



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

May 13, 2020

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Meeting of the congregation follows worship on May 17

There will be a brief meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 17, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. morning worship service. The meeting will be on the Zoom platform for those who login or remain in the meeting after the service. The sole purpose of the meeting is to act on a report of the church nominating committee that is bringing a slate of nominees to serve as elders, deacons, and congregational members of the nominating in the coming year that begins on June 1. Normally this meeting happens, according to our church bylaws, on the Sunday after Easter. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the session decided to postpone this meeting until now so that nominating and voting procedures in the online setting could be worked out.

Church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Congregational Get-together 7 PM Wednesday, May 13

During these weeks of physical separation, we are "gathering" by Zoom for connection and a short devotional. All are welcome to join, to see and touch bases with our church family.

1. Choose one of these methods to join:
2. Join Zoom Meeting (from your computer) at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/105970704>
3. One tap mobile (from your cellphone) +16699009128,,105970704#

Dial from any phone (669) 900 9128 and enter this meeting ID when prompted: 105-970-704. No participant ID is needed.

Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"We find courage to stand when we kneel before the Lord."

Great Is Thy Faithfulness 5/10/20

Pandemic Report by John Patterson

The Pandemic Response Team continues to meet twice each week, addressing issues that involve our church and Rockhaven.

We're trying to stay abreast of Federal, CDC, State of Montana and Gallatin County Health Department guidelines and encourage you to do so as well.

As you are aware, we are deferring a decision as to when to reopen our church until we feel we can do so safely. We're hoping to be able to have Rockhaven camps beginning in late June. For both the church building and Rockhaven, we'll obviously just have to see how things go.....

In the meantime, the Pandemic Response Team and the Rockhaven Board are developing guidelines and protocols for when the Church building and Rockhaven reopen.

The Coronavirus literally pushed us overnight into streaming technology which we had previously only thought about for our church. We'll likely always run into glitches, but we continue to work on how to better stream our services. Even once we're able to return to in-person worship we anticipate continuing to offer online access to our services. What a benefit for those who aren't able to attend in person!

Our investment in the technology of additional computer hardware and software is allowing us to have virtual ensembles like the Youth Ensemble last Sunday morning.

There's good news from those managing our 24 S. Willson property – In case you're wondering, despite the current economy, there are no vacancies and rents are being paid on time.

Although the church's Youth Mission Team will not be able to have their planned in-person service project with the Sierra Service Project group this summer, it's good to hear that they will be able to hold online sessions with them and the team will also plan to get involved with local service projects.

We hope you are all doing well and staying safe. As you **stay home to stay safe**, remember to **stay connected!** If you haven't taken the opportunity, join in on the informal Congregational Gatherings by Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. We'd love to see you!

Things Are Happening at Rockhaven

Although the pandemic has brought a halt to many of our human based activities, there are some things that cannot be locked down or quarantined.

One of those things is Spring. It has sprung in its vibrant colors and its delicate blossoms and raging rivers. Another thing that continues on, whether we like it or not, is the inexorable advance of decay. An example of that is the deteriorating state of the roof of the dorm at Rockhaven.

The building is over fifty years old and has not aged gracefully. The roof was beginning to fail along with its supporting deck and fascia. Recently the Rockhaven Operations Board voted to take the major step of replacing the roof, and thanks to the generous support provided to the Rockhaven Special Projects Fund progress is being made.



During the past two weeks Dan Berg has been busy at work removing all of the old roof and replacing the support infrastructure. Half of the new roof is now in place and here is the photographic evidence. The Operations Board is praying for and planning for a busy summer season, but if events dictate otherwise, then it will be reassuring to know that the dorm will be protected from whatever elements may come its way. If you look closely at the picture you will notice snow flurries, as God is testing Dan's work and giving the project a stamp of approval. Thank you for your ongoing support of this vital ministry!

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.easytithes.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.

Congratulations to College Graduates

Congratulations to Hans Swenson, who graduated from Montana State University on May 9 with a B.S. in Chemistry.

Please let us know of other Spring 2020 graduates so we can acknowledge their milestones.

VBS TRAIN GOES ONLINE!

All aboard! Our Ecumenical Downtown Vacation Bible School is adapting to this year's situation by providing a hybrid online/home learning VBS June 22-26. We are open for registration so we can plan our activities.



Planning is underway. Here is what we know so far:

- Leadership will be ecumenical, with pastors from the different churches telling the daily stories.
- Music will be part of the daily morning kickoff.
- Craftivities will be led at home, with some materials provided in packets which will be made available, and some materials easily found at home.
- Games, a CD of music, and maybe even a t-shirt will also be in the packets.
- There may be an option of "house churches" with small groups gathering in homes. Youth assistants will lead closing groups.

Parents: Please register your children NOW. We are trying to figure out an appropriate registration fee with this format, but it will definitely be less than the in-person fee. At this time, no payment is expected.

Youth volunteers: Please show your interest by registering NOW.

Adult volunteers: We will not need a large number of volunteers, but if you could help, register your interest.

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>

Questions? Contact Suzanne Bratsky at 539-0211 or suzbratsky@gmail.com

All aboard!!



Pentecost offering is now underway!

Each year during the Pentecost season our church does a special offering to support of children, youth and youth adults. 40% of the offering is kept locally which is used to fund Rockhaven Camp scholarships, 25% goes to support young adult volunteers which are serving in communities around the world. Maren Haynes, David Bratsky and Kori Robbins have all served in the capacity in the past years. 25% goes to building youth such as the Triennium Youth event and 10% goes to advocate for children at risk.

First Church in Sterling, Colorado saw a need when their school went from five to four day a week classes and began a program for children to attend while their parents were at work. They used their 40% of the donations plus many local groups joined in the hire a director for activities for Fridays and it is now in its second year of operation.

Please mark your check for Pentecost offering or designate on the church website to support the leaders of tomorrow.

Interfaith Forum Available for Viewing

The first Zoom version of Bozeman's Interfaith Forum was recorded and can be viewed online. Six religious leaders of our community discussed the question, "Where is God in a Pandemic?" with an audience of over 50 connections. With some of those connections representing two or more people, we were pleased with the turnout. On Wed, June 3 at noon, we will hold our last interfaith forum of the season.

The forum is posted on the Facebook page of the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association.

Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/764028493745417/videos/706607000149989/>



Birthdays this week

5/13 Nancy Giddings

5/14 Fran Bradley

5/18 McCabe Overton

New PDF Directory

A new directory is available by email. If you are interested in having this directory please email Linda at linda@fpcbozeman.org.

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

I am not exactly sure why I continue to use this space to report statistics related to the world's struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps it is to tell the world last week was its worst week yet, at least in terms of the absolute number of positive cases reported. Just shy of 600,000 humans contracted the virus during the last seven days.

Perhaps the reason I report these numbers is to provide a glimmer of hope. If the bad news listed above is contrasted with good news — like how for the first time in four weeks the number of global deaths fell below 40,000 — then we can take solace in our situation. I realize this is somewhat of an issue of semantics, but numbers cannot provide hope. I cannot provide hope. Only God provides hope.

Hope is a gift from God, just like love and faith are gifts from God. We can possess these gifts, we can share these gifts, but we cannot manufacture them.

I suppose this would be a good time to provide the reader with the disclaimer that the views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of our church, our denomination, or of anyone that knows what they are talking about. I am just a person with a keyboard and a blank slate trying to make sense of what is going on around me. That is why each Sunday morning at 9:30 I tune in to our worship service. The act of worshiping God helps share the hope God has provided to us.

This past Sunday was a case in point. The offertory was beautifully synchronized by Russell Milburn utilizing music generated in at least five different remote locations and brought simultaneously together on our computer screens. As I watched Danielle, Delia, and Louise sing *Glory to God*, I was filled with the hope of God.

Later in the service I was again filled with hope. Mike and Mimi Roser provided an account of their extended stay in Seattle to support the kidney transplant donated by their daughter Kelly Seymour and received by their grandson Derek Seymour. For those of you not familiar with Derek, he is kind of a big deal. He suffers from Joubert Syndrome and kidney failure is one of its long-term side effects. His condition, however, hasn't stopped him from having about a billion friends, nor did it deter him when the coronavirus lockdown forced the whole family into quarantine in Seattle for a month longer than they planned. So with all this background, I was amazed at the composure and grace exhibited by Mike and Mimi during their remote talk — especially since they knew what was coming at its conclusion. At the end of their presentation they introduced Derek to us all and he took a bow sporting his way-cool COVID beard. I for one was overwhelmed with joy to see Derek, and tears freely flowed down my cheeks. Like that old expression 'not a dry eye in the house', I doubt if there were many dry eyes on the internet.

Joy — yet another gift from our Creator.



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

May 10-31 2020



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 9:30 am Worship Online 12 pm Presby Youth	11 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	12	13 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Congregational Get Together	14 7am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Rockhaven Operational Board	15 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	16
17 9:30 am Worship Online Congregational Meeting	18 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	19	20 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Congregational Get Together	21 7am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Rockhaven Operational Board	22 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	23
24 9:30 am Worship Online	25 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	26	27 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Congregational Get Together	28 7am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Rockhaven Operational Board 7 pm Session	29 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	30
31 9:30 am Worship Online						

In these changing times the events on the calendar has changed too. All the services, group meetings and events will be by Zoom. Please contact the leaders of the group meetings for instructions on how to get on Zoom for the meetings. We are just doing a 2-3 week calendar at a time. We will update this calendar each week in the PresbEnews and on the church website as more meetings and events are scheduled. Stay Healthy.