,' and 'On the Degradation of Civil Discourse' among others. Quoting Kathy Goodrich – I literally had to 'listen in stereo' to the two or more sides of an issue as I tried to discern the will of God.
- 6) **To have been a voting Commissioner in the plenary sessions** where final discussion and voting is done on the many reports, recommendations and resolutions that come before the GA. And, where all the commissioners and advisory delegates really do have a chance to participate. The experience included being with fellow Presbyterians who felt their church – the PCUSA - Important enough to stay until after midnight on Friday evening to finish up the work before us.
- 7) **To have experienced more of the connectional church in the Exhibit Hall** – where Judy and I got a chance to visit and talk with folks at some of the more than 110 Exhibits related in one way or another to the PCUSA. It turns out there are real people at places like the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Presbyterian Foundation and others....!
- 8) **To have been involved in my first Social Activism march**, as part of the first time GA 'Hands and Feet Initiative' which took social activism into the streets of St. Louis both before and during the GA. Hundreds of us marched to the St. Louis Justice Center, led by Cindy Kohlman, one of our Moderators and J. Herbert Nelson, our Stated Clerk. The cause was to 'End Cash Bail' which keeps the poor in jail and their workhouse for minor offenses because they and their families can't afford relatively low amounts bail. Those attending GA donated more than \$42,000 toward paying cash bail for inmates.
- 9) **To have experienced and rejoiced in the diversity of ages, gender identity and color that is the PCUSA.**
- 10) **To now have had the opportunity to share with you – our local church family** – a bit of the experience of being at General Assembly. I hope you've gotten a glimpse of how we're part of something much bigger than we see here in Bozeman - the PCUSA which is, indeed, very much alive and well and reforming for the 21st Century....!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Last Wednesday our nation celebrated its independence. If your neighborhood was anything like mine, it was a loud celebration. And it lasted long into the night. The steady thump, thump, thump of artillery shells reenacted the scene at Fort Sumter that served as the backdrop to Francis Scott Key's now famous poem.

On Thursday night the celebration continued, but it was far more muted and the explosions fizzled out shortly after it got dark. I even heard a few scattered pops on Friday and Saturday. Then on Sunday the festivities culminated when the last of the fireworks were shot — down at Rockhaven. The fireworks came from the hearts of three members of our congregation.

Mike Roser, Jay Pontius-Backman, and Chuck Beck all shared testimonials of their military service during Vespers that night. Their stories were poignant reminders of the horrors of war. They were vivid witness to the sacrifice members of our armed services bear when they protect our freedom.

Like most of us, I have never served a single minute in defense of our country. The Veterans Administration estimates that only seven percent of our citizenry have served in the military. Said another way, if fourteen people are in a room, only one of them will be a veteran. The other thirteen will never have been to boot camp, will never have been deployed, will never have been separated from their loved ones, and will never have seen the things people should never have to see.

The chapel at Rockhaven wasn't full on Sunday, but it was a larger than average crowd for a holiday weekend. Some of those in attendance came specifically to support the storytellers. Some of them were family members that heard things that night they had never previously heard. I know it was hard for those three former servicemen to relive some of their memories.

I also know that some people didn't come on Sunday, because they didn't want to rekindle similar memories. I get that. I realize many of the seven percent don't care for fireworks displays. They don't like to watch war movies. It opens scars the other ninety-three percent of us can't relate to. What the rest of us can do, though, is express our profound gratitude — and fervently pray that not one more drop of blood will be shed.

I leave you with a few lines from the Army Hymn written in 1863 by noted Supreme Court Jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes:

*O Lord of Hosts! Almighty King!
Behold the sacrifice we bring.
To every arm thy strength impart.
Thy spirit shed through every heart.*