



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

Good News Edition - January 2021

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.fpcbozeman.org - Editor - presbenews@fpcbozeman.org

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Co-Pastors' Corner... As our guest preacher, the Rev. Carol Shellenberger,

reminded us last Sunday, the Gospel of John has a story of Christmas that is very different from that of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke from which we get the material for the Christmas pageants that we love and cherish. John's account is a richly theological statement that affirms the presence of Christ from the beginning of time itself. In the darkness of the Christmas season, this becomes more relevant than ever when we read, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (Jn. 1:3-5)

A light that is not overcome by the darkness, while needed every year in the darkness of the winter, is even more needed this winter of 2021, this winter of the coronavirus pandemic. For the last 43 Sundays, our worship services have been led in an online format that allows us to be together while at the same time being physically separated for the health and safety of us all. In each of these services we have begun our time of worship by lighting a candle to remind us of the ever-present Christ who is the light that the darkness cannot overcome.

As we begin this new calendar year, there is much for which to be hopeful with the arrival of the vaccines that, when given to enough of our population, will enable us to reemerge from this global pandemic. This is surely a sign of bright light. At this juncture, however, it is a bright light shining at the end of a long tunnel in which we must navigate until that time. Infection rates are still increasing. Hospitals and medical staff are pushing up against their limits and may likely break through those limits. Public participation in efforts to stem the pandemic tide tragically continue to be politicized resulting in the most vulnerable in our communities suffering and dying through no fault of their own.

As Christians, we know that Christ, the light, shines in this darkness and this darkness does not overcome it. With our patience and resolve to do our part in stemming this pandemic, we bear witness to this light of Christ in this dark world.

Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Lord, whenever our hearts begin to despair, draw us close to You and buoy us with Your strength. Amen."

Erin McPherson, Daily Guideposts, 12/31/2020

Per Capita for 2021

The Per Capita for 2021 is \$55.25 for each member. The Per Capita goes to the Yellowstone Presbytery, Rocky Mountain Synod and the General Assembly to help pay for expenses.

If you have any questions call Linda at the office, 586-9194.

OMBUD: *The person who will listen to your suggestions, concerns, complaints and compliments. This quarter our OMBUD from the session is Holly Aloise she will be happy to answer your questions and listen to what you have to say. You can speak with her personally or contact her by phone (451-4630) or email hollyaloise@gmail.com She will follow-up with Session.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Thank you for giving your time, talents, and financial contributions.

Without your generous support we could not do all the great things we do to Glorify God.

Below is a table showing our financial status as of the end of November 2020

November General Operating Income	\$43,167	Year to Date Income	\$399,382
November General Operating Expense	\$34,941	Year to Date Expense	\$416,523
November General Operating Balance	\$8,226	Year to Date Balance	\$-17,141
November Rockhaven Income	\$0	Year to Date Income	\$81,890
November Rockhaven Expense	\$8,156	Year to Date Expense	\$125,097
November Rockhaven Balance	\$-8,156	Year to Date Balance	\$-43,206

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.





In memoriam

Marie Fellows became a member of First Presbyterian Church in 1956, with her husband the late Tom Fellows. They raised their four children in the church, and she served as a Sunday school teacher and as a deacon. She died on December 28, 2020 at the age of 90. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Sympathies may be expressed to her daughter, Lee Ann Fellows, 1085 Flanders Creek, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Danielle Berg serves on SSP Youth Advisory Council

From her first experience of Sierra Service Project (SSP), the organizing agency of our youth mission trips for three summers, Dani Berg was hooked. Serving others, in a community of youth and advisors, while exploring faith-- this was for her! Most recently she has been serving on the SSP Youth Advisory Council. In this year's SSP Annual Newsletter, she wrote an essay which describes her experiences and why she loves SSP.

Congregational Get Together January 12, 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

Dani Berg

Youth Advisory Council member, First Presbyterian Church of Bozeman, MT

This has been one heck of a year. It started with my sister in the hospital, and not much later, COVID-19 took away the rest of my sophomore year experience. Quarantined on the brink of a Montana spring was nothing short of cabin fever. I was preparing for my summer to be canceled. And to no surprise, SSP went all online.

SSP has been a fundamental part of my summer since I first participated in 2018; it is an understatement to say I was disappointed. Nonetheless, my youth group planned to have a localized service week. We worked within our community at local organizations to move furniture, build and deliver garden boxes, plant trees, and organize donated clothes.

SSP has helped me discover my identity and spirituality, realizing one size does not fit all.

We attended the spiritual program Zoom meetings led by SSP staff we would have met in Tsaile, Arizona. After discovering how the Navajo Nation was impacted by COVID, my church donated \$1,000 to an organization installing running water for residents. Over the years, SSP has helped me discover my identity and spirituality, realizing one size does not fit all.

As I got comfortable with the new format of virtual SSP, I realized that despite the distance between us, the staff, and where we would have served, I still experienced the same sense of self-exploration.

Learn more about Dani in her YAC spotlight: SierraServiceProject.org/Dani

LEFT: Dani installs a fascia board on the Spokane Indian Reservation in 2018.
RIGHT: Dani (on left) installing fence pickets in Imperial Beach, CA in 2019.



Birthdays this Month

1/3 Jane Spencer
1/5 Don Mathre
Erica Hoffman
Aidar Haynes
1/8 Betsy Crabs
1/11 Callum LeBlanc
1/12 Christine Holland
1/13 Ric Tieman
1/14 Don Frye
1/15 Alison Todd
1/18 Jennifer Frye
1/19 Linda Miller
1/21 Suzanne Galinac
Scott Thompson
Chuck Broughton
1/23 Helen Craig
1/24 Jim Gannon
1/25 Bruce Wilson
1/27 Stephanie Breen
1/30 Margaret Heath
1/31 Dan Archer
Annabelle Hicks

Adult Sunday school studies "The Book of Joy"

Join us for adult Sunday school as we learn to cultivate joy in our lives from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

1. Join from your computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81926086294?pwd=WmhWcUYrbHgwWTFaLON0SIB4L0xhdz09>
Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294 Passcode: 862914

2. One tap mobile

+16699009128,,81926086294#,,,,,0#,,862914#
OR +12532158782,,81926086294#,,,,,0#,,862914#

3. Dial from your telephone

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

Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294 Passcode: 862914

Thank you from Sammylu Parsons

Dear Friends,

I am spending Christmas with my daughter in Denver, but my thoughts are of friends and the nice things they do. I am thankful for the Thanksgiving dinner provided by the church community to their outward families. It was such a blessing to be remembered by my friends at church. I'm not sure how to reach all of them. God's blessings and thanks to all.

Warmly,
Sammylu Parsons

Interfaith Forum meets today Wednesday, January 6

Interfaith Forum meets today: Religion and Public Monuments

Around the country, there are debates about public monuments and who should be honored as "heroes." Do our religious teachings provide any wisdom for settling these questions? And are there religious monuments which should be reconsidered? Join the Interfaith Forum today to hear the perspectives of Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, and Protestant religious leaders of our local community share their thoughts. The forum meets at noon by Zoom for one hour. All are welcome.

From your computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717202109?pwd=YmE3LzdEQWJUam95RHhpTmQwNzBBdz09>
Meeting ID: 827 1720 2109 Passcode: 518801

One tap mobile:

+12532158782,,82717202109#,,,,,0#,,518801# **OR**
+13462487799,,82717202109#,,,,,0#,,518801#

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



Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

Six days ago we bid good riddance to the year that will remain etched in our collective memory for as long as we all shall live. This infamy has at its core a microscopic virus with a unique set of spiked proteins which had previously been unknown to science. The original virus has now mutated, as viruses are wont to do, and it may well be the case that 2021 will be known as the year of the variant.

In the two weeks since words last appeared in this space 34,000 Americans have perished from the effects of the coronavirus. COVID-19 has become the third leading cause of death in the US as well as in our state. Only heart disease and cancer cause more deaths — and those scourges had a ten thousand year head start.

As the memory of the cacophony of fireworks at midnight last Thursday fades, we are left to throw our worn out 2020 calendars at the feet of God's throne. "Thanks, God," we cynically say, "thanks for nothing." And those who don't acknowledge this throne even exists sarcastically ask us, "Where is your God now?"

Conventional theological wisdom holds that God never changes. God is the immutable life force; there at the beginning and still there at the end. A central tenet in our belief system also holds that God is love. So the question we ask is: if God is love and God never changes, then how could something like the dumpster fire of 2020 ever happen?

I sometimes find it helpful to personify God in cases like this, and in my mind God is often portrayed by an aging Katharine Hepburn. She answers me in her crackling voice, "You know, 2020 wasn't my first rodeo. 1918 was no cakewalk and don't get me started on the Black Death. I've seen it all, sonny boy (she sometimes calls me that), Smallpox, Cholera, Bubonic Plague, Influenza, and now Coronavirus. They all break my heart."

This vision always dissipates before I can ask any follow up questions, so I am left to bemuse my own answers to why a loving God would allow any of this to happen. I never find an answer, but I do conclude that perhaps it is me that changes and not God. That is a little easier to accept, isn't it: God doesn't change, but our perception of God does. We just need to be attentive to God amongst us — those little gestures like the grocery store clerk that politely thanks people for wearing a mask, or a meal that gets delivered out of the blue on a really bad day.



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

January 2021



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3 9:30 Worship	4	5	6 12:15 pm Worship Team	7 7am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Deacons	8 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	9
10 9:30 Worship	11 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	12 7pm Congregational Get Together	13 12:15 pm Worship Team	14 7am Men's Bible Study	15 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	16
17 9:30 Worship	18 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	19 7pm Congregational Get Together	20 12:15 pm Worship Team	21 7am Men's Bible Study	22 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	23
24 9:30 Worship	25 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	26 7pm Congregational Get Together	27 12:15 pm Worship Team	28 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Session	29 9:30 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	30
31 9:30 Worship						

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.