



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

September 16, 2020

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
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## Special Meeting of Congregation on September 27

A special meeting of the congregation has been called to take place right after the worship service on Sunday, September 27, for the purpose of acting on a report from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of deacons. The meeting will take place on the Zoom platform. Please watch for the Zoom access information that will be emailed on Friday, September 25.

## Pandemic Report by John Sacklin

These past Sundays, you have heard about the variety of fall activities getting underway. The team encourages you to get involved in any of these as a way of staying connected with the church community. Take advantage of the virtual Sunday Schools, Sunday Bible Study, the Congregational Gatherings on Tuesday evenings, choir on Wednesday evenings, Thursday morning Men's Bible Study, Thursday book study, Presbyterian Women Circles, or our outdoor Mini-Gatherings. Pick up the phone and call someone. Despite the restrictions placed on us by necessary social distancing, all of us can reach out to each other in formal or informal ways with a smile and a welcoming word.

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*

*"Tender God, who embraces us with love, through the ages you have told us,  
"Fear Not." Whisper it again in our ears, Write it on our hearts. Amen."*

*Upper Room Prayers of Courage*

**Sunday School for Children**

**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!

*How to Access Fall 2020 Faith Formation Classes – Week 1 Sept 13 – 19*

*Spark Story Bible At-Home*

Preschool – Grade 2

Any time

This week's story: Creation (pp. 2-7) Told by Suzanne Bratsky: <https://youtu.be/JvpowTvqptQ>

*On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

10:30 am Sundays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74747741434?pwd=SFNkN2c3QnlxdHlrVFhrZjZmdDdMUT09>

Meeting ID: 747 4774 1434

Passcode: SKYgH1

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](http://fscaconference.org) and [facebook.com/fscaconference](https://facebook.com/fscaconference).

## Adult Studies Sunday mornings, 11 am

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

**If you missed the class on Sunday, you can watch it on Boxcast:**

<https://boxcast.tv/view/sept-13-2020-god-and-the-pandemic-irkx4nq2adoz42bc80n3>

## 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](http://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.



## Adult Studies This Fall

### Thursday mornings, 10 am, beginning Sept 17

All are welcome to study together the Presbyterian Women's annual Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. An outstanding resource within our denomination, the PW annual study is developed over three years. The timeliness of this year's topic could not have been predicted—it must be a "God thing!" It is not gender-specific; men and women are all welcome. Dan Krebill will lead this weekly study, which will also be used in the two PW Circles. Learn more at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/>. Having a copy of the study will enhance your participation, although it will not be necessary. You can obtain the study two ways,

1. 10 copies will be available from the church. Contact Dan if you would like one of these copies. Suggested donation \$10.
2. Order your own copy from [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org), in print (\$10), large print (\$15), or audio edition (\$15).

Dan Krebill is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FPC Bible Study

Time: Sep 17, 2020 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, 10 occurrence(s)

Sep 17, 2020 10:00 AM

Sep 24, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 1, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 8, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 15, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 22, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 29, 2020 10:00 AM

Nov 5, 2020 10:00 AM

Nov 12, 2020 10:00 AM

Nov 19, 2020 10:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89575436461?pwd=RWc0a2dWcFFIL2ZCODY5NnINVUJkQT09icsToken=98tyKuGhqzvwHteTtB-GRpx5GY\\_CZ-jztiFbgo1rshi9GgNjTSbgOrZglrZZRY7Z](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89575436461?pwd=RWc0a2dWcFFIL2ZCODY5NnINVUJkQT09icsToken=98tyKuGhqzvwHteTtB-GRpx5GY_CZ-jztiFbgo1rshi9GgNjTSbgOrZglrZZRY7Z)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89575436461?pwd=RWc0a2dWcFFIL2ZCODY5NnINVUJkQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 7543 6461

Passcode: Lament

### One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89575436461#,,,,,0#,,963912# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,89575436461#,,,,,0#,,963912# US (Tacoma)

### Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 895 7543 6461

Passcode: 963912

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89575436461?pwd=RWc0a2dWcFFIL2ZCODY5NnINVUJkQT09>

### 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.”

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

**The Congregational Get Together will not be gathering next week September 22 because the memorial service for Lynda Reiley will be at this time. See below if you would like to attend on Zoom.**

### Online Memorial Service for Lynda Reiley September 22

A memorial service for Lynda Reiley will be held on Tuesday evening, Sept 22, at 7 pm. Like our Sunday morning worship services, the service will be on Zoom and streaming online. Lynda was a devoted member of the Worship Choir, and the Choir will prepare a virtual anthem for the service. Jay Pontius-Backman will play the organ and Alison Todd will play the piano. Lynda’s family is scattered across the country and includes a family member in Japan, so this online service will enable all to attend and remember Lynda. Please plan to join Lynda’s husband Richard and the rest of the church family.

**Join from your computer:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86173092468?pwd=NXpiVUFyNzJTQTVINVI2bGIGM044Zz09>

Meeting ID: 861 7309 2468

Passcode: Lynda

**OR from your smart phone:** One tap mobile

+12532158782,,86173092468#,,,,,0#,,714821# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,86173092468#,,,,,0#,,714821# US (Houston)

**OR Dial from your phone:**

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

Meeting ID: 861 7309 2468

Passcode: 714821

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdMKy5R15V>

## 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 Wednesdays at 7 pm with choir director Russell Milburn. 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>

### SMALL GATHERINGS. --- BEFORE THE SNOW FALLS

How can we safely gather to share fellowship with others? Gathering outside in small groups for short periods of time bringing your own food or something purchased seems to be the solution. Bozeman has wonderful parks and ponds where we can isolate easily.

This solution was suggested several months ago. The response from the congregation has been outstanding. Thank you to all hosts and organizers. Let's continue the effort while we have a few remaining weeks of good weather. If you have not yet been included, call someone and suggest meeting. Sally Broughton had been attempting to organize and record events for tracing, but unfortunately she is evacuated because of the fire in Bridger Canyon and cannot continue that effort. So please continue the gatherings to bring joy and companionship to others.

#### *Birthdays this week*

*9/16 Sally Broughton*

*9/17 Rachel Turner*

*Wally Thomsen*

*9/18 Kay Newman*

*9/21 Carol Wilson*

## Board of Deacons by John Sacklin, Moderator

The Deacons met on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom to kick off our year. We take a break (at least from meeting) in July and August, so September represents the start of our year, just like for a lot of other church activities. And like many other church events, Covid has forced us to reimagine how these activities could occur.

It is the same for the Deacons. Some of our routine activities haven't happened since March, and we are reimagining what we can do, given the restrictions and limitations. Reimagining what we do or how we do it does not change the mission of the Deacons, which is to provide compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. The Board's first concern is to the congregation. Secondly our mission extends outside of the church to the community. To these ends and as part of our reimagining, the Deacons asked me to pose three questions to all of you:

- Do you need assistance?
- Are you aware of someone else who needs assistance?
- How can we as Deacons help?

Please contact me or any of the Deacons, or call Linda Best, Dan or Jody at 586-9194 to let them know, and we will see what we can do. The Deacons meet again on Thursday, October 1st at 6:30 pm.



### **NIGHT WITHOUT A BED**

**Join us in the fight against homelessness**

**WHO: YOU can help homeless families.**

**WHAT: Family Promise is holding it's first Night Without a Bed Challenge to generate awareness of ending family homelessness.**

**WHY: Children and their parents don't have a home, don't have a place to sleep.**

**WHERE: Right here in Bozeman.**

**WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020**

**HOW: Sleep anywhere without a bed: car, tent, living room floor, couch. Post a photo or video.**

**Join our church's fundraising by clicking on this link:**

**<https://www.givegab.com/p2p/night-without-a-bed-8ca7335c-316b-45c5-977c-4d6aaaf008b7/first-presbyterian-church-41d67008-ae2f-4df3-8af3-22f4e5e19842>**

## Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

During this past week the number of COVID-19 related deaths in Montana surpassed the number of traffic related fatalities in the state since the beginning of the year. This macabre statistic serves as a harsh reminder that we are far from putting the pandemic behind us. Last week also saw the state's number of positive cases reach the 9,000 plateau, but that still doesn't even represent 1% of our population. So as our skies continue to darken as a result of the worst and most far-reaching fire season the West has ever witnessed, we are left asking ourselves, how can we cope, how can we do the things we would normally be doing?

In our worship service on Sunday, we saw evidence of a few things we normally do, but had been absent during the last six months. The sanctuary welcomed the Bell Choir into its friendly confines, and we were able to watch two baptisms performed at Rockhaven. These are big steps in our return to normalcy and provide a great sense of assurance that our community of faith can not only endure but can thrive.

I have to confess I did not watch the service on Sunday at 9:30. I watched a later recording of it, because we were out of town — we were in Colorado attending our son's wedding.

Although some large, elaborate weddings have taken place in different parts of the country, some of those very ceremonies have become super-spreader events. As a result our son and daughter-in-law made the decision to significantly reduce the attendance at their blessed event. There were only a dozen of us gathered on the farm where our son works at the base of the Rocky Mountain Front. We all wore masks and were separated into family pods, as we had all come from different parts of the country.

You may recall that earlier last week a cold front brought snow to the intermountain west and the snow not only adorned the magnificent mountains that served as a backdrop to the ceremony, but it also put a damper on the huge fire that had been burning just west of our location. As a result the day of the wedding was blessed with crystal clear skies as we celebrated the formation of a new family.

Would the ceremony have been made more spectacular with another hundred-and-forty witnesses on hand? I have no doubt it would have been, but by the same token there was an intimacy present in this more modest affair that may prove to be more memorable than any extravagant event. In any case, everyone there knew everyone else that was present. How often does that happen at a wedding?



### 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](http://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!



# First Presbyterian Church



## September 6-31 2020

Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Service for Lynda Reiley	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 Family Promise Night without a Bed
27 9:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting 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.