

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

October 7, 2020

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 586-9194 - www.fpcozeman.org - Editor - presbenews@fpcozeman.org
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Pandemic Response Team Report by John Patterson

By now, based on my typically reporting for the Pandemic Response Team, most of you probably think I'm the Team Lead or Chair. No, Jody is the actual Chair and does a great job of keeping us on task with agendas and notes for each meeting. I'm not sure if I was chosen to report for the Team because a) I'm retired and usually around; b) some people think I'm Dr. Fauci; or c) no one else wanted to do it. Whichever, you've got me again this week!

You likely read about our in-person worship reopening criteria in last week's PresbEnews. Unfortunately, the current significantly increased number of Covid-19 cases in the county is a big hurdle for us to get past before considering reopening.

But, meanwhile, the PRT is working out the details of a reservation system for in-person worship that we hope folks will be able to do on-line or through calling Linda at the church office 586-9194 Monday 9am- 3pm or Tuesday-Thursday 9am-4pm.

As groups, like the Boy Scouts and PW Circles, are considering using the Fellowship Hall and Room 203/204, further details are being worked out with them, so they have a plan for things like masks, furniture arrangements to ensure distancing, food and beverage procedures, sanitizing surfaces and opening/closing the building. Our general Building Use Policy is being updated as well.

In some fun Rockhaven news.....Sunday afternoon the church youth, in grades 6-12, and their families informally spent from 2-5 p.m. outdoors at Rockhaven. It's obviously great to have that outdoor space they can safely use!

If you're looking for a great way to stay connected, consider sticking around on Zoom after the church services during the 'coffee time' for a chance to talk with your church friends. Imagine it's the back of the sanctuary and everyone's hanging around to talk and enjoy a cookie and coffee. And, remember there are the excellent 11 a.m. Sunday morning Adult Sunday School Classes, the Thursday morning 10 a.m., and the Tuesday evening 7 p.m. Congregational Gatherings. None of those require prior participation. Details for connecting are in each week's PresbEnews.

And, now, remember to **wash your hands, wear your mask and keep your distance! Stay Healthy and stay connected!**

Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"We pray because we want to thank someone or something for the beauties and glories of life, and also because we feel small and helpless and sometimes afraid. We pray for forgiveness, for strength, for contact with the One who assures us that we are not alone."

Philip Yancy, Prayer.



In memoriam of Dick Lee August 30, 1940 - October 4, 2020. Dick was a faithful member for many years. A Zoom service will be held at a date to be announced. Our prayers go out to his wife Rosemary and his family.

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 has 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 includes 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 are 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 – Oct 4 - 7

Spark Story Bible At-Home Preschool – Grade 2 Any time

This week's story: *Baby Moses* Told by Annie Kolwyck: <https://youtu.be/48zLgi5mpsc>



Zeph Small contemplates the river during an "agenda-less afternoon" at Rockhaven. Members of the youth group and their families enjoyed being together outdoors on October 4.

Love INC holds first ever virtual Plant the Seed Fundraiser

Gallatin County Love in the Name of Christ usually has a big fund raising dinner each year in the spring. Like everything else this year, during the pandemic, plans for an in-person event went virtual with an online event on October 5, it is available for viewing on demand. It can be accessed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hTpSZ-VqdY&feature=youtu.be

You can donate online at www.bidpal.net/pts or by mailing a check to PO Box 7117 Bozeman Mt, 59771

Congregational Get Together October 13, Tuesday evening at 7 pm

The Tuesday evening "Congregational Get Together," is an informal zoom meeting with a devotion and prayer time.

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

Presby Cats to lead worship on October 25

Our Presby Cats collegiate ministry group has been meeting weekly on Sundays after church on the Zoom platform since the semester began in mid-August. Attendance has been good and our students are enjoying fellowship and learning together. A day-long retreat was held at Rockhaven at the end of August. The group is now gearing up to lead the Sunday worship service on October 25. This will be an opportunity to see and hear from these young disciples of Christ sharing their faith. Please plan to join in this service via Zoom, Facebook Live or streaming on Boxcast at 9:30 a.m.

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.



Adult Studies

Sunday mornings, 11 am

All are welcome to join a study of *God and the Pandemic*, a timely book written by New Testament scholar N.T. Wright. Jody McDevitt leads 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? It is not necessary to read the book to participate in the class.

1. Join us on Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294

Passcode: 862914

2. One tap mobile:

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

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

3. 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

Thursday mornings, 10 am

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 leads this weekly study, which is also being used in the two PW Circles. It is not necessary to have a copy of the study booklet.

1. Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 895 7543 6461

Passcode: Lament

2. One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,89575436461#,,,,,0#,,963912#

+12532158782,,89575436461#,,,,,0#,,963912#

3. Dial from your telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 895 7543 6461

Passcode: 963912

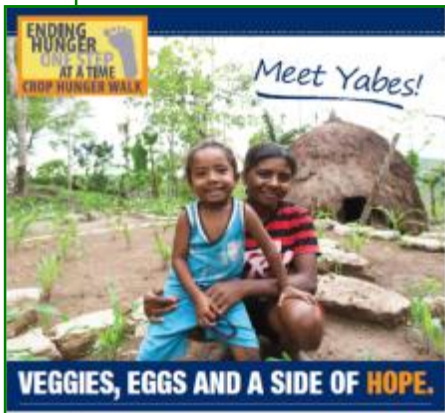
Gallatin Refugee Connections Cares for Missoula Refugee Families

Instead of the annual Welcome Kit Drive for refugee families in Missoula, Gallatin Refugee Connections and Pilgrim Congregational Church are sponsoring a winter clothing drive for local families, newly settled here. The drive will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9-4 in the Pilgrim parking lot**. A bad weather option at the church is also available.

We need jackets, snow suits, boots, hats, and mittens for children and adults. If you'd like to support a specific family, a list of their needs is available from Marty Albini (contact below).

If you can volunteer several hours on Saturday, Oct. 10 for the collection or on Sunday, Oct. 11 for sorting and packaging for local families, please contact Marty Albini at marty.albini@gmail.com or call him at 209 0593.

Crop Hunger Walk – 2020 A virtual walk!



Manhattan Presbyterian Church was able to have a real walk last weekend. The youth group plus several adults including Presby Cats James and Andrew walked about 6 miles at the Headwaters State Park near Three Forks to raise funds for Church World Service. This is the year of the do it yourself Crop Walk. About the only requirement is to do whatever is planned by Oct. 19. We have more COVID cases here so I'm not recommending anything other than virtual participation or walking individually, in small groups or not at all. Do it in the belief that your efforts will help relieve hunger in the world and bring 25% of funds raised to help here in the Gallatin Valley.

You may donate here: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/bozemanmt/Member/MyPage/4293036/Judy-Mathre>

If you prefer to donate by check, please make it out to CWS/CROP, and send it to the Crop Walk Treasurer Don Mathre, 731 S. 12th, Bozeman, MT 59715. If you would like to have a donor envelope to collect contributions for your walk, let me know and I will send one to you.

Judy Mathre Donmathre2@gmail.com

Birthdays this week

10/7 Bob Hickman

10/10 Kay Smith

Dayna Berg

Dempsey Hicks

10/11 Mike McCormick

David Whisenand

10/12 Doris Krebill

10/13 Rodney Aloise

Bozeman Deaconess Hospital Dedicates New Sanctuary

On Wednesday, September 30, a new sanctuary was consecrated at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Leaders of several faith traditions offered blessings and prayers. Jody McDevitt, as moderator of the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association, gave the opening prayer. The Rev. Ken Mottram, who has been director of spiritual care for more than 15 years at the hospital, was honored as he retired from this ministry. The new sanctuary is located just off the spacious new main entrance and lobby. You can see the lobby, the sanctuary, and experience the dedication service at www.bozemanhealth.org/sanctuary/.

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

The novel coronavirus continued to set notorious world records in its march through humankind last week. Globally, 2.127 million positive cases were reported during the past seven days, an increase of 86,000 over the previous week's short-lived record. Locally, Gallatin County recorded its worst week thus far with 215 cases, which was part of Montana's worst week that included Saturday's dismal news of 501 positive cases in a single day.

It was very easy to become discouraged during the past seven days. I reached my low point on Wednesday afternoon while I was refereeing a pair of junior high football games in Belgrade. I have mentioned previously in this space that I am somewhat obsessive about wearing a mask during contests, and I continued my strategy again on Wednesday. My campaign fell on deaf ears.

There were quite a few fans in the stands for the games and prior to each game the school's principal made an announcement requesting those in attendance to kindly wear their masks, since it was quite evident they were not socially distanced. They did not comply with the request. The very next day the Belgrade School District announced a hiatus for all athletic activity after three athletes tested positive which resulted in the quarantine of 165 students and fourteen coaches. The ripple effect has been fairly dramatic especially since most of the coaches are also teachers and now the district is not able to find enough substitute teachers to provide in-class instruction.

Unfortunately my anecdote is not the only instance of folks flaunting guidance. On Saturday the Helena Valley hosted the Let Freedom Ring concert. Its organizers worked with Lewis and Clark County health officials to establish safety protocols to protect attendees. All went according to plan — that is until nightfall when the sheriffs, reporters, and health officials left. It was then that the proverbial masks were ripped off, all guidelines were ignored, and the concertgoers celebrated their freedom from common sense as evidenced by social media posts of hundreds of maskless folks packed around the stage.

I realize I might sound like a broken record as I report all of this dismal COVID news, but it just seems like there is a significant segment of our society that prefers to wear their masks over their eyes and ears rather than their nose and mouth. Holland, you might be saying, take a chill pill. Go for a drive or something.

So on Monday I did.

Christine and I drove along Belt Creek between Great Falls and White Sulphur Springs on Monday afternoon, and let me assure you that God's creation is at its autumnal finest right now. The colors were so spectacular and distracting that we almost didn't see a black bear as it attempted to cross the road in front of us. Yeah, I guess I was a little more chill after that.



First Presbyterian Church



October 4-31 2020

Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Peacemaking Offering 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	5 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	6 7 pm Rockhaven Operational Board 7 pm Congregational Get Together	7 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	8 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	9 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	10
11 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	12 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	13 7 pm Congregational Get Together	14 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	15 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	16 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	17
18 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	19 4pm Pandemic Response Team	20 7 pm Congregational Get Together	21 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	22 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	23 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	24
25 9:30 am Worship with the Presby Cats 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	26 4pm Pandemic Response Team	27 7 pm Congregational Get Together	28 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	29 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	30	31

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.