



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

December 11, 2019

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Special Services during the Christmas Season Please join us for all the celebrations

Saturday, December 21 5 pm Christmas at Rockhaven
Sunday, December 22 3 pm Messiah Community Sing
Tuesday, December 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Family service
8 pm Christmas Eve Traditional service
10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Sunday, December 29 10:30 am Blessing of the Animals (one service)



Help Us Finish the Banner!

If you are in the Fellowship Hall in the next week or two, you are invited to pick up a colored Sharpie and color another section of our Advent banner! We started this project at the Advent event on Sunday evening, and hope to finish it before Christmas. Thank you for your help!

Enhancing Our Conversations With God

"As we await Your coming, Lord, prepare our hearts to receive Your gifts of hope and transformation."

Penney Schwab, Daily Guideposts, 2019

FIRST FRIDAY December 6
FELLOWSHIP HALL – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?



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, **WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?**

“For over thirty years, Fred Rogers, an unassuming Presbyterian minister, puppeteer, writer, and producer was beamed daily into homes across America. In his beloved television program, *MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD*, Fred and his cast of puppets and friends spoke directly to young children about some of life’s weightiest issues, in a simple, direct fashion. Though he may be best known today as a soft-spoken, cardigan-wearing children’s host, in reality Fred Rogers’ career represents a sustained attempt to present a coherent, beneficial view about how we should speak to children about important matters and how television could be used as a positive force in our society. In **WON’T YOU BE MY**

NEIGHBOR? Academy Award-winning filmmaker, Morgan Neville, looks back on the legacy of Fred Rogers, focusing on his radically kind ideas. While the nation changed around him, Fred Rogers stood firm in his beliefs about the importance of protecting childhood.”

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.



Christmas Joy Offering
IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE

After her car went flying off the road and rolled, first responders believed Rev. Shelly Wiley was dead. She had fallen unconscious because of an epileptic seizure, a condition that had been under control until this accident. Her new medication kept it under control but law requires anyone having a seizure not drive for six months.

While she struggled to adapt, the Presbytery of the Miami Valley suggest a plan to pay drivers to take her to work related meetings. It involved a shared grant between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, the Presbytery and her congregation. The Christmas Joy offering funds this program. Another blessing of this was the time Rev. Wiley was able to spend time with members of her church. One of one time allowed members to explore their faith and one driver discovered a passion of home bound ministry.

God has wonderful plans for all of us and the Christmas Joy offering is one where people can turn to in times of crisis and unexpected blessings come from it.

Envelopes are in the pews or if sending check electronically mark Christmas Joy.

Please continue to pray for all of our Pastors and church workers throughout the year.

Christmas at Rockhaven

There's something magical about Christmas, and there's something magical about Rockhaven. Put the two together, and you have MAGIC! On Saturday, December 21, join the mystery and magic in the Rockhaven Chapel at 5 pm. A special service will prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into the world.

Following the service, a chili supper will be provided in the dining hall, hosted by the Rockhaven Operations Board.

We know this is a busy season—make room for a special spiritual and fellowship time at Rockhaven!



Advent Event Thanks

The church family enjoyed another fun and meaningful event on Sunday, Dec. 8, "Waiting for Christ." Sponsored by the Kids and Families Committee, many people helped make it happen. Thank you to all who contributed.

Activities:

Suzanne Bratsky, painting treasure boxes with the light of the world hidden inside

Holly Aloise, decorating angel cookies

Celinda Williams, making beautiful Christmas cards

Jody McDevitt, coloring an Advent banner

Supper and cleanup:

Sally Broughton

Chuck Broughton

Betty Knutson

Rachel Minter

Decorations:

Rachel Minter

Nancy Bast

Charlie Mandeville

Advent service:

Musicians – Alison Todd, Holly Aloise, Dani Berg, Alyce

Larsson, Jim Mitchell, Jay Pontius-Backman,

John Patterson, Lloyd Mandeville

Readers – Lynda Kroeze, Doug Babcock, Mitch Overton,

Graham Overton, Dayna Berg, Rachel Turner, Dan Berg,

Lane Guenther

Christmas tree:

Dan Berg, Larry Growney

Boy Scout Troop 679

Birthdays this week

12/11 Marcia Jarrett

Jillian May

Blake Babcock

12/13 Logan Kleinhans

12/15 Mary Hektner

12/16 Larry Growney

Bells of the Bridgers Holiday Concert

Bells of the Bridgers annual holiday concert will be Friday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the beautiful sanctuary of Holy Rosary

Catholic Church, 220 W. Main. Concert selections include holiday favorites "Deck the

Halls", "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear",

"We Three Kings", "The First Noel",

"Ukrainian Carol of the Bells" and more!

Soprano Mercedes McCann joins Bells of the Bridgers in the classic "O Holy Night". Other

selections include "Hark the Herald Angels

Sing" with Tim Bell, organ, and a fresh twist

on "The Little Drummer Boy" features Jacob

Yocom and Taryn Morris, percussion.

The concert is free; a good-will offering will be received.

***First Presbyterian Church Mainly Music
Messiah Community Sing
December 22 at 3:00p.m.***

***Director: Lukas Graf
Concertmaster: Shannon Smith
Organist: Matthew O'Sullivan
Soloists: Erin Henke, Mandy Bowker,
Reggie Mead Logan Henke***

***Community Choir rehearsal is
Saturday, December 21 from
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Scores are available to borrow***



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

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

At the second worship service this past Sunday Co-pastor Dan Krebill led the children's time during which he showed the children the nativity scene or crèche on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Dan also explained to them that Advent is a season of waiting. There were a lot of children in attendance and most of them seemed to be familiar with the different 'characters' in the nativity. I also think all children everywhere are familiar with the notion of waiting, albeit some more anxiously than others.

There are only two weeks remaining until the blessed day we await. One of the time honored ways we facilitate the process of waiting for Christmas is via an Advent calendar or devotional. A daily devotional is always a sound spiritual practice, and it is especially so during special times of year like Lent, or in this case, Advent. Our bulletins this season have included a printout each week from the devotional published in Presbyterian Outlook magazine. Like most daily devotionals there is a scripture passage for each day of the week along with a reflection to ponder and a prayer to pray. I would imagine quite a few people in our congregation are taking advantage of this wonderful resource as they navigate the days leading up to our celebration of our dear savior's birth. I am not one of them.

Instead I am utilizing a daily devotional from a different magazine, Presbyterians Today. It caught my eye last month when I received my edition in the mail, and so I decided its supplement would be my devotional this year. It is written by a minister by the name of Sherry Blackman and features the same formula of scripture, reflection, and prayer. It also highlights as its central theme creating a Matthew 25 season and more specifically adding straw to the manger.

I have to admit I was unfamiliar with the concept of straw for the manger. It is evidently a long held tradition, and it focuses on acts of kindness during the season. These acts are then commemorated by adding a piece of straw to Jesus' manger. This is a lovely, selfless notion which has the added figurative benefit of cushioning Jesus' entrance into a hard, cold world.

Matthew 25 has been a point of emphasis for our denomination during the past year, as the PCUSA has encouraged its congregations to become Matthew 25 churches. Those are churches focused on the missive from Christ found in Matthew's gospel where *I was hungry and you fed me, I was homeless and you sheltered me, I was naked and you clothed me...and as you do this for the least of these, you do it for me.*

No matter which daily devotional you choose to read this season, I pray it will enrich your experience as we await the birth of the Prince of Peace.



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!