

FIRST
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PresbEnews

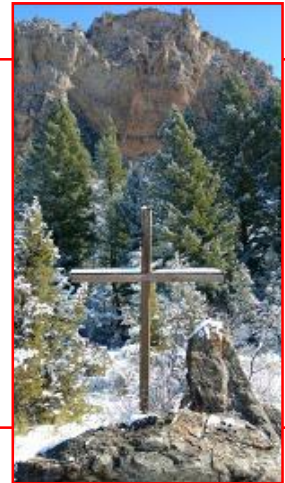
December 12, 2018

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Christmas at Rockhaven, Saturday, December 15

A tradition for more than 20 years, gathering in the chapel at Rockhaven during December is magical! If you have attended many times before, you know how special it is. If you have never attended, plan to make this the year you do. The service will begin at 5 pm, and will include scripture, story, and Christmas carol singing. Afterwards, a chili supper will be served in the dining hall.

Families are encouraged to bring sleds and snow gear.



Special Services during the Christmas Season

Please join us for all the celebrations

Saturday, December 15	5 pm Christmas at Rockhaven
Sunday, December 16	3 pm Messiah Community Sing
Monday, December 24	5 pm Christmas Eve Family service
	8 pm Christmas Eve Traditional service
	11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Sunday, December 30	10:30 am Blessing of the Animals (one service)



Enhancing Our Conversation With God

*"Lord, help me always to be open to the unexpected ways in which
You show me how much you love me."*

Jim Hinch, Daily Guideposts, June 9, 2018

First Presbyterian Church Messiah Community Sing

Sunday, December 16 at 3pm

Lukas Graf, Director

*Soloists: Erin Henke, Mandy Bowker,
Logan Henke and Joseph Kilen*

Organist: Matthew O'Sullivan

*Community Choir rehearsal is
Saturday, December 15
from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*



Coloring nurtures peace



Coloring (by all ages) has been described as “a creative meditation,” “exercise for the mind,” and “an easy way to relax and have some simple fun.” In this hectic season, why not enjoy this easy way to reduce stress and find your creativity?

Each Sunday during Advent, coloring sheets from “Illustrated Children’s Ministry” will be available for all ages at the coffee hour after the second service. Enjoy!

Presby Cats have extra wreaths available



There are a limited number and variety of gorgeous balsam fir Christmas wreaths and holiday sprays available for sale on a first-come-first-served basis. Feel free to stop by the church to view the selection. They’re in the church library and the cost of each item is on the box. Pick up what you’d like and drop a check by the church office or pay electronically via www.easytithes.com/fpcbozeman using the Presby Cats Mission Trip account.

Thank you for your support—and *Merry Christmas from the Presby Cats!*

Greetings Deacons past and present, we are low on cookies. It is a busy time of the year for you and also the church. It would be very much appreciated if some of you could help us out.



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!*





Lunch at Bridger Bowl

Join us at Bridger Bowl Deer Park Lodge every Monday at 12 noon for lunch and fellowship throughout the season.

Birthdays this week

12/13 Logan Kleinhans

12/15 Mary Hektner

12/16 Larry Growney

Bells of the Bridgers Concert December 21

Bells of the Bridgers presents their annual holiday concert "O Come All Ye Faithful", in Bozeman, Friday December 21st, at 7:00 p.m. at Resurrection University Parish at the corner of 11th & Kagy.

Favorite holiday selections include "Joy to the World", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "The Holly and the Ivy", "Jingle Bells", "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairies" and many more. Special guests include Lynn Kirtley, organ, Tim Lockie, percussion, and Melody Lindsay, harp.

Joining with handbells will be the Resurrection University Parish vocal ensemble. The concert is free; a good-will offering will be taken.

SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

By supporting the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

\$1.1 million of gifts from 2017 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.

Income supplements from the BOP helped 312 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.

Housing supplements from the BOP helped 255 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.

Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped 362 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.



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!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Advent is a period of time set aside to prepare the hearts of Christ's followers to properly commemorate the birth of their Messiah. Through the centuries we have become quite good at this process. Through a unique blend of time-honored traditions and purposeful spiritual exercises, we all do an admirable job of receiving the Christ-child into our hearts.

At times, of course, this can seem like too much of a scripted event. After all the writer of Ecclesiastes lamented there is nothing new under the sun, so how many Advent devotions can one read before they seem the same? How many Christmas pageants can one attend without it becoming all too familiar? Conventional wisdom would tell us that we are different people than the last time we read the nativity story or the last time we listened to Handel's Messiah, but still, we often long for something new and surprising.

Fortunately God has always been in the surprise business. Two years ago God used Family Promise to open my eyes to new truths during Advent. Sadly, that novelty, that fresh perspective, had worn thin in the receptacles of my heart; I had nearly forgotten about it. But this year our church once again plays host to a family during Advent. Judy Harrison does yeoman's work as the coordinator of this worthy endeavor, so the task my wife, Christine, and I performed on Sunday night was relatively modest in comparison. It was, however, no less impactful on our hearts as we prepare room for our Savior.

If you have been involved with Family Promise this week, or if you've just been around the church, then you have no doubt had occasion to interact with the single parent and two young children, a boy of twenty-four months and a girl of nine months. To say that the boy (let's call him 'Charles') is a handful would be an understatement (lending credence to the tag line 'terrible twos'.) In contrast the girl ('Jasmine' for our purposes here) was angelic. Our job was to provide them with a meal, eat it with them, and then keep an eye on everything until the night shift arrived. Chaos ensues.

Jasmine and Charles

It's been at least twenty-five years since our family meals have been interrupted by full sprint boogies to prevent a child from doing who-knows-what, or constantly bending over to pick up hunks of mac-n-cheese unceremoniously dumped on the floor — and it is glorious, glorious I tell you. As I look into the eyes of these two children I see not just the mischief one would expect, but also wonder: the very same wonder that radiated from the eyes of a babe swaddled in strips of cloth.