



FIRST
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PresbEnews

Good News Edition - September 2019

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771

(406) 586-9194 - www.fpcbozeman.org - Editor - presbenews@fpcbozeman.org

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Co-Pastors' Corner... Learning and living God's love, together

If you were part of the life of First Presbyterian Church in the past year, you will recognize this phrase as the theme we've been exploring as a statement of our church's vision. It seems to fit us well! Our congregation is committed to God's love, to teaching and learning God's love, and to putting God's love into action together. We can use this statement of our vision as foundation for everything we do.

With our foundation in place, this year we intend to go deeper. What are the dimensions of God's love which can help us make choices, clarify our values, and set goals? How can we grow together in answering God's call?

We'll be diving into three biblical themes this fall. The first is Justice. Our youth will kick off this theme on September 15 by sharing their mission experience in San Diego, "A Place at the Table." Justice in God's realm means justice for all, not for some. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke clearly about this expectation God has for us, and Jesus provided us a way to follow. Justice is an expression of God's love.

The second theme will be Compassion. The root of this word is *passion*, meaning "suffering," and the prefix *com-* means "with." So compassion is "suffering with," and no one was more compassionate than Jesus. Often when we feel compassion, we aren't sure how to act most effectively. Our fear causes us to close off our hearts. Understanding compassion as a dimension of divine love can free us to live it more fully.

The third dimension will be Truth. In a time when people talk about "truthiness," "fake news," and "alternative facts," it's clear that we need to reach agreement on the nature of truth! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Paul talked about the relationship between truth and love in 1 Corinthians 13:6 – "Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth." As we examine truth as a Christian value and ideal, we'll learn better how to live truthful lives.

We look forward to having you join us this fall as we learn and live God's love, together.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Lord, be our peace in the storms of our lives."

Upper Room Disciplines, 8-18-19

Session Notes August 22

The most exciting news from the August session meeting is that Kelly Meredith (and of course Dylan LeBlanc, too) are expecting a baby boy in January. Unfortunately, this also means that Kelly will be resigning from her role on the session.

Other news in the life of the session and that church that came up includes the Presby Cats kicking off their year (already happened this past Sunday), so look for them on Sunday mornings, and the Sierra Service Project, SSP, youth being slated to give a report of their San Diego mission trip. That will be Sunday September 15, so be sure to add that to your calendar. Likewise, youth Sunday School will kick off September 8th.

Rockhaven also has some big upcoming events of note. The two highlighted at the session meeting are that the annual Love, INC retreat will be hosted at the camp. The other is another event to be placed on your calendar. October 27th will mark the first annual Rockhaven Fundraiser, so ask a member of the Rockhaven board for details, and stay tuned.

Submitted by Elder Brent Turner

OMBUD: *The person who will listen to your suggestions, concerns, complaints and compliments. Every quarter our OMBUD from the session is Holly Aloise 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 451-4630 or email hollyaloise@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 July 2019

July General Operating Income	\$25,112	Year to Date Income	\$256,698
July General Operating Expense	\$32,628	Year to Date Expense	\$241,579
July General Operating Balance	\$-7,415	Year to Date Balance	\$15,119
July Rockhaven Income	\$30,628	Year to Date Income	\$73,185
July Rockhaven Expense	\$26,925	Year to Date Expense	\$87,961
July Rockhaven Balance	\$3,703	Year to Date Balance	\$-14,776

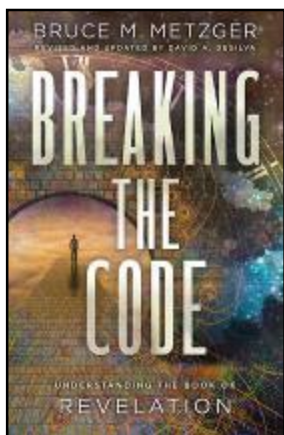
Kids and Families Host Picnic at Story Mill Park

Have you been to the newly opened Story Mill Community Park? Would you like to try it out with your church family?

The Kids and Families Committee will be hosting a picnic for all on Sunday, September 8 following the 10:30 service. There are plenty of places to play, relax, and enjoy the end of summer/beginning of fall at this new facility. Located at 698 Bridger Drive, the 60 acre park includes a playground designed with local native animals in mind. Our local native kids will love it!



Contact Brent Turner for more information (406-600-8073), or just



Adult Sunday school class to study the book of Revelation

Beginning on Sunday, September 8, Pastor Dan Krebill will be leading the adult Sunday school class from 9:30 to 10:15 each week in the church library. The topic this fall is a study of the New Testament book of Revelation. Based on a book by the late Bruce Metzger entitled, *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*, this study will get behind the rich, complex and sometimes confusing and bizarre language in this part of the Bible. Plan to join us this fall as we discover the richness of God's word in a part of the Bible that is often overlooked.

Sunday School begins September 8

Welcome back! After a summer of VBS, Rockhaven Camps, Youth Mission Trip, and family time, Sunday school will resume on September 8. Adults will meet at 9:30 am in the church library. Children ages 4 through 6th grade will meet during the 10:30 service, following Children's Time. Youth (grades 7-12) will begin a confirmation class this fall, but will not meet on September 8.

Following the church theme of "Dimensions of Love," the children will begin this fall learning from Bible stories of justice, compassion, and truth.

This fall we will be making a special effort to ensure that all children and youth are safe in our church ministries. Parents, teachers, and any others are invited to learn more about our newly adopted Child Protection Policy. All teachers and youth leaders are required by this policy to be trained in safe church procedures. Background checks are also required. We will be offering two training opportunities in September, during which child care will be provided.

Sunday, Sept 15, 12 n – 12:45 pm

Sunday, Sept 29, 9:30 -10:15 am

The information provided is helpful for parents in any setting, whether church, school, or extracurricular activity.

Parents, please be sure to complete the Sunday school registration form. This helps us keep kids safe!

First Presbyterian Church Mainly Music Concert Series

*Sunday, October 20 at 4:00pm
Matthew O'Sullivan Organ Concert*

*Sunday, November 10 at 3:00 pm
An Afternoon with Bach*

*Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 pm
Messiah Community Sing*

*No admission charge but donations
are gladly accepted
For more information call 586-9194
or Kathy at 539-3491*



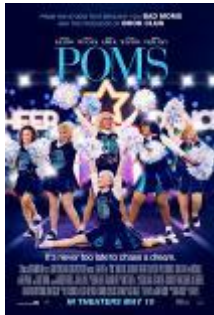
Family Promise of Gallatin Valley

As some of you know, and for those of you who don't know, our church has played a big role in Family Promise for many years. As time goes on many of our faithful volunteers cannot participate any longer. I'm reaching out to you with encouragement to participate in this wonderful interfaith hospitality program. After volunteering just one time you will want to participate again and again. As quoted by a dad in the Family Promise Program, "Nobody prepares you on how to be homeless. The volunteers made being homeless manageable. I was proud to graduate and extremely thankful to all the churches for their help and support."

On Sunday, September 15 at noon in the library, Jill Yoder, Volunteer and Outreach Manager for Family Promise, will be at our church for an introduction/training. It will take about an hour.

Please sign up with Judy Harrison at 406-350-1298 or contact the church office at 586-9194.

First Friday September 6 in the Fellowship Hall



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, *POMS* starring Diane Keaton, Jacki Weaver, Pam Grier, Rhea Perlman, and Bruce McGill. *POMS* is an uplifting, just plain fun comedy about a group of women in a retirement community. Martha is an introverted woman who moves to the community that has shuffleboard, golf, bowling and other activities. Hoping to be left alone, she meets Sheryl, a fun-loving neighbor who insists that they become best pals. After coming out of her shell, Martha and her new friend decide to form a cheerleading squad with their fellow residents. As the two women hold auditions, they soon learn that it's never too late to follow your dreams, even when the odds are stacked against you. The surprise ending will delight you. 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.

Youth lead services September 15

SSP! SSP! These three letters have become very important to the youth of our church in the last two summers. They stand for Sierra Service Project, the organizing community which sponsors the service "camps" we have joined for our summer mission trips. Come learn more about SSP and its impact on our youth and adult leaders on September 15 at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. You will be inspired!

Founded in 1975, Sierra Service Project was modeled after Appalachian Service Project. Originally founded by several United Methodist Church ministers, SSP is now an ecumenical non-profit organization. SSP's youth program is centered around youth groups from a variety of churches. SSP believes that young people develop a strong and deep understanding of God's gifts and God's grace through the direct experience of being in service to others. With 5 service sites and 7 summer weeks, over 1500 youth and adult volunteers completed 68 community and home repair projects this summer. Our group was in San Diego this summer.

Our congregation generously supports these opportunities for our youth to grow in faith, hope, and love. Our youth want to say "thank you."

Summer Sundays at Rockhaven topped off with fly casting and hike to the cross

After a full summer of Sunday evenings at Rockhaven, many of which were dampened by summer storms this year, the last Sunday on August 25 was a gorgeous day that included fly casting lessons by our own Bill Toone, as well as a hike to the cross high atop Sheep Rock. Seventeen people, ranging in age from 7 to 70s made the hike with a more than 700 foot elevation gain. After a delicious potluck dinner including home made ice cream, members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry led the final vesper service in the packed chapel with the Riverside Singers rocking the house. The next time that we'll gather for worship in the chapel will be right before Christmas when we celebrate the season with lessons and carols.



Pictured left to right: Delia Turner, Arden Turner, Kris Hall, Jim Hall, Madelyn Montgomery, Brent Turner, Jolene Turner, Jody McDevitt, Rachel Turner, Frances Frye, Dan Krebill, Miriam Frye, David Spencer, Cyn Frye, Jane Spencer, Effie Frye, Don Frye



Food Bank Sunday, September 1



The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is always in need of non-perishable and non-expired items. Bring good 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

Gift from the Mission Co-Workers

Birthdays this Month

9/2 Linda Best
Tom McMakin
9/3 Mark Williams
9/5 Diana Johnson
9/7 Lee Cook
Rosemary Lee
9/8 Karen Kempt
9/11 Wyatt Hicks, Jr.
Grace Hicks
9/13 Susan Gibb
Diane Thompson
9/14 Kathy Braun
9/16 Sally Broughton
Josephine Milburn
9/17 Rachel Turner
Wally Thomsen
9/18 Kay Newman
9/21 Carol Wilson
9/23 Jodi Kleinhans
9/24 Sydney Kolwyck
9/25 Katie Anderson
9/26 Richard Giddings
9/29 Holly Aloise



On Monday, August 26, Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers Charles and Melissa Johnson told an FPC audience many inspiring stories of their work over the past 4 years in rural Zambia, as partners with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. They will be returning for another 4-year appointment. Charles works developing sustainable agriculture practices which ministry students can take to their parishes when they become pastors. Melissa works with the CCAP in health education projects, especially for women and children. Their gift to our church is a "chitenge," a piece of cloth worn by all women in rural Zambia to preserve their modesty (legs are never exposed), carry their infants on their backs, and on their heads as padding for carrying whatever needs to be carried.

Look for this chitenge in coming weeks in our church!

Presby Cats are back in full force for Rent-a-Cat and can collection

As the new academic year gets underway this week at Montana State University and Gallatin College, our Presby Cats collegiate ministry has resumed for another year. Along with weekly Sunday gatherings for fellowship and Bible study, the group will enjoy many other activities throughout the semester including a white-water rafting trip on Labor Day. The Presby Cats spring break mission trip in March is to Cuba. Fund-raising has already begun to underwrite this international mission trip. If there are odd jobs that you'd like done or if you need airport transportation, please consider calling Rent-a-Cat for assistance. A student or students will be assigned to your task and all that's asked in return is a donation to the mission trip fund. Andrew Chauvin is our Rent-a-Cat coordinator this year and he can be reached by phone or text at 425-328-5765 or by email at archauv@gmail.com.

Also new this year, Presby Cats are collecting aluminum cans to be recycled. Bring your cans to room 104 in the church, or contact Andrew to have them picked up.

Thanks for your support of Presby Cats!

Church member Kori Robbins begins seminary studies this fall

After a wonderful year as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Young Adult Volunteer in New York City, church member Kori Robbins has recently been endorsed by our session and the Presbytery of Yellowstone as an Inquirer in the preparation for ministry process. One big part of this process is to obtain a Master of Divinity degree that is the 3-year professional degree required of church pastors. Kori is beginning her studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary next week. To help with the high cost of this seminary degree, the session approved a grant of \$1,600 from our church endowment fund to support Kori in her first semester. It also approved the receiving of special gifts to provide an additional \$1,600 grant for her second semester that begins in January 2020. Please consider making such a gift in support of this young person's call to ministry. Checks can be sent to the church office or made online at www.easytithe/fpcbozeman by indicating the gift is for the seminary grant. If you would like to receive Kori's occasional updates of her experience, send her an email at kori.robbins@hotmail.com and ask to be added to her email list. Please keep Kori in your prayers as she follows God's call.



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 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!*



Greeters needed for Services

Are you new to the church and looking to get more involved? Do you like meeting new people? Consider becoming a greeter. We are a friendly group of men and women dedicated to enhancing the spirit of worship here. We greet and provide bulletins to the congregation and receive the offering while minimizing distractions to create and maintain a worshipful environment. Your obligation will be to greet at approximately one service (8:30 am or 10:30 am) per month. We are in particular need of a few new greeters for the 10:30 am service. If you are interested in joining the group, please email or call Nancy Bast at nancy.bast28@gmail.com or (610) 716-2330.



Interfaith Forum Resumes Wednesday, September 4

"Talking with Neighbors," Gallatin Valley's Interfaith Forum, will kick off its monthly gatherings on Wed., Sept. 4, at 12 noon at Resurrection University Catholic Parish. For 11 years, we have held these forums on a wide array of topics, featuring religious leaders in a panel format, followed by audience questions and discussion. Co-pastor Jody McDevitt has been part of the panel since its inception. Other regular panelists are Rabbi Ed Stafman, Father Leo Proxell, and Ruhul and Shadmani Amin of the Islamic Center of Bozeman. Interfaith knowledge, attitudes, and relationships have demonstrably grown in our community. Plan to join this important enterprise!



This fall the panel of religious leaders will be joined by prominent community leaders. Each leader will reflect on the question, "How has my religion influenced who I am and what I do?" The religious leaders will then respond to the thoughts of the community leaders. The four guests in this series are:

Sept 4 I-Ho Pomeroy, Bozeman City Commissioner and restaurant owner, a member of the Evangelical Free Church

Oct 2 Dr. Ron Hellings, a retired physics professor who worked for NASA as a research scientist, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Nov 6 Dr. Franke Wilmer, professor of political science who has served in the MT legislature, a member of Congregation Beth Shalom

Dec 4 Dr. Waded Cruzado, president of Montana State University, who is Catholic

Brochures are available in the church office for the entire year. The forum lasts for 1 hour, and you are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch. Resurrection Church is located at 1725 S. 11th Ave, and has a large parking lot.

Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

On Sunday afternoon and evening we celebrated the end of the summer season at Rockhaven. The festivities started with a half dozen folks sharpening their fly-casting skills under the tutelage of Bill Toone, while another nearly two dozen people of all ages climbed up to the cross at the top of Sheep Rock. These activities were followed by the traditional potluck supper featuring an ice cream social. It is always heartwarming to see all of the tables on the riverside deck as well as all of the tables in the dining hall filled with people enjoying Christian fellowship and it is equally inspiring when they fill all of the pews in the chapel afterwards for the final Vesper service of the summer. This finality really just means the beginning of another season — in this case the school year — and that fact was evidenced by the Presbycats out in full force as they capably led this last worship service.

Although Sunday was the last official chance to enjoy all Rockhaven has to offer this season, it won't be the last you hear about this beautiful slice of heaven until next year. The Rockhaven Operations Board will hold its first annual Fall Fundraiser on Sunday, October 27th and you can expect to hear much more about this exciting event on these pages as well as in other communications over the course of the next two months.

As you are no doubt aware, the Gallatin Valley is home to hundreds upon hundreds of charitable organizations and most of them stake their existence on their ability to raise funds. This, then, results in a seeming tidal wave of fundraising events competing for calendar space every week of the year. It can almost get to the point where we are exhausted by fundraising pitches. But the key word here is almost.

Jesus told us that we would always have the poor with us, and twenty centuries later the master's words still hold true. To paraphrase Jody's message from Sunday morning, there are people in the world today bent over for myriad reasons. Oppression, depression, addiction, affliction, starvation, degradation, segregation, humiliation, the list goes on but the commonality is that each word ends with the sound of shun. Our Lord calls us not to shun these people. We are called to stand up for them, to unbend the bent over.

So the Rockhaven Operations Board will be calling on you to help some of the bent over. But we will also be inviting folks outside of our congregation, because Rockhaven is a place that is loved beyond the walls of our church. And we hope to have some fun while we're doing it. So mark your calendars for October 27th from 4 to 7pm. We'll provide a spaghetti dinner; we'll entertain you; we'll have a baking contest; we'll auction off some baked goods; and, yes, we'll ask you for some money. And then we'll continue unbending lives at the base of Sheep Rock on the banks of the beautiful, beautiful river.



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!



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

September 2019



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Food Bank Sunday 8:30 am Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Presby Cats	2 	3 7pm Boy Scouts	4	5 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Deacons	6 5:30 pm First Friday	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 12:00 Kids and Family Picnic	9	10 7pm Boy Scouts	11	12 7am Men's Bible Study	13 6pm Presby Cats Game Night	14
15 8:30 am Youth Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Youth Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats 12:00 Family Promise Training	16 7pm Special Session Meeting	17 7 pm Boy Scouts	18	19 7am Men's Bible Study	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	23	24 7 pm Boy Scouts	25	26 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Session	27	28
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	30					