



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

*Good News Edition - May 2021*

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771

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## *Co-Pastors' Corner...*

Some of the most meaningful discussions held in the adult Sunday school class this year have been about the paradox that joy arises from focusing on others rather than on ourselves. When the class read *The Book of Joy*, we saw two self-sacrificing spiritual leaders of our day, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, exhibiting joy from deep in their souls. They share a profound friendship which erupts in smiles and laughter even when they are talking about their experiences of persecution and oppression. Now we are studying the letter of Paul to the Philippians. Paul wrote this letter from prison, to people he loved but could not see, who were experiencing both opposition from society and internal conflict. Yet he repeatedly speaks of his joy and theirs, and enjoins them to "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

In this time of pandemic, it is easy to name our personal woes, struggles, grief, and anger. The sadness which is so prevalent in our world seems to be the enemy of joy. In dark moments, we may wonder how we will ever be happy again. But the wisest spiritual teachers tell us that the pursuit of personal happiness will not yield deep joy. We can spend a lot of money on stuff, entertainment, and experiences. We can seek popularity, influence, or security. But joy does not reside in these. Joy arrives when we live with compassion, generosity, and humility. Joy emerges when we give up our selves for God and for others, living in the love in which God made us.

Right now there is an opportunity for joy through giving to the most vulnerable members of our community. You can read more about the Housing First Village on page 4 of this edition of the Good News. Instead of turning aside from the problem of homelessness, hardening our hearts to the situation of people who have more problems than anyone else, we are working with others in our community to give long-term safe shelter and an opportunity to address their challenges. There will be opportunities to contribute volunteer labor later in the summer. Consider how you can turn your focus on others. Consider how to increase your compassion, generosity, and humility.

It is an invitation to live more like Christ, and discover his joy.

### *Enhancing Our Conversation With God*

*"May Your face shine upon us, O God of light. May we know Your way and experience Your saving power. Transform us. Make us new again."*

*Upper Room Disciplines, 4/25/2016*

## Pandemic Team Report by Kris Hall

### COVID-19 Vaccine

Plenty of appointments are now available in Gallatin County for everyone 16 and older. Pfizer approved for 16 and older; Moderna approved for 18 and older.

#### VACCINE APPOINTMENTS:

Gallatin County Health - (406) 548-0123 Mon-Sat 8am to 5pm;

[callcenter@readygallatin.com](mailto:callcenter@readygallatin.com) <https://www.healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines>

*(click blue link & scroll down for available appts)*

Bozeman Health - COVID-19 Hotline: 406-414-2619; [info@bozemanhealth.org](mailto:info@bozemanhealth.org)

<https://www.bozemanhealth.org/about-us/covid-19-information/covid-19-vaccine-information>

Pharmacies - <https://www.healthygallatin.org/covid-19-vaccines/finding-a-covid-19-vaccine/>

<https://www.vaccinespotter.org/MT/?zip=59715&radius=10>

MSU Enrolled Students - <https://uhp103.msu.montana.edu> or call (406) 994-2311

### Benefits of getting the COVID-19 Vaccine:

**Protect the Vulnerable** – Children under 16 and people with weakened immune systems aren't able to get the vaccine. Help protect people who are at greater risk if they contract COVID - those with medical conditions (cancer, diabetes, heart, lung, or kidney disease), those who have intellectual disabilities, are 65 or older, pregnant, obese and people living in high-density housing.

**Avoid Life-threatening Illness** or long-term complications of COVID-19 such as Respiratory Failure, Pneumonia, Blood Clots, Injuries to Heart, Liver, Kidneys and Lungs, Septic Shock and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome.

**Gain Access** Vaccinated people gain better access to travel without testing and quarantines, access to visit hospitalized loved ones to manage their care, and can safely visit vaccinated people in private settings without wearing a mask.

**Avoid Quarantine if Exposed** - Vaccinated people don't have to stay home for 14 days if exposed to someone outside their household. Vaccinated don't have to be tested unless they have symptoms.

## 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

## Worship at Rockhaven May 2



Come join the First Presbyterian Church family at Rockhaven on Sunday afternoon, May 2, at 3 pm for an outdoor worship service. We will give thanks to God in “the theater of God’s glory,” as John Calvin described God’s marvelous creation. Bring a lawn chair, wear your face mask\*, and watch the weather report to see if an umbrella would be helpful.

An intergenerational scavenger hunt will follow the service. All ages welcome.

*\*We continue to “mask up” for these events because we are following the “2 out of 3 rule” for limiting Covid-19 risk. Make sure your activity meets two out of the following three conditions: outdoors, distanced and masked. We also will be singing, a high-risk activity, and not everyone will be vaccinated.*

## Session Notes April 22

**PRT** - The Pandemic Response Team recommended and Session approved the purchase of an \$800 Bose sound system/speaker used at Rockhaven for outdoor worship on Easter. The PRT has spent significant time in several meetings considering our church’s requirements for Hybrid (In-Person and Online) worship and meetings. PRT asked Session to provide direction asking Session to consider: As we look toward the post-Covid future, what sorts of church activities and meetings do you envision could be facilitated by technology that allows some people to be in-person and others to be elsewhere? Understanding that cost/benefit choices need to be made, how many people in the room need to be accommodated. Session felt meetings (Deacons, Session, Committees) and Educational groups (Adult Sunday School, Presby Cats, Men’s Bible Study, Presbyterian Women) were activities and meetings might be offered in a Hybrid format with the general consensus being that equipment should accommodate up to 16 people present in the meeting space, with others choosing to join remotely.

Dan reported that Kori Robbins, a former Presby Cat, whom our church is a sponsor in her seminary education, has expressed interest in becoming a military chaplain. Kori loved her time in Presby Cats and Dan noted the excitement that she would be ministering to young adults in the military who are of the same 18-26 year age group, possibly all over the world.

Following the cancellation of the Presby Cat mission trip to Cuba due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Delta Airlines refused to refund the plane tickets. The Cuba plane tickets could only be applied toward future travel. Upon the recommendation of Finance Committee Elder Debbie Ernst, Dan Holland, and Treasurer, Ric Tieman, Session voted to allow each Presby Cat, who paid \$550 toward their airline tickets, to utilize their plane tickets for future travel.

## First Presbyterian Church to help fund the building of a tiny home in HRDC’s Housing First Village

Thirteen households from FPC’s Adult Sunday School Class have pledged \$9,600 to support chronically homeless people benefitting from the Housing First Village project. Session approved church fundraising for the project and authorized up to \$11,000 of our church’s Endowment Spendable Mission fund to be used as matching funds of church member pledges. An anonymous church member will provide an additional \$11,000 as “dollar for dollar” matching funds generating a combined total a fundraising goal of \$44,000 (\$22,000 of matching funds).

Submitted by

Kris Hall, Elder Leadership & Personnel, Pandemic Response Team member, Endowment Chair, and 24 S. Willson Task Force Member

## Housing First Village is Underway!

At its April 22 meeting, the Session responded to an initiative from the Adult Sunday school and the Endowment Board of Trustees to open a fundraising campaign to support the Housing First Village of HRDC. With the generosity of the Sunday school class, the funds available from the Endowment, and a challenge grant of \$11,000, the goal at the time of the Session meeting was \$44,000. Since that meeting, an additional challenge grant of \$10,000 has also been offered.

So what is the Housing First Village? In short, it will be a neighborhood of 19 tiny homes built for the most vulnerable members of our community, with an adjacent social service resource hub.

Housing First Village aims to provide transformative housing to Bozeman's chronically homeless. Targeted towards the homeless population most at risk, this safe and sustainable model is designed to support successful reintegration into community living and permanent housing. The single-user "tiny" homes or shelters would provide a new way to address the growing issue of homelessness while maintaining the resident's autonomy and dignity.

This model is based on the "Housing First" philosophy, limiting the barriers to entry and providing supportive services to residents, including mental health and addiction support. Central to this model's success is a resource hub, which will include access to health resources, case management, and other support services. Each home will have a small kitchenette and bathroom for independent living.

Nineteen homes will be built in 2021 on the site on Wheat Drive in N. Bozeman. Seven of these are slated to be built with volunteer labor later in the summer.

For more information see <https://thehrdc.org/projects/housing-first-village/>.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthy effort to meet the challenges offered by the Endowment and 2 anonymous donors, you can give by a check to the church with Housing First Village in the memo line. Or, you can give on the church website. Choose the DONATE button, and then choose Housing First Village.



*Model "Tiny Home" at construction site*



*Groundbreaking has begun at Wheat Drive site*

## Adult Sunday School Studies “The Most Joy-filled Book of the Bible”

**Adult Sunday School – The Letter to the Philippians** 11 am Sundays

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

Meeting ID: 819 2608 6294 Passcode: 862914

One tap mobile:

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

+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

## Congregational Get Together May 4, 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.

1. <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 telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 105 970 704 Passcode: 1528249515

## Reflections on the Pandemic at Interfaith Forum May 5

After 14 months of an officially declared global pandemic, what have we learned? What does the future hold?

Guest: David Quammen, author of “Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic “ and “The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life”. Additional religious panelist: Karen DeCotis

Join us at noon on Wednesday on Zoom.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717202109?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717202109?pwd=YmE3LzdEQWJUam95RHhpTmQwNzBBdz09)

[pwd=YmE3LzdEQWJUam95RHhpTmQwNzBBdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717202109?pwd=YmE3LzdEQWJUam95RHhpTmQwNzBBdz09)

Meeting ID: 827 1720 2109 Passcode: 518801

One tap mobile

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

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



### Vacation Bible School – New week, new format, same fun spirit!

The Downtown Ecumenical Vacation Bible School will move from June to July this year. Mark your calendars for **July 26-30** for “Discovery on Adventure Island.” Plans are underway for BOTH an online and an in-person experience for all ages, with children ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the center of attention. Check out this website for an explanation of the plan and to register:

[Vacation Bible School 2021 - Bozeman UMC](#)

Children, youth assistants, and adults can register now! (Early registration will greatly help the planners. Thank you.)



### *Birthdays this Month*

- 5/2 *Lori Larimer*
- 5/4 *Edie Renner*
- 5/7 *Marilyn Lockhart*  
*Alyce Larsson*  
*Barbara Mackie*
- 5/8 *Ben Whisenand*
- 5/10 *Bernie Mitchell*
- 5/11 *Brooks Lehrkind*
- 5/12 *Marjorie David*  
*Jen Poore*  
*Ashley Driscoll*
- 5/14 *Fran Bradley*
- 5/18 *McCabe Overton*
- 5/20 *Craig Miller*  
*Ian Hoffman*
- 5/21 *Betty Boxmeyer*
- 5/22 *Frank Schurz*  
*Madelyn Williams*
- 5/23 *Marjorie Hickman*
- 5/24 *Mimi Roser*  
*Julia Johnson*
- 5/25 *Kay Gannon*  
*Kyndra Campbell*
- 5/26 *Mary McMakin*
- 5/28 *Bob Olsen*
- 5/29 *Nancy Rote*

### **Congratulations to College Graduates**

- Presby Cat **Holly Redmond**, who will receive a B.S. in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Conservation and Ecology from Montana State University on May 1.
- **Martha Krebill**, who will receive a M.S. in Education, with a focus on Culturally Responsive Teaching, from Johns Hopkins University on May 26.

Please let us know of others in our church family who will receive degrees this spring.



### **Gallatin Valley Food Bank**

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is asking for monetary donations, food donations require volunteer labor and we are limiting the number of daily volunteers due to COVID-19.

Thank you for understanding

Please go to: [gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org](http://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org)

## Dear All Members of First Presbyterian Church,

I just wanted to write this letter to thank all of you for welcoming me into your town and church for the past four years. I've loved living in Bozeman, and a huge part of that has been because you've connected me to the community outside of school. I've dearly missed seeing so many of you in person this past year due to COVID, and I'm so appreciative of the efforts the FPC team has made to help keep us all connected, both virtually and otherwise.

Firstly, thank you to everyone in the congregation who has supported the Presby Cat Ministry all these years, from providing delicious weekly home cooked meals to your financial backing of our fundraising and travel endeavors. I was able to travel with the group to Louisiana, and it was one of the most fun experiences I've had in college. Also, thank you for enduring our singing and sermons during Presby Cat Sundays. We love sharing what we're up to each semester with you all, and, if nothing else, they're great public speaking practice for us mostly introverts.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge some specific members of FPC who have impacted me during my time in Bozeman.

To Rachel and Rob Minter and Christine and Dan Holland: Thank you so much for hosting me at your homes for meals on Thanksgiving and for visiting "kids" with the other kids! Rachel, I had a lovely time doing crafts with you in 2019 and learning to try mayonnaise on Jell-o salad, your welcome made me feel at home.

To Kathy and George Goodrich: Also thank you for hosting me for Thanksgiving, in 2018. I'm sure I overstayed my welcome a bit, but I loved visiting for nearly 8 hours, and I'm so glad you invited me back afterwards! Kathy, our summer talks on your back deck with cool drinks were refreshing in many ways, and a great change of pace from my first summer of constant full time working. Visiting with your "granddog" was also always a pleasure, and of course from me and the Presby Cats, thank you for hosting us for fall bonfires, Christmas crafts, and other activities over the years.

To Scott Thrasher: Thank you for taking a chance and hiring me at Rockhaven in the summer of 2018. I learned so much, and hope I had somewhat of a positive influence on campers visiting from near and far. Rockhaven also introduced me to my best friend, Faith, and I thank you for putting up with our shenanigans and letting us camp out on the Rockhaven bridge after day trips down to Yellowstone. Thank you for teaching me to sharpen my whittling knife, and thank you also for helping get the Presby Cats set up at Rockhaven for retreats. I will deeply miss sleeping with the sound of the river in my ears and the fellowship I've enjoyed in the canyon as a camp counselor and member of the congregation during so many sunrise, afternoon, and evening get togethers over the years.

To Sally Broughton and other friends from Friday night movies and Thursday evening conversations: Sally, thank you for organizing Friday movies, spaghetti, and conversation, and for welcoming us college kids to hang out with you all every month. I've loved hearing your and Chuck's stories about life and teaching, and I'll always particularly remember your tale of a rather unfortunate boating escapade! Thank you to you and to Suzanne Bratsky for being especially kind and welcoming to me and the other Presby Cat women. You both made special efforts to chat with us at evening events, and we've really appreciated it!

*Concludes on next page*

Dear All Members of First Presbyterian Church, *conclusion from page 7*

On weekly Thursdays and monthly Fridays, I've also loved chatting with Mary Hektner and John Sacklin. Thank you both for regaling me with adventure tales of Yellowstone and the Peace Corps, and for all your career advice. While COVID has kept us away from the church, it's been great seeing you both on several occasions around town... or out in the "boonies" while birding!

To everyone from Thursdays and Fridays, and every other church event, thank you very much for including me and the other college students in your fellowship and fun. Too many of you have made a difference in my experience here, so I can't possibly address everyone without filling a book, but you've all been friends to me and us other transient college FPC members, and we will never forget you. Also, even though I was consistently a tacky bag lady and took leftovers home (though I can't be wholly singled out, Faith was often foraging right along with me), you loved and accepted me anyways! Many FPC events and your ongoing support of the collegiate ministry have genuinely helped both our weekly grocery budgets and our mental wellbeing. Thank you.

Finally, to our pastors Jody and Dan: Thank you for everything you do for all members of FPC. Jody, thank you for putting up with us ornery Presby Cats at events that Dan has dragged to you. I've enjoyed spending time with you in these more informal settings, and I pray we haven't worn too much on your patience! Perhaps some of our craziness has been buffered by the fact that yes, several of us are feminists, and hopefully we can continue to funnel our energy towards constructing a more equitable future in each of our respective fields. :) Dan, you do so much for our college group and there aren't words to fully express my gratitude. Thank you also for putting up with us, and on such a consistent basis too! From organizing our events (almost literally herding cats) to providing words of wisdom on religion and life you've been there for each of us both professionally and personally over the years. Your weekly ringing "Hi Holly's are a joy to hear, and I always appreciate your genuine concern and interest in how I am. Thank you.

For those who are curious, I've just finished a B.S. in Ecology at MSU. This summer I'm relocating to South Dakota to study plague ecology in social rodents and small carnivore conservation in Badlands National Park with the USGS. In the next few years, I hope to start a graduate program somewhere in the west, studying behavioral and evolutionary ecology with a particular focus on social species. I look forward to hopefully being an agent of positive change for the environment and for social issues as I continue on in education and life, both as a Christian and as a global citizen.

Again, my experience here really couldn't have been so positive without all your support. Thank you!

Best,  
Holly Redmond



## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

On Monday afternoon I became the 305,031<sup>st</sup> Montanan to be fully immunized against the SARS-Covi-2 virus. I was also the 29,032<sup>nd</sup> Gallatinite to be likewise protected. I fear the next 300,000 jabs in Montana will be a much heavier lift, despite the fact that doses have never been more plentiful. Some of this vaccine hesitancy is from a fear of side effects. Unfortunately most of the reports of side effects come from younger folks and that is precisely the demographic that needs to be encouraged to participate. This has given rise to programs such as ‘a shot and a beer’ to entice younger generations to participate (for the record the only thing I got with my shot was a bandaid.)

The human psyche is a difficult mystery to unravel. For the most part the campaign to encourage vaccinations has thus far been positive reinforcement. Famous people have documented their own jabbings in order to socially influence the reluctant crowd. But what if this campaign takes a darker turn such as the PSAs we see fighting meth use and drunk driving? Would it have any affect to show those hesitant folks video of mass cremations in the streets of India? Or perhaps footage of beyond capacity ICUs in Milan, or New York, or Brazil, or Los Angeles? Instead of relying on personal responsibility to combat the pandemic, perhaps the focus should be placed on loving one’s neighbors.

Although it seems as if this rapidly mutating spike protein has invaded every aspect of our lives, there are some things the virus cannot control — like the weather. It has been quite some time since I fell asleep to the sound of gently falling rain as I did on Sunday night. This was a welcome serenade in more ways than one. March and April had been alarmingly dry (albeit cool) and we were already an inch and half below our normal moisture level for the year. This surprise nearly cut the deficit in half, and while we will continue to pray for more, it was still good to finally see worms wriggling on the pavement.

The other reason it was good to hear rain pattering upon the rooftop and water running out of the rainspouts was because of the assurance those sounds provide. We have no doubt heard the phrase “in these uncertain times” more than we can count during the past year. How marvelous it was, then, to lie in bed and hear nothing but the rain, to be reminded of our childhood, and to fall into a relaxed state of rest surrounded by the sound of God’s abundance pouring over our lives.



### **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!



Rockhaven Chapel

# First Presbyterian Church

## May 2021



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship Zoom 11 am Adult Sunday School 3pm Outdoor Service at Rockhaven	3 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	4 7pm Congregational Get Together	5 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir	6 7am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Deacons	7 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	8
9 9:30am Worship Zoom 11 am Adult Sunday School	10 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	11 7pm Congregational Get Together	12 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir	13 7am Men's Bible Study	14 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	15
16 9:30 am Worship Zoom 11 am Adult Sunday School	17 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	18 7pm Congregational Get Together	19 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir	20 7am Men's Bible Study	21 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	22
23 9:30 am Worship Zoom	24 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	25 7pm Congregational Get Together	26 12:15 pm Worship Team 7pm Choir	27 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Session	28 11:15 am Worship Tech Rehearsal	29
30 9:30 am Worship Zoom	31 Memorial Day					

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.