



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

September 9, 2020

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Pandemic Report by John Patterson

In Dan and Jody's absence, our THANKS to Dan Holland, who did a great job as our self-described "9th String" pastor this past Sunday, to Scott Thrasher for the wonderful Children's Time from Rockhaven and to Holly Aloise, Alison Todd, Emily Thrasher and Cheryl McNicholas our musicians. Also, our ongoing gratitude to our tech team – Larry Growney, Russell Milburn, Holly Aloise, Ric Tieman!

Your Pandemic Response Team, the Session and the Deacons continue to prayerfully "reimagine" how we'll be the church this Fall in our Covid-19 world.

Our "kickoff" for a number of things will be next Sunday, September 13th with adults and children attending virtual Sunday School. Starting that week there will be a new Thursday book study, the choir will be meeting virtually on Wednesday evenings, the virtual Congregational Gatherings will now be on Tuesday evenings and continuing will be the Presby Cats meeting for a Sunday Bible Study and meal, the Thursday morning Men's Bible Study, the PW Women's Circles, our outdoor Mini-Gatherings and mission opportunities.

All these things, with more to come, are part of how we've reimagined we'll be the church this Fall. Now, as summer is winding down, it's a great time to be considering how you'll be involved in the ministries and programs of our church this Fall. It's easy to simply say, "I'll wait until after Covid-19 to get involved again." Yet, we do have ways to gather virtually and to reach out to one another as Christ's church and we encourage everyone to get involved.

Information about all the happenings this Fall was in the "Good News" this past week and will continue to be published weekly in PresbEnews, our electronic church newsletter. If you want help connecting with our virtual services, studies or other programs or if you have other questions, contact Linda, our church secretary. She enjoys getting your calls and emails!

Now, as always, remember to stay safe by washing your hands, watching your distance and wearing your mask! Stay healthy, reach out and stay connected with one another!

Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"Thank You, heavenly Father, for Your guidance in our lives today. Protect us and give us wisdom to live in a way that both pleases You and reveals who You are. Amen."

Our Daily Bread, 9/8/2020

Sunday School for Children Begins Sept 13

Our Sunday school for children will begin on Sunday, Sept 13. Thank you to all for your creativity and adaptability.

Preschool through Early Elementary

How to nurture Christian faith at home, with the support of the church, without overburdening parents? Each family will have a Spark Story Bible with a calendar of stories and stickers to mark progress. Each week, a short video will be released which will feature a church youth or adult reading that story from the Spark Story Bible. The video will include a "See, Hear, Act" response to the story. Parents, please let Jody know the best way to get the supplies to you.

Middle Grades

How to engage kids as developing Christians, with the support of the church, without overburdening parents? We will be experimenting with a book club with an adventure fantasy book, written by a Christian author/musician. The book, **On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness**, is available from the church. Be in touch with Jody to get a copy from the church, or purchase your own audiobook version. This could be a family read aloud, or individual read. It is an imaginative and engaging story!

Adult Studies This Fall

Sunday mornings, 11 am, beginning Sept 13

Please join us in a study of *God and the Pandemic*, a timely book written by New Testament scholar N.T. Wright. Jody McDevitt will lead this weekly study, which delves into many questions raised by the current situation. What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis, God's role, and the Christian response? Wright is a prolific writer, and he authored the series "The New Testament for Everyone" which our adult class used several years ago. His writing is accessible yet steeped in scholarship.

Check out his introduction to the book at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7IToM-hFEo> and hear his delightful Oxford accent!

It will not be necessary to read the book to participate in the class, but for most people, reading will enhance the experience. There are several ways to obtain the book.

1. 10 copies are available from the church. Contact Jody if you would like one of these copies. Suggested donation \$9.
2. Order your own on amazon.com. Currently they list at \$10.79 for a book and \$4.99 on Kindle.
3. Order your own from cokesbury.com, the Christian supply house for the PC(USA), where they are listing at \$8.79.

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81926086294?pwd=WmhWcUYrbHgwWTFaL0N0SIB4L0xhdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294

Passcode: 862914

One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,81926086294#,,,,,0#,,862914#

+12532158782,,81926086294#,,,,,0#,,862914#

Dial from your telephone:

669 900 9128 **OR** 253 215 8782 **OR** 346 248 7799 **OR** 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294

Passcode: 862914

Congregational Get Together changed to Tuesday evening at 7 pm

The Wednesday evening “Congregational Get Together,” an informal zoom meeting with a devotion and prayer time, has been a meaningful way for members of the church family to gather since the beginning of the pandemic restrictions. We have laughed every week, supported those with health or family crises, shared stories and photos, and become closer to one another. Various people have participated, with some “regulars” and some “occasionals.” **It will continue next Tuesday, September 15 at 7 pm.**

A passcode has been added to this meeting, following zoom security requirements.
TUESDAY Evening Congregational Get Together

Join from your computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/105970704?pwd=b2JObXRhazFFWTVsNXV5RFQ2Tmk2UT09>

Meeting ID: 105 970 704
Passcode: Fellowship

One tap mobile 12532158782,,105970704#,,,,,0#,,1528249515# **OR**
+13462487799,,105970704#,,,,,0#,,1528249515#

Dial from your phone
253 215 8782 **OR** 346 248 7799 **OR** 669 900 9128 **OR** 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 105 970 704
Passcode: 1528249515

Birthdays this week

*9/11 Wyatt Hicks, Jr.
Grace Hicks
9/13 Susan Gibb
Diane Thompson
9/14 Kathy Braun*

Thank you!

I would like to thank my Presbyterian family for all the prayers, cards, texts, calls, love and support before and after the loss of my mother, Alice Bandy. It definitely upheld me during a very sad and difficult time.

I appreciate you all so much,
Gayle Hickert

Cardboard City now Night Without A Bed

On September 26, Family Promise is holding “Night Without A Bed “ challenge. Some of you attended “Cardboard Box City” , made a room out of boxes, and slept in it. This year Family Promise will generate awareness of ending family homelessness a new way.
How to participate: on Saturday, September 26 sleep anywhere without a bed: a car, tent, living room floor, outside on the lawn. Take a photo or video. The challenge is for First Presbyterian Church to raise at least \$100 to give to Family Promise. Share your connection with friends, neighbors. I’m excited to participate, how about you, your family, friends, neighbors.

Judy Harrison

Worship Choir Goes Virtual

With fall comes the welcome return of our Worship Choir to leading worship. How will this happen in our virtual environment? The Worship Choir will gather on Zoom on Wednesday, Sept 9, at 7 pm to hear plans. Join choir director Russell Milburn in our first meeting of the season. New choir members are always welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89248224136?pwd=Vk8rTzZpeDVZY25KNDhoN3YxbiZLUT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4822 4136

Passcode: 504636

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89248224136#,,,,,0#,,504636# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,89248224136#,,,,,0#,,504636# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 892 4822 4136

Passcode: 504636

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdM9H7W8uY>

FAITH, SCIENCE & CLIMATE ACTION

“Tools for collaboration
between faith leaders and scientists in Montana
on behalf of our climate.”

**FAITH,
SCIENCE
& CLIMATE
ACTION**

Cultivating Soil, Soul & Health
Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26, 2020
Worldwide via zoom

Announcing the second Faith, Science & Climate Conference (FSCA) to empower faith- and science-oriented individuals and communities to learn how to collaborate on climate change and environmental justice issues. We're building interactivity into this virtual conference with smaller, moderated breakout sessions to give participants the opportunity to be involved in the conversation.

The urgency of addressing our climate problems cannot be overstated. The recently-released United Nations Intergovernmental Panel Special Report, with over 6,000 cited references from hundreds of scientists, calls for immediate worldwide attention to this global problem. The welfare of coming generations depends on our courage now.

Plan on joining us for the FSCA Conference 2020!

Find out more at fscaconference.org and facebook.com/fscaconference.

The Ridge Reflects Faces of our Neighbors on the Other Side

The wind picked up as we celebrated our daughter Laina's birthday last Saturday, Sept. 5th from our back deck. At 1:30pm, a huge plume of smoke rose above the Bridger mountains. Being trained pilots, my husband and I know a bit about weather; as this ominous monster cloud roiled upward, we understood the fire was creating its own weather. The fire above the M, some 4 miles south of our home at the mouth of Middle Cottonwood canyon, must have jumped the ridge to Bridger Canyon. I texted my friend at the top of Sypes Canyon, who was alone with family out of town. Flames lapped the ridge, above their home which sits along the tree line, adjacent to the National forest. In a quick family meeting, we decided Jim and I would help our friend pack irreplaceable original paintings and heirlooms while our daughters, McKinley and Laina would pack for our family, using the evacuation list below.

Rushing to pack someone else's glass pictures and painting canvases, wrapping them in towels, blankets, anything within sight and carefully loading them to avoid breaking the glass or puncturing the canvas was surreal. We worked for two hours, face timing to learn exact locations of heirlooms, art, photos, computers. Packing someone else's home and seeing what they choose to save, makes one ponder, "What would I save?" Given 30 minutes, what would you save?

I was still packing pictures upstairs, when my neighbors two overloaded cars rushed to the safety of offices in town. Jim and I drove home, learning en route, that one of our dear family friends' homes in Stone creek was reported lost. How could the fire have moved so far, up over the ridge and across Bridger Canyon road, so fast? I emailed church member Sally Broughton, and two other friends, who live in Bridger Canyon. McKinley and Laina worried for and offered online support to their close friends who have homes north of Bridger Bowl and in Stone Creek.

That afternoon in Bridger Canyon, a volunteer fire fighter knocked once on Sally and Chuck's door and entered exclaiming, "You have to leave now!" Sally said (I imagine in her calm, sure voice) that she just needed to go down and turn off the electric fence so at least her son Matthew's cattle would be able to break free. The fire fighter insisted they leave immediately, assuring them that he would turn off the electric fence. Sally emailed me that night that she and Chuck were safe, staying with Suzanne and Jim Bratsky.

The Bridger Foothills Fire Facebook group was created to disseminate information, share requests for and offers of help. Evacuated residents scoured videos and photos of devastation, looking for hints or a glimpse of what happened to their own homes. Inexplicably one or two houses were saved while others next door were melted into the ground, like the wicked witch of the west in "The Wizard of Oz". Evacuation stories were shared: Women roamed up and down the canyon to catch fire-crazed stray horses, ranchers further from harm's way, entrusted their huge stock trailers to strangers, so that they might rescue friends' livestock, Good Samaritans positioned themselves at the mouth of Jackson creek with stock trailers, ready and waiting to transport livestock to safety, a pick-up drove slowly, ponying an incredibly calm horse behind the opened passenger door. I cried after reading a post from a UPS man's offer to deliver and support families he has known for years. Members of the community banded together, for a common good and the needs of their neighbors. I think NO ONE was concerned over the political affiliation before for offering empathy or assistance.



Laina Hall looking at the smoke on the other side of the Bridger Mountains. Photo by McKinley Hall

Continued on next page

The Ridge Reflects Faces of Our Neighbors on the Other Side continued

Bridger Canyon is blockaded, but residents were allowed to return for only a few hours to survey their homes on Monday morning. The homes of friends from Stone creek and north of Bridger Bowl were saved, but one behind the fire station was a complete loss. The Broughton home was saved but their son Matt's farm was not. Sally reported to me:

"We were able to visit the house this morning but we are still under evacuation orders for our area from Jackson Creek Road to Brackett. The house is fine. The fire burned to the foundation. Lost some beautiful huge trees, outbuildings, fence, etc. One huge tree still had flames at base but we told firefighters and they came. However, Matt's farm is a different story. He was there trying to harvest today. A friend took the cows to her farm. They survived! But he lost his orchard, fences, all equipment etc. He said 30 to 50 thousand dollars. He told me he has had wonderful offers of support and friends are talking of setting up a Go Fund Me account. He will be at Farmers Market tomorrow. He was pleased the hoop houses survived. The 5 year old (grandson) is really upset. Hard for him to understand. The destruction all around us is shocking. It does not make sense what was spared and what was lost. Jody says I am feeling survivor's guilt. Hard to feel joy when everything around you is black and destroyed and people are so sad. They so need our prayers."

Below I have attached an evacuation list my sister from Durango, CO shared with me. Her family was evacuated for over two weeks for a fire years ago. She is a tree farmer and has worked with the US Forrest Service to promote education to residents on how to clear brush, thin trees and remove flammables from near homes, to protect their properties from wildfire devastation. My sister's house was the only one that survived in the upper part of their mountain development. Read the evacuation list, print it out and stash it next to your emergency numbers. The last time I felt the need to ready for evacuation was 20 years ago when I was pregnant with Laina, Jim was overseas and the fires were burning the Triple Tree hillside. I pray you won't need the list for years, but trust me you will be glad of it, if you are put on evacuation warning or given only 20 minutes to evacuate or risk loss of life.

My heart breaks as I consider our neighbors across the Bridger ridge; the wind could have just as easily blown west to our homes instead of Northeast into and up the canyon. Whether empathizing with those just across the ridge, those across the US who are ravaged by COVID-19 disease, job loss and hunger, or those on far continents suffering from drought or famine, but for the grace of God, it could be WE who suffer. May we respond to our neighbors with generosity and compassion, remembering, "Love the Lord God with all your heart, mind and soul and love thy neighbor as thy self".

This morning as I hear fire-fighting helicopters and fire retardant bombers flying overhead I think,

"The ridge is a mirror and I see my reflection in faces of my neighbors on the other side."

Kris Hall

Emergency Evacuation List of Things to Consider

What to take with you:

*Purse/Wallet

*Cell phone & charger

*Checkbook & credit card

*Eyeglasses/Contacts

*Keys for house/car/outbuildings/safe

*Medicine/Prescriptions

*Oxygen

*Laptop Computer & charger (+ computer backup at another location)

*Camera & photos of exterior and interior of property (including contents of chest of drawers, closets, cabinets, refrigerator/freezer too)

Continued on next page

Emergency Evacuation List of Things to Consider continued

- *Important Paperwork (should keep copies of these in safety deposit box or off-site)
- List of important phone numbers & email addresses for school, work, neighbors, relatives, doctors, bank & insurance company
- Passport/Birth/Death Certificate/Marriage License/Wills/Trusts/Social Security Card, Insurance Cards, vehicle titles
- Medical & Immunization records, copy of prescriptions for meds & eyeglasses
- Tax file from previous year
- Insurance policies - life, homeowners & vehicle
- Stock/Bond Certificates & Brokerage contact info
- Credit card #'s & contact info
- Utility company contact info
- *Jewelry
- *Heirlooms/Antiques/Family Silver/
- *Photo albums
- *Change of clothes, jacket & swimsuit (you may be staying at a hotel) -think of an overnight bag with toiletries and a few essentials
- *For kids: special toy, book, stuffed animal/blanket & pillow
- *Pets in carriers with short term supply of food, water, meds, pooper scooper/litter box
- *Portable radio, flashlight w/batteries, towel or blanket, food & water

If you live in a rural setting also try to do the following:

- *Shut off propane/gas at the tank
- *Move all burnable items at least 30 feet away from the exterior of your house (this includes barbeque on the deck and plastic planters), close doors and windows.
- *Note on your door saying you have evacuated including a phone number where you may be reached (this is for the emergency crews information)
- *Make sure the address for your home is clearly marked at bottom of driveway

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.





Love INC Partner Church Volunteers needed

This is a crucial time for the Church to help our Neighbors in Need. As you are aware, on Friday around 3:30 pm a fire started in The Bridger Foothills. This fire has burned 7,140 acres and resulted in the evacuation of at least 200 people as of Monday afternoon. In every crisis, there is a gospel opportunity, and this fire is no different! Currently, Partner Church Volunteers are needed to help our neighbors in need. Love INC's Partnership of Churches has been chosen as the designated point of contact for receiving and distributing all clothing donations to those adversely affected by the fire. These opportunities include sorting clothing, delivering clothing and personal care items to those adversely affected by the fire, and helping distribute clothing to the community at large, through the Free Clothing Giveaway this Saturday in Belgrade.



Contact Molly at 406-587-6395 or Ministries@loveincgc.org. You can also help by donating Clothing, Personal Care Items, or Financial Resources.

Our most pressing clothing needs are, new and very gently used, clean clothing:

Kid's clothing (all sizes)

Men's clothing (Size small)

Women's Clothing (Size Small)

New Socks and Underwear for Men, Women, and Children (All-Sizes).

Please bring all clothing donations in bags to 141 Discovery Dr. Bozeman, Mt 59718

Our full list of Personal Care Items can be found at <https://loveincgc.org/resources/>

You can Financially partner with Love INC at <https://loveincgc.org/donate/>

Thank you for all your generous support! It is a blessing to serve alongside you!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Labor Day normally serves as an unofficial end to summer, but the meteorological contrast has not previously been as vivid as it is this year. A forty degree drop in daytime highs over the course of forty-eight hours and morning freezes earlier than anyone can recall have folks throughout the Rockies and the upper plains scrambling to harvest or protect their crops. This cold front also brought some much needed moisture as well as a surprising amount of snow in some places.

The weather change also brought welcome relief to the efforts to fight the devastating fire in our own backyard. The Bridger Canyon fire was frightening to all of us and has put an indelible scar on one of the most lovely and scenic areas to be found anywhere.

Bozemanites have long been aware of the beauty surrounding this last best place and it is not surprising to hear and read the emotional effect the fire has had on its residents. That emotion was on display in the news conference held by the various governmental agencies responding to the fire on Sunday afternoon. The event was hosted by Corey Lewellen, the Bozeman District Ranger for the US Forest Service. Corey is a friend of mine as his family is involved in the 4-H goat project and his son showed one of my goats at the Fair this summer. Corey did a great job introducing all of the different agencies that play a part in the multi-pronged effort to fight an out of control fire. The emotion was discernable when the DNRC spokesperson talked about the three firefighters that were forced to deploy their last hope shelters. The emotion was evident when Sheriff Gootkin spoke about making the call to evacuate homes, and it was also evident when Matt Kelley, City-County Health Officer spoke about mental health challenges for residents of the entire valley.

Fortunately, at least as of the time I write this, there have been no reported fatalities. By the time you read this reports will have been issued regarding the number of homes lost, and hopefully Chuck and Sally Broughton's is not one of them. What I do know is there was a sense of peace surrounding Chuck and Sally as they chatted on the Zoom platform after the service on Sunday morning. They had been evacuated on Saturday and were staying at the Bratsky's home. That they were willing to join in worship the very next day was reassuring enough, but then to be able to talk with them and hear others offer their assistance was heartwarming to say the least. We live in a wonderful community where its members genuinely care for one another, and that is most evident in times of crisis.

Of course the change in the weather also means flu season is rapidly approaching. Just as a fire can flare up, so, too, can the coronavirus. For the most part the last week was a good one in Gallatin County, although there are still some troubling spots in the state as well as in the US. Those flare ups remind us that we must remain vigilant until every COVID ember has been extinguished.



First Presbyterian Church

September 6-31 2020



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9:30 am Worship 11 am Presby Cats	7 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	8 7 pm Rockhaven Operational Board 7 pm Congregational Get Together	9 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7pm Choir	10 7am Men's Bible Study	11 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	12
13 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	14 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	15 7 pm Congregational Get Together	16 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7pm Choir	17 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	18 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	19 Presby Cat Retreat at Rockhaven
20 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	21 4pm Pandemic Response Team	22 7 pm Congregational Get Together	23 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7pm Choir	24 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	25 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	26
27 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	28 4pm Pandemic Response Team	29 7 pm Congregational Get Together	30 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7pm Choir	31 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study		

In these changing times the events on the calendar have changed too. Until further notice all the services, group meetings and events will be by Zoom until we find it safe to come back together. Please contact the leaders of the group meetings for instructions on how to get on Zoom for the meetings. We will update this calendar each week in the PresbEnews and on the church website as more meetings and events are scheduled. Stay Healthy.