



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

March 25, 2020

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Coronavirus: from the Pandemic Team

On behalf of the Pandemic Response Team, this was John Patterson's message to the congregation on Sunday, March 22

What an interesting time in our lives, right? Aren't we glad we can still get together as a church and be there for one another?

A big THANKS to all those who are working so hard to see that continues to happen!

Some may still question whether this whole Coronavirus thing is a big HOAX.....

We want to emphasize that **it's very real** and encourage you to follow the guidelines online at coronavirus.gov and regularly communicated through the media. There is a wealth of information available about how to plan, prepare and respond to protect yourself and others outside as well as inside your home. The CDC, through coronavirus.gov provides recommendations about things like: cleaning, handwashing, covering coughs, maintaining 6' social distancing, and what to do if you or someone in your family becomes ill.

- Though the FPC church building is **closed** we remain a very active, connected congregation through things like:
 - o Our live and recorded FaceBook and Zoom services
 - o Staff availability through our church phone number: 586-9194 or by email.
 - o Our Congregational Zoom 'Get-Togethers'
 - o The Thursday Men's Bible Study, Session and Deacon meetings via Zoom
 - o Our new telephone 'Web' to reach out to one another by phone.
 - o And, regular communications by email and PresbEnews

- Our congregation has several people who will help get groceries or other things to you so you can stay home.

- As you **stay home** to **stay healthy**, remember to **stay connected!** Our church family is here for one another. That's what it means to be the church.

Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"Remember, it's impossible to worry and pray at the same time."

Anonymous

Financial giving during this time

Since we will not be meeting in person for worship in the coming weeks, please continue to support the church through your financial gifts, pledges and offerings. You can mail checks to the church at P.O. Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771. Or consider making your contributions through our church's online giving platform. Simply go to www.easytithe.com/fpcbozeman and choose the "Give Now" option to make a one-time gift, or chose the "Sign In" option if you'd like to be a regular user. The drop down "Fund" menu allows you to direct your gift to a specific fund. The first option, "General Church Budget," is the one to which Sunday offerings go. You can give by credit card, debit card, or by electronic funds transfer from your bank account. You also have the option to make recurring gifts on a schedule you choose.

Smartphone users may scan this QR code to access the online giving portal.



Thank you for your ongoing support of our church.

Men's Bible Study Update

First Presbyterian Church has a Men's Bible Study group that has been meeting every week for over four years now. ALL men of the church are welcome to join us. The group meets weekly on Thursday morning from 7:00 to 8:00, normally in Fellowship Hall, but for the time being, we are meeting using the church's Zoom system, just like our Sunday services. So you can log in from the comfort of your home.

We study the Scripture on which the upcoming Sunday sermon will be based, so we will know if Dan or Jody gets it right in the sermon (just kidding). We are self-led, very informal, rotating weekly leadership among our attendees. No prior Bible experience or knowledge is needed. We are all learning. Regular attendance is not required. Start any time and come when you can. All men are welcome.

If you have any questions or would like further information about this group, contact Bill Anderson at wgandeson99@gmail.com, or his cell: (248) 961-7170, OR just show up on Thursday morning!

Here's how to show up:

1. Join the Zoom meeting on your computer : <https://zoom.us/j/300630456> Meeting ID: 300 630 456
2. One tap mobile on your cellphone: +16699009128,,300630456#
3. Dial on any phone: (669) 900-9128. Enter meeting ID when prompted: 300-630-456. A participant ID number is not needed.

In the Season of Pandemic

1. The church buildings are closed for 8 weeks. Details of this policy were in last week's PresbEnews.
2. Sunday worship is online, via Zoom and Facebook Live. The Facebook Live video is archived on [facebook.com/fpcbozeman](https://www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman). (You do not need to be a Facebook user to view this video. Simply say "no" or "not now" when they ask!) **As we improve our delivery of these services, we are sending emails regularly to update you on how to participate.** The church website, www.fpcbozeman.org, also has the Sunday scripture and sermons in audio versions.

1. Church meetings are transitioning to online platforms.
2. Church staff are available at 406-586-9194 or our usual email addresses. Please contact us with any questions.

If you want to be part of the new calling and caring "web," or if you can help people with errands, etc., contact John Sacklin at 406-223-3251 or jasacklin@gmail.com.

STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY, and STAY CONNECTED!

Birthdays this week

3/25 Jody McDevitt

3/27 Jacob Kleinhans
Graham Overton

3/29 Zephaniah Small

Presby Cats go online

With more than half of the students in our Presby Cats collegiate ministry group now away from Bozeman, and with the current stay-at-home situation for those who are here, Presby Cats is moving from in-person meetings on Sundays, to online gatherings via Zoom. We'll be able to stay connected that way and continue our fellowship and Bible study. What we'll be missing big time are the delicious lunches that members of our church have so generously provided each week. For the time being, we're suspending Rent-a-Cat due to diminished numbers and the need for social/physical distancing. As soon as we can, we'll have that back up and running.

Thank you for your support of Presby Cats.

It's time to order butter braids

Our youth group is getting ready to travel to Tsaile, Arizona, this summer to work with Sierra Service Project and the Navajo Nation. You can help by ordering Butter Braids. These delicious treats come in 8 flavors and cost \$15 each. Preparation is easy—set it out to rise in the evening and bake it in the morning. Each braid will serve 11 people (well, of course that depends on how hungry those people are!). Orders will arrive on April 8, in time for Easter.

Contact one of the youth who are traveling on this summer trip--Martha Aloise, Dani Berg, Dayna Berg, Gabe Eilers, Alyce Larsson, Louise Milburn, Adynn Small, Zeph Small, and Delia Turner—or place an order in the church office. Thank you for your support!

Downtown Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

Our annual Downtown Ecumenical VBS will be June 22-26, 2020, and registrations are now open!

Based at Bozeman United Methodist Church, this community of 300 children, youth and adults gathers for music, movement, drama, games, crafts, science, and snacks every morning for one week—all for the purpose of learning about God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We use several church buildings (including ours) and the Emerson field throughout the morning. Participating churches this year are First Baptist, Grand Avenue Christian, St. James Episcopal, Pilgrim Congregational, First Presbyterian, and Bozeman United Methodist Churches. Register now to help us plan!



VBS Registration for children ages 4 - 6th grade: <https://bozemanumc.breezechms.com/form/2020ChildForm>

For those entering 7th grade-2020 graduates: <https://bozemanumc.breezechms.com/form/2020YouthForm>

Adult volunteers in all areas: <https://bozemanumc.breezechms.com/form/2020AdultForm>

All aboard!!

One Great Hour of Sharing



This week the bingo game gives another challenge to think about. How can we as Christians in Bozeman make a difference in the lives of others and how many blessings do we have every day?

Self Development of People helps people in Atlanta Based Women in Agriculture Association to help them to promote locally grown products in the community. Add a coin for every veggie in your fridge.

Pay three compliments to people today by phone, text or email "Plat Beets Produce" in Oakland, Ca is supported by Presbyterian Hunger Program as they provide education, access to food and opportunities for youth. Add two coins for each family member that likes beets!

(Two coins for those that don't)

After a disaster, clean water is very important, and is often one of the first things to be delivered by Presbyterian Disaster. Add the cost of a bottle of water to your giving.

Our blessings are many, please continue to pray for our mission workers and agencies that do our outreach work for us.

This offering will be received on Palm and Easter Sunday.



Register Now For Rockhaven Camp!

Registration for our summer camp season is open online and you can find post-cards around the church. Visit www.rockhavencamp.org to register for camp. Some sessions are nearly full so don't wait, register today!

Hiring Summer Camp Counselor!

Rockhaven is now hiring summer staff for our 2020 camp season! We need male staff so if you or someone you know is interested in a great summer job please apply on our website or ask Scott Thrasher at scott@rockhavencamp.org, or call 406.600.1891 for further details.

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!*



Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

[Note: Last week I mentioned the global count of confirmed Covid-19 cases was 183,425. As of this writing the count stands at 383,944, including 46,450 in the U.S. and 16 in Gallatin County. There is an old saying that all politics are local, and I think the same can be said of pandemics. My prayers and praise continue for the amazing work of our pandemic response team. You are greatly loved. We are greatly loved.]

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Beloved, CO (Part V)

As the members of the Board of Elders listened intently, Bal Chavez again reiterated his point, “The folks living in the Palisades are as much a part of this community as any of us. One of my mechanics lives there, and yeah, I know it’s an eye-sore, and nobody wants to go there at night, and most of the criminal activity comes from there, but can’t we as a church take steps to change that?”

The longest serving elder raised his hand, “Bal, can I say something?”

“Absolutely, Vern. I especially want to hear from you. You’ve been around about as long as anybody, so I think your voice would be an important one to hear,” Bal said to the retired owner of a local insurance agency.

“The Palisades,” Vern began wistfully, “has long been a problem area. Part of the problem, as we’re probably all aware, is that it’s not in the city limits. Beloved can’t really do anything about it, and the county tends to turn a blind eye. I mean just think back a few years ago to the cholera outbreak they had in their community well. Cholera! Right here in Beloved. That was a real eye opener. But I think we’ve always done a good job of reaching out to them. We deliver food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I know Clark was instrumental in helping them get the water situation fixed.” Vern added as he nodded toward Clark.

“You’re right, Vern,” Bal replied. “Some of the problem is that they’re not in the city, but maybe that’s something that can change. And I know it’s something far bigger than a church can hope to accomplish, but a church can stand beside those folks and love them. We can help them to want to be a part of the city and help the city want them to be included. I don’t know what any of this is going to look like yet, but I know it’s something that keeps me awake at night. It’s a burr that God put under my saddle. So it’s not something that I’m going to ask any money for, or request a task force to be formed. It’s just something I’m going to be passionate about, so you’ll all say, ‘There’s crazy Bal; he’s our Palisades point person.’”

Pastor Gloria Ochoa smiled as she took the marker back from Bal and wrote on the whiteboard, ‘Bal — Palisades.’ She turned back to the group and asked, “Who’s next?”

Hana Sulimeh raised her prosthetic hand and said, “I’ll go.”

Gloria smiled again. “Good. Let’s hear what you have.”

Hana shifted in her chair and began, “As you know I am a nurse, and not surprisingly my thoughts turn to health care. Over the past couple of years we have lived through two waves of virus pandemics throughout the world. There have only been a couple of cases in our area during that time. We’re a lot more isolated here, so maybe it’s just easier for us to practice social distancing. In any event life is a lot different than it used to be. We all have government issued masks now, and we all know when we have to wear them.” ...continued next week



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!