

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

February 12, 2020

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

How can our church reduce the spread of illness? In this cold and flu season, we urge these common sense precautions for everyone.

1. Stay at home if you are sick.
2. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hand).
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water.
4. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Health precautions at church:

1. Instead of shaking hands as we "pass the peace," in this season, we encourage alternative greetings. Make a heart with your hands, hold up the peace sign, or wave like the Queen waves.
2. During this season we are using individual cups for communion.
3. The Deacons have purchased food-quality gloves for use in the church kitchen. New hand-washing reminder signs are posted around the church building.

Cuban Dinner and Talent Show Feb 23

From magic to martial arts, from Broadway to 60s pop to classical, have we got a show for you!

On Sunday, Feb 23, the Presby Cats and Presby Youth will collaborate to host a Cuban Dinner and Talent Show in the fellowship hall immediately after the 10:30 service. Cuba—because that's where the Presby Cats are heading on their spring break mission trip. Talent—because we have lots of it in our congregation. Please come to enjoy, to learn about both the Cuba mission trip and the Youth mission trip to the Navajo Nation in Arizona this summer, and to give generously to the service and growth in faith of these young Christians.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to perform!

Enhancing Our Conversations With God

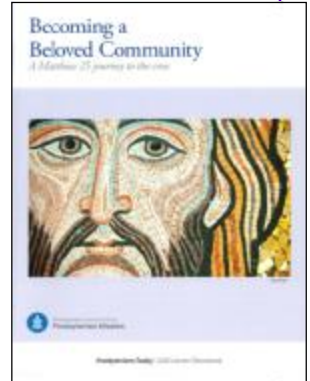
"O God, may we not fear as we pass through life's dark vales. Rather, may Your light so shine in us and through us that others may see the dawn. Amen

Upper Room Disciplines 1-10-2020

Becoming a Beloved Community
Wednesday evenings in Lent

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday. We will gather as a community for supper (5:30 pm) and an Ash Wednesday service (6:30 pm) which will begin a Lenten season exploration of the theme, "Becoming a Beloved Community." Subsequent weeks will develop this theme (see schedule below).

This year's devotional from *Presbyterians Today* will also help us consider "beloved community." Donna Frischknecht Jackson writes this: *"Beloved Community" was first coined by 20th-century American philosopher Josiah Royce. However, it was the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who popularized it, using "beloved community" often in speeches to illustrate God's kingdom as truly a kin-dom. King's beloved community was not a far-fetched utopia, though, but rather an attainable society based on justice for all and selfless love of one another. For King, a community became "beloved" when every person had their basic needs met.*



In the Gallatin Valley, the basic need of all people for secure shelter is becoming increasingly challenging to meet. From those who are homeless to those struggling to pay rent and those seeking to afford a home they can purchase, housing is a significant issue for our community. Three of our Lenten "Learning God's Love" speakers will help us understand the problems, current solutions, and the possibilities. Christel Chvilicek, executive director of Family Promise, coordinates the interfaith housing network for homeless families with children. She will bring us up to date on this important ministry. Terry Cunningham, Bozeman city commissioner, is passionate about making housing more affordable for more people. He will share highlights of the city's housing plans. And Shari Eslinger, director of HRDC's housing programs, oversees emergency shelter, rental subsidies, and homebuyer education, among its programs. She will help us understand what HRDC is doing, and where there are gaps to fill.

The final week of our "Learning God's Love" series will provide practical tips for gardening in the Gallatin Valley. Our own Don Mathre, master gardener and retired professor of plant sciences, will share some of his extensive knowledge and experience. Whether you are motivated by the desire to develop a new hobby, eat a healthier diet, or take better care of the earth, gardening will help you do all three.

If you would like to help with preparing, setting up, or cleaning up a supper, contact Alison Todd, alison@fpcbozeman.org.

Wed, Feb 26	5:30 Supper	6:30	Ash Wednesday service in the library
Wed, Mar 4	5:30 Supper	6:00	Christel Chvilicek, Family Promise Director
Wed, Mar 11	5:30 Supper	6:00	Terry Cunningham, Bozeman City Commission
Wed, Mar 18	SPRING BREAK		
Wed, Mar 25	5:30 Supper	6:00	Shari Eslinger, HRDC Housing Director
Wed, Apr 1	5:30 Supper	6:00	Don Mathre, Master Gardener

Annual meeting looks ahead to the 150th anniversary

In addition to the customary business that takes place at the annual meeting, last Sunday the session announced that three people have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the committee planning for our church's 150th anniversary in June 2022. Life-long church members Suzanne Bratsky, Lloyd Mandeville, and Don Frye will be leading the planning for this big celebration. First Presbyterian Church is the oldest continuing Presbyterian congregation in the state of Montana. Now is the time to begin thinking about the many ways that we can celebrate this big event.

If you have suggestions and ideas and are willing to help out, please be in touch with these co-chairs.

Family Promise Volunteer Training

Training will be held on Thursday, February 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at E-Free Church at 1701 S. 19th Ave. Please contact Judy Harrison at 406-350-1298 or johnjudyharrison@yahoo.com.



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

2/13 Richard Reiley
2/14 Anna Kolwyck
2/16 Randy Kleinhans
David Spencer
2/17 Linda Svensrud

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!*



5-Week Study On Antiracism begins February 28

This interesting study will provide you with information about racism that you have not been aware of and will show you what you can do to eliminate racism. The study will be led by Heidi Jones Magee (President of The Montana Racial Equity Project) and Vicki Van Rensselaer (a retired Human Resources professional). Any member of the First Presbyterian parish family is welcome to attend the study. The study will be held in Room 204 at First Presbyterian from Noon to 1 p.m. on five Fridays (February 28, March 6, March 13, March 27 and April 3) and following the 10:30 a.m. service at First Presbyterian on Sunday, March 15th and Sunday, March 29th. Don't worry if you're unable to attend all sessions of the study. You're welcome to attend whenever your schedule permits and you'll learn something whenever you're able to attend. Study participants can bring snacks or a light lunch.

It's recommended that study participants read the book So you want to talk about race by Ijeoma Oluo (available through amazon.com in paperback and Kindle editions) before the study gets underway because that book will provide you with some good preliminary information about racism. During our 5-week study, we'll be reading the book How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi (available through amazon.com in hardcover and Kindle editions).

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Van Rensselaer at terracecoast@aol.com or at (406)282-7035.

Toward Right Relationships with Native People

In fall 2018, our church hosted a workshop sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA), "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change." For 2 hours in our fellowship hall, about 25 people immersed themselves in the history of relationships between the indigenous people of North America and those of European heritage. Following that workshop, I took training to become a facilitator of this workshop. I believe it is a powerful way to begin addressing the injustices of the past and present, and building the kind of relationships Christ calls us to build.

With other local people, I led this workshop in Red Lodge on a snowy Saturday in September 2019. Our team is once again offering the workshop in Bozeman, on **Saturday, Feb 15 at 1:30 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church**. If you missed the first opportunity to participate, you can RSVP to minister@uufbozeman.org or 406-586-1368 now. If you have questions, please contact me at jody@fpcbozeman.org or in person. There is no charge to attend; donations are accepted.

Our church has been on the path to building relationships with people of the Ft. Peck Reservation for five years. If you have been unable to be part of that effort, here is something you can do locally.

Jody McDevitt



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

Last week I mentioned the chapel near the entrance at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula where my wife has spent the past two weeks. I wrote about how I began each day praying in the chapel, but the one feature of the chapel I did not describe was the narthex. At least that is what I believe it is called, but you must bear in mind I am not a student of church architecture. This separate enclosure is adjacent to the main chapel and can be reached through a separate entrance from the main hall of the hospital or through the chapel itself. It is enclosed by glass walls, some of which are a continuation of the stained glass depictions of Jesus that run along one wall of the main chapel.

I did not ever step inside this narthex, but I could hear its main feature, a water sculpture. Each day, before I prayed, I would pause at the opening between the chapel and the narthex and listen to the water. I told myself I would carry the sound of this water with me throughout the day. Some of those days were dark and ominous, others were glorious and triumphant. Such is the nature of healing.

As I write this I am in the Gallatin Valley. I have come back to work a bit and to prepare our home for its new patient. I am awaiting the call to tell me Christine is being discharged whereupon I will drive back to Missoula and bring my love home. As I drive I will be accompanied by the sound of the waters, the same waters I shared in this space seven years ago.

Waters

I
am
thirsty
I drink from
the well and yet
I am still thirsty
I return to the well
and a man is there that
tells me he can give me water
that will become a spring inside
of me forever Who can give such water
I ask and he says I who speak to you am he
Streams of the living breathing water
flow through me and it is at once
both cool and warm It is warm
so that as it flows it lifts me
up and it also cleanses
my soul It is cool and
soothing so that
no longer
thirsty
am
I