

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

November 4, 2020

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

During last Sunday's church service, it was a real blessing to share in the "Communion of Saints" with those who have gone before us and who, as Jody mentioned, give us reason for hope!

Your Pandemic Response Team continues to meet twice weekly. We, again, encourage anyone to join us either Monday or Wednesday afternoons at 4:00, whether you have questions or concerns or just want to listen in on our discussions. The Zoom link is published below.

This week the Team would like to share the concept of "pandemic fatigue and anger," which are likely affecting all of us. After 7 or more months of Covid-19, some of us are starting to get really tired of this whole Covid-19 thing and may start to say, "I'm done with the virus," even though the virus isn't done with us. Others may be experiencing pandemic anger, believing that the pandemic isn't real, that it's a hoax. These feelings are unfortunately happening at a time when we're starting to spend more time indoors and cases of Covid-19 are rising dramatically.

1. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/994593614?pwd=amRWVytZNOV3ajNLaGIGSmJyakNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 994 593 614

Passcode: 255160

2. One tap mobile

+13462487799,,994593614#,,,,,0#,,255160# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,994593614#,,,,,0#,,255160# US (San Jose)

3. Dial from your phone

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 994 593 614

Passcode: 255160

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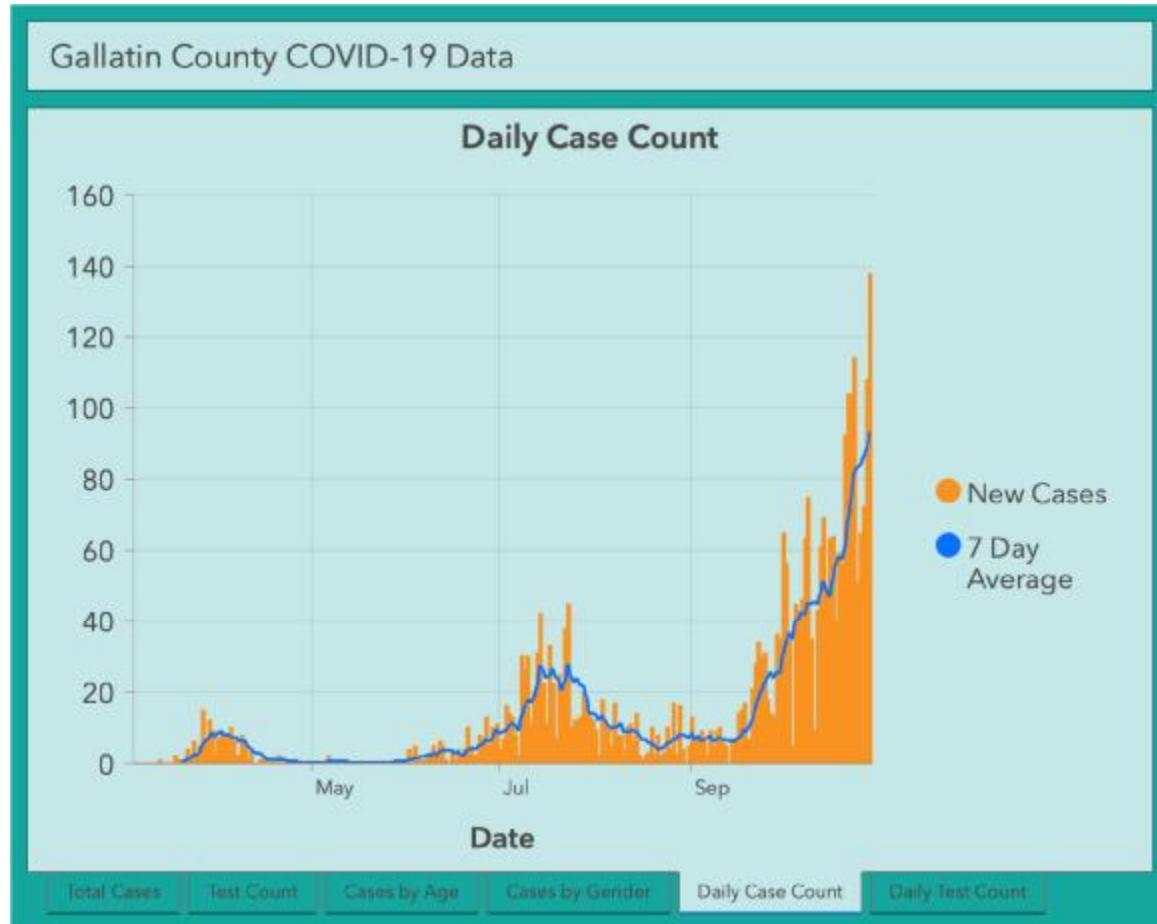
Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Pandemic Response Team Report continued

On the HealthyGallatin.org website you can find Gallatin County Covid-19 Data. One of those charts is of the Daily Case Count, last recorded on Thursday, 10/29 as 138 new cases that day with a 7-day County average of 93.1 new cases per day.



A statistic that all of us should be concerned about is that as of last Friday, at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital 79% of the beds and 80% of the ICU beds were occupied. We're hearing across the country of how fatigued medical personnel are becoming.

Yes, pandemic fatigue and anger are very real, but please don't let down your guard and assume you won't get sick or that there will always be hospital beds and medical personnel if you need them. As I said last week, Covid-19 is a "sneaky virus".

(Continued on next page)

Pandemic Response Team Report continued

We want to remind you how important it is to **wear your mask** when you are in situations, especially indoors, where you find it's difficult to maintain at least a six-foot distance from people you don't live with. Let's dispel some myths about masks.

Are cloth masks effective? Yes, they are effective in helping reduce Covid-19 airborne transmission and as an indirect reminder to avoid touching your face. You or those around you could be asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19 so it's important to wear that mask for your sake and the sake of those around you.

Can they cause CO-2 buildup? No, properly fitted masks offer adequate airflow while still covering your nose and mouth. This makes the accumulation of carbon dioxide impossible. However, people with breathing problems, children under age 2 and those who can't remove the mask without assistance should not wear one.

Is the way you wear your mask important? Indeed, wearing a mask correctly is the key to making it effective. I'm sure you've seen all these correct and incorrect ways to wear a mask.



A mask should:

- Cover both up over your nose and mouth and under your chin.
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Have multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for unrestricted breathing
- Should be laundered regularly after use.

We hope you find these reminders helpful.

I mentioned last week that an obvious social cost of the Pandemic is the increase in substance abuse and mental health issues. Trying to help lessen that risk for members of our congregation, we're hoping to further increase personal outreach to one another this Fall. Everyone can help by passing along the names of those who you know may be personally struggling or perhaps just need help connecting with others, with the church services, Sunday School or Bible or Book Studies. There are a number of members of the congregation as well as our pastors who want to and are there to help. We're a church family that cares about each other.

Now, on behalf of the whole Pandemic Response Team, a reminder to **wash your hands, wear your mask and keep your distance. Stay Healthy and Stay Connected!**

Stewardship in a Pandemic.....

I don't know about you, but I can't recall ever needing church in my life more than in this Covid-19 Pandemic. Amid social distancing and sheltering in place we, as a congregation, have continued to be there for each other and I'm so grateful for that.

The outreach to one another through the telephone web, arranging grocery and other errands for those who are homebound, the tech team quickly developing and enhancing the ability to stream our services, the Bible Studies, Congregational Gatherings, virtual choir, virtual memorial services, the children and adult Sunday School, our continued mission funding and much more. Our pastors and staff have worked long hours, on our behalf, to be innovative in this new Covid-19 world. Fortunately, we have been able to continue paying our staff, maintain the church building and provide Rockhaven experiences for numbers of children this summer and fall despite the Pandemic. All this has been possible through the continued generosity of the congregation.

As we look ahead to 2021 and realize how important the church will continue to be in all our lives, let's be generous in the pledging to the church of our time, talent and, as able, our finances. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

John Patterson, Elder

MAC Connect 2020

Speaking up for All Montana's Children:
Ecumenical Prayer & Citizen Advocacy 101

"Let the Children come to me - Jesus"
Matthew 19:14

**Friday, November 13th via
ZOOM 11 AM - 1 PM
Free**

To Register: Email mac@macmt.org
www.macmt.org for more information



MAC is a non-partisan organization – that is we have Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, Green, & Independent members—who recognize we are each created in God's image. We seek to empower Christians to speak up on behalf of the hungry, the prisoner, the homeless and other marginalized populations (Matthew 25: 31-46). Our panel will include legislative and lobbying voices sharing strategies for communicating with your Montana state house and senate representatives.

Congregational Get Together November 10, 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

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

Meeting ID: 105 970 704

Passcode: Fellowship

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

3. 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

11/1 *Lee Spring*

11/5 *Cyn Frye*

11/7 *Andrew Driscoll*

11/8 *Gary Shanafelt*

11/9 *Jane Spencer*

11/10 *Julie Cunningham*

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.



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.

How to Access Fall 2020 Faith Formation Classes – Nov 1 - 7

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

This week's story: The Ten Commandments & A Message from God

Told by Dani Berg: <https://youtu.be/utmIjfRCBzM>

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:

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+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:

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+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

Interfaith Forum November 4 at noon

Religion and Citizenship: What are the responsibilities of citizenship, according to our religious traditions? Panelists will be Rabbi Ed Stafman (Jewish), Father Leo Proxell (Catholic), Rev. Jody McDevitt (Protestant Christian), Shadmani Amin (Muslim), Duffy Peet (Unitarian Universalist) and Karen DeCotis (Buddhist).

1. Zoom access:

From your computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717202109?pwd=YmE3LzdEQWJUam95RHhpTmQwNzBBdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 1720 2109

Passcode: 518801

2. One tap mobile:

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+13462487799,,82717202109#,,,,,0#,,518801#

3. Dial from your phone:

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

Meeting ID: 827 1720 2109

Passcode: 518801

Dec 2 *Religion and Public Art*

When art contains religious expression,
what is appropriate in a diverse population?
Special guest Bozeman Symphony Conductor Norman Huynh

Jan 6 *Religion and Public Monuments*

Are there religious monuments which
deserve critique and/or dismantling?

Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, and May 5 *TBA*

*In order to remain timely in these uncertain times,
topics will be announced later.*



November 16-23, 2020 is Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week

Grace Bible Church in Bozeman is receiving Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on Monday November 16 to Monday Nov 23; Daily 10:00am – 2:00pm
On Saturday November 21; 10:00am-Noon
OCC shoeboxes can also be packed without entering a store!

Churches & individuals can make a “Build A Shoebox Online” goal page!!

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

This link allows a congregation to pack OCC shoeboxes online without shopping for a suggested \$25/box with shipping included. Photos & notes can be added to personalize the gift. The link will be specific to your organization. Also, <https://tinyurl.com/> is a step to making the long link more workable.

Please, call if Operation Christmas Shoeboxes or the 2020 OCC brochure with details of packing a shoebox are needed.

November 16-23, 2020 is Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week

Annie Bent, OCC Church Relations
Art Bent, OCC Area Coordinator,
SW Central Montana OCC Team
406-570-2385, 406-224-8850

Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Salvation Army Angel Tree sign-ups kicked off on Monday, October 19th and go through November 16th. If you or anyone you know is in need of help this season, please go to saangeltree.org to sign-up. Please be ready to upload photo ID's for all adults in the household, medical cards or birth certificates for Angels ages 0 to 18 (and in high school), and Proof of any earned income in the form of a pay stub or SSDI/SSI award letter."

We are also working with the Head Start programs, Health Department, CHP, Thrive, and West Yellowstone Social Services and CHP. If there is any other organization you know or are affiliated with that might be interested in partnering with us this year, please feel free to give them my cellphone and we can chat!

Blessings and Thanks!

In His Service,
Jenn Larson, Lieutenant
Corps Officer
The Salvation Army Bozeman Corps
32 Rouse Avenue
Bozeman, Montana 59715
Cell: 406-836-7884
Office: 406-586-5813

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

By the time you read this many election results will be known. It is likely, however, that many states — especially those precluded by their own laws from opening ballot envelopes until election day — will not have final tallies until next week. In some cases partial results will be released, and various candidates will hang their hats on those preliminary figures. But for the most part an anxious electorate will be forced to wait. And wait.

By now we should be used to waiting. We have been waiting for the COVID-19 pandemic to end for the better part of a year. It came into our consciousness last winter, and we are now heading into the following winter. It took a while for the virus to gather steam. The world did not register its three millionth case until the end of April. Last week alone saw another 3.4 million cases added to the total. The only positive trend in this latest surge is that the first three million cases brought over 200,000 deaths whereas the most recent three million only resulted in about 45,000 deaths. Unfortunately, I don't think those forty-five thousand families will view it as much of a consolation.

And still we wait.

Waiting was a subject touched upon in the adult Faith Formation class this past Sunday. I have only participated the last two weeks, but there has been lively discussion of the N.T. Wright book, *God and the Pandemic*. In the final chapter Wright quotes a poem by T.S. Eliot written in England in 1940 during the height of the German blitzkrieg. Befitting this backdrop, the poem is dark. In fact the first four words of the quatrain Wright quotes are “O dark, dark, dark”. But in the next stanza is a line that stuck with me. Eliot writes this, “But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.”

The waiting. The doing nothing but surviving...and waiting.

We live in an age of instantaneous information. We become impatient when our computers take more than a microsecond to perform highly complicated tasks. We want it all, and we want it now. 5G can't come fast enough.

During the Thursday morning Men's Bible Study this past week one of the participants somewhat jokingly said that he had taken to sitting in different chairs in his living room to get a different view of the four walls surrounding him during this pandemic-induced isolation. There may well be great wisdom in this remark. Waiting can be enhanced by perspective.

Waiting for election results.

Waiting for the end to the pandemic.

Waiting for God's still, small voice.



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!



First Presbyterian Church



November 2020

Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship All Saints Day 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	2 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	3 7 pm Congregational Get Together	4 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	5 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study 6:30 pm Deacons	6 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	7
8 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	9 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	10 7 pm Rockhaven Operational Board 7 pm Congregational Get Together	11 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	12 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study	13 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	14
15 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study 11 am Presby Cats	16 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	17 7 pm Congregational Get Together	18 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir	19 7am Men's Bible Study 10am PW Bible Study 7pm Session	20 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	21
22 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study	23 4pm Pandemic Response Team	24 7 pm Congregational Get Together	25 12:15 pm Worship Team 4 pm Pandemic Response Team 7 pm Choir		27 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	28
29 9:30 am Worship 11 am God and the Pandemic Study	30 4pm Pandemic Response Team					

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.