

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

February 17, 2021

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Lenten Devotional Booklet Available

Today, February 17, is Ash Wednesday, the traditional beginning of Lent. One way to use this annual period of reflection is through the use of a devotional booklet with daily scripture and thoughts to guide your prayers. This year we have a devotional booklet which focuses on praying with scripture. Each week there is a "hymn of the week," which we will use in Sunday worship. There is a prayer focus and an action suggested. The booklet is written by the Rev. Roger Gench, a Presbyterian minister, and published by *Presbyterian Outlook*.

How do I get it? There are three options.

- 1.) Ask Linda (linda@fpcbozeman.org, 586-9194) to email you a copy. This will work best if you can download an attachment and have a printer.
- 2.) Ask Linda to mail you a copy.
- 3.) Pick up a copy at the church. Coordinate a time with Jody (jody@fpcbozeman.org, 551-3262) so that the building will be open.

Enhancing Our Conversations with God

"Let's not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we are now and trust that we will soon see in it the guiding hand of a loving God. " *Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey*

Pandemic Response Team Report by John Patterson

With the help of local kindergartners (who wrote Valentine cards) and 12 church members, 80 Valentine sacks of goodies were delivered on Saturday to church staff, a number of members of the church including those in retirement homes as well as to 37 non-church members in retirement or nursing homes. Who says you can't have fun during a Pandemic and sub-zero weather!

Your Pandemic Response Team continues to meet by Zoom each Monday afternoon at 4:00. You are always welcome to join us to sit in on the meeting or participate in our discussions, as a couple of church members have done recently. One of our first topics each week is to review the Health Department's Covid-19 statistics to make a decision whether to consider reopening to in-person worship the following Sunday. As you are aware, Covid-19 cases are diminishing but the numbers, unfortunately, are still well above our parameters. But, stay tuned!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for last Sunday's Vaccine Information Forum, whether by Zoom during the event or through the recording which has been available on the church's website. The presentations were excellent and the panelists answered all the additional questions asked by those participating. If you or others would like to see the recording, go to the church's website - fpcbozeman.org. In the lower left corner of the opening page click on 'Event.' We'll be distributing the link to the Forum to other churches in the Presbytery, to the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association, the downtown pastors and through local church secretaries to their congregations.

Vaccine availability and distribution are obviously hot topics. At the Forum on February 7th, we heard that there are 35,000 people in the Phase1B category here in Gallatin County and at this point only limited amounts of vaccine being received each week. So, it's going to take a while to get everyone vaccinated. Vaccines are being administered through the Gallatin City-County Health Department, MSU, the VA, Community Health Partners and Bozeman Health.

Updated information about vaccine distribution through each of these sources is available on the Gallatin City-County website healthygallatin.org.

If you want help getting signed up with the Health Department, you can contact the HRDC office at 587-4486. If you are 80 or older, you can also contact the Bozeman Senior Center for assistance. Or, give John Patterson a call at 587-9722.

Remember that even once you do receive the vaccine it will remain important to follow the same guidance to **wash your hands, wear your mask and keep your distance!** Your Pandemic Response Team continues to encourage you to stay healthy and stay connected with one another!

Pandemic Response Team meetings, Mondays 4 – 5 pm Congregation members welcome

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)

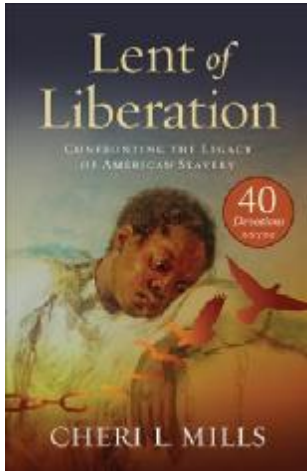
3. Dial from your phone

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 994 593 614 Passcode: 255160

Lent of Liberation Study Begins Feb 21



The Adult Sunday school class will begin a study entitled *Lent of Liberation*, beginning Sunday, February 21, at 11 am. All are welcome to join this engaged, compassionate group of people to go deeper into history, faith, and action. The study will be based on 40 days of readings. Each begins with the testimony of a formerly enslaved person, which the author relates to a Biblical passage and the challenges of racial justice in the 21st century. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, this Lenten devotional confronts the legacy of American slavery and empowers readers for the work of racial justice. The class will be held on Zoom, using the same meeting links as previous adult Sunday school studies. These are included weekly in the Faith Formation and Fellowship attachment to the email regarding Sunday worship.

The book, by Cheri Mills, will soon be available from Jody McDevitt, jody@fpcbozeman.org or 406-551-3262, for \$10.

Family Promise

Since March 2020, Family Promise guests have been living in the St. James Episcopal Church Rectory and in converted space at the Family Promise Day Center. Church volunteers have delivered meals to families at these locations. Last week's Family Promise newsletter included this picture, showing a baby eating and the menu describing the meal created by a First Presbyterian Church volunteer.



Our ministry continues, with extra love included!

Financial Giving

Please 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.easytithethe.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.



Congregational Get-Together Fellowship, Tuesday February 16 at 7pm

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.

Congregational Get-Together

<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 telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 105 970 704 Passcode: 1528249515

Sunday School

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

This week’s story: The Beatitudes & Do NotWorry

Told by Jonas Overton: <https://youtu.be/jaP6MnhshI8>

Jaki’s Sunday School Older Elementary/Middle School Any time

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DNN3eQLoLP-E7gmGxI-tP8cwgUICuOcy/view?usp=sharing>

Birthdays this week

2/17 *Linda Svensrud*

2/20 *Mary Thompson*

2/22 *Emma Galinac*

Teri Nightingale

Jeff Davis

2/23 *Martha Aloise*



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!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Last week two point seven million human beings throughout this planet we call home contracted COVID-19. That is roughly equivalent to the entire population of Chicago, and while it may sound like a lot of people, it is actually the fewest new cases worldwide since mid-October. In the US the news is even more encouraging as the past seven days only saw 600,000 new cases which is less than half of the weekly total from a month ago.

These positive signs are not unlike the recent change in our weather. Sure, it is no longer below zero outside, but the temperatures are still well below average. As of this writing it has yet to get above freezing during February. The fact that the ninety-two Montanans hospitalized with COVID-19 on Monday represent a third of the number hospitalized two months ago is of little consolation to those ninety-two folks continuing to struggle.

And just as the weather has turned and the coronavirus infection curve has turned, so, too, has the liturgical calendar — to Lent. It has been tradition in this space to take its participants on a journey during the course of the seven Wednesdays preceding Easter. As in prior years your writer has a starting point, but the story will transpire without premeditation as we meander together toward the cross at Golgotha.

This year the starting point comes courtesy of a good friend who, in the course of conducting a Bible study a year ago, quoted legendary Scottish theologian William Barclay.

The Easy Yoke (Part I)

Ding.

The bell above the door of the shop rang and the carpenter carefully placed the hammer and chisel he had been using back in their respective spots on the work bench, wiped his hands on his leather apron and approached the counter.

“Welcome. How may I be of service?” the carpenter asked in a serious yet friendly tone. His eyes were kind as he gazed intently into the eyes of the man he addressed.

“I have come from Shimron in search of a yokesmith,” replied the middle-aged stranger with dark, heavy-set eyebrows and the weathered hands of someone familiar with toiling in the field.

“Shimron?” the carpenter commented. “You’ve had a long day’s journey. Let me fetch you some cool water and a piece of bread. Please sit down and I will give you a chance to rest.”

“Thank you,” the stranger said gratefully. “The road was mighty dusty and the rains of spring are a distant memory.”

The stranger turned and closed the door behind him as the bell once again rang. He admired the door for a moment, then opened it again and swung it from one hand to the other. As the carpenter approached with a cup of water the stranger said almost to himself, “This door is extraordinary. It has the perfect amount of balance and sway.”

“Well,” the carpenter responded, “I wouldn’t be much of a carpenter if I couldn’t fashion my own door.”

“True,” the stranger slowly sipped the precious water, “but it does leave someone like me with a great first impression.”

The carpenter smiled and broke off a piece of bread. ...*Continued next week*



Rockhaven Chapel

First Presbyterian Church

February 14-28



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 9:30am Worship 10:40am Annual Meeting 11am Presby Cats	15 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	16 7pm Congregational Get Together	17 Ash Wednesday 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir	18 7am Men's Bible Study	19 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	20
21 9:30 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 11am Presby Cats	22 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	23 7pm Congregational Get Together	24 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir 7pm Choir	25 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Session	26 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	27
28 9:30 am Worship 11 am Adult Sunday School 11am Presby Cats						

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.