

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

*Good News Edition - August 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...*

Since January 1997, we have written for this space in First Presbyterian Church's monthly newsletter. Do the math—that is nearly 300 columns! If you have been part of First Presbyterian Church throughout this time, you have read our thoughts and heard our voices in more contexts than you can count. You have seen our children grow up, our hair turn gray, our skin wrinkle (you can decide how these apply to each of us), and our demeanors mature. We owe you enormous gratitude for blessing our lives with love, support, encouragement, patience, and partnership in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

As we enter this final month of ministry as your co-pastors, we know there is not enough time to personally thank each one of you and say farewell. Please understand if circumstances fail to provide sufficient closure, but know that we also grieve this goodbye. We will hold you in our hearts, and hope that you will do the same for us.

We pledge to do everything we can to prepare for the next chapter in the church's history. We are already engaged in "downloading our brains" to church leaders, sharing important history, thoughts, and knowledge. We are confident that this church has great leadership, and God will be with you through the bumpy portions of the transition. It is our hope that all who are part of this amazing church family will step forward to offer their gifts to the challenges ahead.

Making way for the next chapter means establishing clear boundaries. After August 31, we will not be your co-pastors. We will have a new calling in our life in retirement in Billings. This means we will not be available for pastoral roles such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, or hospital visits. Please do not ask us to perform these functions—it will break our hearts as well as yours when we say "no." We trust that God will provide a new pastor(s) who will be able to fulfill these functions with grace and caring.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for nearly 25 years together!!!

### *Enhancing Our Conversation With God*

*"Lord, it is easy to hold those who lead our lives to a standard we could never live up to ourselves. Help us to see these women and men as You see them, just as dependent on You as we are. Thank you for the reminder that we need Your help as we carry out our own duties this day. In Jesus's name. Amen. "*

*Prayer, NRSV Study Bible, 2nd Chronicles:5.*

## Session Notes July 22

The baptism of Arthur and Benjamin Whisenand was approved for Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rockhaven. The following PRT recommendations were approved:

When daily cases are between 2.01 and 7 per 100,000, congregational singing is permitted.

Masks and social distancing are required

Remote only worship will be implemented based on current hospitalizations (not to exceed 12 persons).

Session authorized the hiring of the administrative position which will be vacant upon Linda Best retiring Aug. 31, 2021.

Session is working diligently on the search for an interim pastor.

Donna Beck, Clerk

### UPDATE ON THE INTERIM PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

Session has been meeting with Presbytery's Pastoral Ministry Team and are compiling information and instructions which is proceeding at a "safe and effective" pace.

Two elders were elected by Session as Co-Chair Persons along with three additional congregants to comprise the committee. Those names will be released as soon as they have received all their information and responsibilities as part of that team. Other committees have also been formed and their names and duties will be shared with congregation.

Session's goal is to be very transparent with the church members and progress will be periodically announced in the pulpit, PresbEnews.

Please remember Session and the Interim Pastoral Ministry Team (IPMT) in your prayers.

### Online worshippers—Important changes to note!

After providing Zoom access to our worship services during the pandemic, we are moving to a more streamlined way in which to view Sunday worship services online. Instead of having a new and different Zoom access link each week, you can now access the worship services via the Boxcast streaming service via the media tab on the church website, <https://fpcbozeman.org>, or directly at this link:

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/pnfdxvy7aqtrpxmpn2dz>

This link will be the SAME each week and can be bookmarked on your web browser for easy access.

If you have a smart TV, you can add the Boxcast app and search for Bozeman First Presbyterian Church. From there you can view the current worship service or view previous archived services.

For those wishing to access our services via telephone, you can continue to do that.

1-669-900-9128 **OR** 1-253-215-8782 **OR** 1-346-248-7799 **OR** 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 811 5650 6844 Passcode: 0596835888.

While we hope that more and more folks will be able to join us in person for worship, we are very pleased to continue to offer these online options.

**WELL DONE,  
MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL  
SERVANTS !**

MATTHEW 25:21

Please join the congregation, family and friends for  
A Retirement Celebration honoring

**PASTORS JODY McDEVITT & DAN KREBILL**

Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

10:45 a.m. - Noon

Fellowship Hall immediately following worship  
Table Seating, Light Refreshments and Special Music

Kindly RSVP to Donna Beck  
before Sunday August 22

[donnabeck330@gmail.com](mailto:donnabeck330@gmail.com) or 587-4087

Also honoring retiring Office & Financial Administrator, Linda Best

## Rockhaven Outdoor Worship 2021



This summer's camp theme, "Creation Speaks," is a perfect fit for our outdoor worship. The meadow on the east side of the river allows worshippers to view Sheep Rock, with the sound of the river nearby. Many folks bring lawn chairs; some bring blankets; some sit or stand amid the grasses and sage. The healing power of God's good creation is all around us.

For those with mobility concerns, the Rockhaven golf cart provides comfortable transportation. Following the service is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship—bring your own picnic, and enjoy eating and conversing at the picnic tables near the dining hall, or wherever else you choose.

The Rockhaven Operations Board is hosting these gatherings twice per month this summer. Many thanks to the team for all the logistical support. The schedule of worship leaders is:

August 15 Dan Holland

August 22 Jody McDevitt

## FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION!!

Professional fly-fishing instructor, Bill Toone, has once again graciously offered to provide free beginner and beginner/intermediate level fly casting instruction at Rockhaven for members and friends of the church. For those who have not participated in the past, you'll want to take advantage of his expertise and patient instruction. For those who have participated, you know how good an instructor he is.

If you've ever just wanted to try fly casting, this is your chance!

When: Sunday, August 22, 3:30 p.m.

Where: Rockhaven, on the lawn by the dining hall.

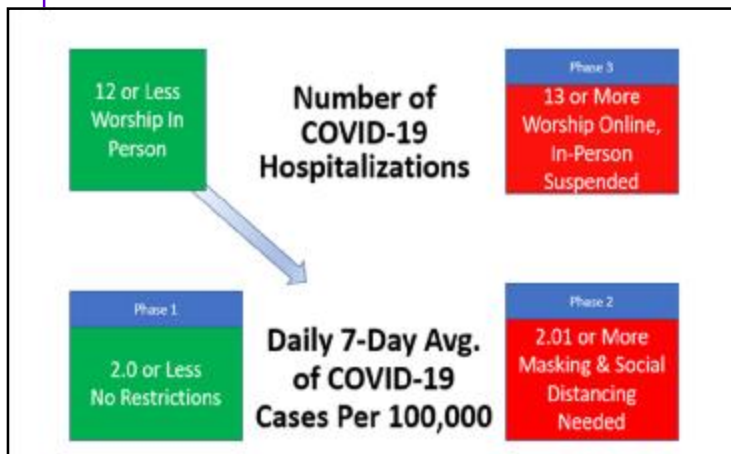
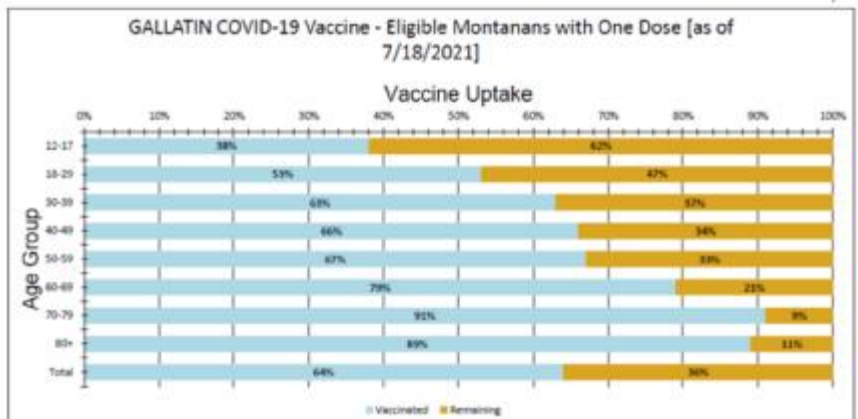
Bring: A fly rod/reel if you have or could borrow one. Otherwise, Bill will have 2-3 of his own.

Reservations: Contact Linda Best at 586-9194 -or- [linda@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:linda@fpcbozeman.org) Monday - Thursday. Please let Linda know your level of fly casting.

## Pandemic Team Report by Kris Hall

Gallatin County published data in their weekly COVID-19 Surveillance report showing high vaccine uptake (79-91%) in people over 60 years. Given the demographics of our congregation indicate similarly high vaccine uptake, the Pandemic Response Team recommended Session modify our guidance to two metrics:

Daily 7-Day Average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 – which measures the prevalence of SARS COV2 Virus in Gallatin County (2.0 Threshold)  
 Number of hospitalizations at Bozeman Health measures our capacity to care for critical COVID-19 Patients (13 Threshold)



Knowing our congregation has relatively high vaccine uptake enabling better protection, PRT recommends and Session approved allowing singing while wearing masks, when we are in Phase 2 precautions.

Vaccines are very effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death but they are not 100% effective in preventing infection. Breakthrough cases are occurring nationally and locally, where vaccinated people are getting infected and experiencing mild to moderate symptoms. Whether you are vaccinated or not, if you wish to avoid getting COVID-19 and having to isolate for 10 days, the CDC Recommends a multi-layer approach, stacking types of protection to reduce your chance of contracting or spreading the virus to others.

- Get Vaccinated**
- Wear a Mask when indoors with people not from your household**
- Social Distance with those outside your household**
- Avoid crowds**
- Meet outside or in well-ventilated areas**

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends in person learning and for all eligible persons to be vaccinated for COVID-19. In addition they recommend all teachers, staff and children over age of 2 to wear masks in schools, unless they have a developmental or medical condition precluding them from wearing masks.

<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/>

**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

**Birthdays this Month**

8/1 Donna Beck

John Harrison

Arden Turner

8/2 Howard Boxmeyer

8/3 Craig Gilbert

8/6 Jay Pontius-Backman

Pam King

Amber King

8/7 Judy Mathre

Emily Thrasher

Wyatt Guenther

8/8 Celia Wood

George Haynes

8/9 Joanne Jennings

8/11 Chuck Beck

8/12 Aisulu Mendoza

8/13 Vince Poore

Bill Frye

8/16 Dick Fish

Maiya Archer

8/18 Jim Bratsky

8/19 Bob Bradley

Jeanette Gilbert

8/22 Effie Frye

8/27 Frances Frye

8/28 Gigi Swenson

8/29 John Patterson

Cameron Poore

8/30 Maureen Poremba

Austin Braun

**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)

**Bozeman Lions Club Drop Off Box**

Drop Off your prescription and non-prescription eye glasses, dark glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones, damaged too, in the collection box at the entrance of the fellowship hall downstairs. Contact Richard Reiley at 388-7840 for more information.

### **Church Staff Opening: Office Administrator and Financial Secretary**

Do you (or someone you know) have excellent interpersonal skills, as well as a proven ability to organize, prioritize, adapt, and meet deadlines? Are you experienced using personal computers, Microsoft Office software, and the internet? Are you able to learn specific programs for use in church administration, including the website? Could you be the “face” of the church to both members and the public?

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a new Office Administrator and Financial Secretary (one position) upon the upcoming retirement of Linda Best. This position requires managing the church office for the staff and congregation, including reception, office operations, financial income database, church communications, and calendar.

The job is 30 hours/week. Salary is commensurate with experience; health benefits are included. To apply, send a resume and cover letter to David Spencer, [david@spencix.com](mailto:david@spencix.com), by August 10.

### **Housing First Village Construction Progresses!**

Stop by the construction on Wheat Drive to see the growth of the Housing First Village. And if you are interested in how Supportive Housing is being proven to work, read this recently released study from the Urban Institute with results from Denver’s 5-year supportive housing program: "[Housing First Breaks the Homelessness-Jail Cycle.](#)"



## Are You Bear Smart?

Last weekend my friends and I ventured out on an 11-mile hike to Cottonwood Lake in the Crazy Mountains. We laughed, huffed, and puffed on the steeps, shared stories, and generally made a lot of noise. Views within the cirque surrounding the alpine glacier-fed lake were stunning. Indian Paint Brush, Asters, Fireweed and Bluebells bowed to each other in the cool breeze, whilst the high temps at Bozeman's lower elevations rose up, up, up into the 90's.



On our way back down, we encountered hikers who anxiously recounted seeing a Grizzly bear less than a mile of the trailhead parking. Being in the Crazies, I questioned, to my friends, whether they truly saw a Griz; my friend wished she had asked the woman, "what about the bear shouted Griz to you?" A hiker further down the trail, who had not seen the bear said it was a brown colored black bear; the tourists who saw it likely mistook a hump since the bear's head was down. My friend, a seasoned US Forest Service employee, cautioned me, "Although the Crazies aren't typical territory for Grizzlies, that is not to say Griz can't be found venturing through the area. July is the time of year young males venture into new areas to secure their territory."

"Aha" I thought, "A research chart during a Zoom bear presentation emphasized many more bear encounters/attacks occur in the lower 48 in July than any other month, consistent with my friend's observation." Honoring her sage advice, we leashed Cinder, my Minnie Aussie, for the last couple of miles, to avoid her running back to us, unintentionally leading the bear in tow. I have heard that angry bears who are led back to a group by a dog, tend to take things up with whomever is most accessible; how many of us can outrun a 2-year-old pup of a bundle of energy?

When out in the woods, recreating, what is your plan should you encounter a bear? All three of us had our bear spray handy. I have been better at the practice of carrying bear spray of late. Perhaps it started after my sister in Durango, CO emailed sharing that a woman walking her dogs outside of town was killed by a black bear this spring. Fatal bear attacks are extremely rare in the lower 48, with some years going by between fatal incidents. Judy is the sister who is ALWAYS prepared, Eagle Scout kids, sent the fire-packing list I shared with you all last summer after the Bridger fire, sent me the bear education link below. Being crazy busy with my day job working for our engineering consulting company and my other day jobs volunteering to support FPC church ministry (PRT, Elder, 24 S. Wil) and coaching or teaching underrepresented kids to swim, I didn't make time to watch three of the pre-recorded videos for several weeks. After the fatal mauling, the community of Durango brought in national experts to participate in a series of interactive Zoom calls to help educate residents about bears. <http://bearsmartdurango.org/bear-smart-online-speaker-series/> Growing up running and backpacking the trails across Colorado, spending 4 months driving the ALCAN highway to Alaska and having enjoyed the wild Montana country last 28 years, I THOUGHT I knew good protective protocol for addressing bears and tailoring the approach depending upon if it was a Griz or a black bear.

A close friend texted me that authorities were placing five bear traps on her mother-in-law's ranch in Ovando, where we hoped to camp together later this summer. The text came the night before the mauling story hit the local news - a Griz killed a woman bicycle camping behind the Ovando post office. As I pray for her and her family, I also pray that we can learn from mistakes. NEVER, EVER EAT INSIDE OR STORE FOOD IN YOUR TENT. Bears' sense of smell is 7 TIMES stronger than that of a blood hound. As a 10-year-old I recall stashing my peanut M&M, cashew & dried apricot GORP next to my sleeping bag for a late-night snack, shamelessly breaking Girl Scout Camp rules. I didn't realize the wisdom of rules 'til many years later when I heard a 16-year-old Colorado Boy Scout was dragged from a platform canvas tent by a black bear. When in the back country, NEVER EVER SLEEP IN CLOTHES YOU WORE TO COOK IN OR SPILLED FOOD ON. If you spend time in bear country, which could be just walking in your local neighborhood, please view some of the bear videos in the link above. Learn from national experts to recognize bear behavior and tailor your response to the particular bear's behavior, rather than the old school thinking of "fight a black bear, play dead for a Griz;" you may be very glad of it someday, I hope not soon.

Kris Hall



## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

Like floodwaters racing to find weak spots in the levee, the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to find breaches in our efforts to thwart its surge. Unfortunately these holes in the dike are of our own making. They are called obstinacy, and indifference, and misinformation. This malaise helped lead to 3.8 million new positive cases worldwide last week, and 400,000 new cases in the US — nearly twice as many as the week before. And lest we think our smoke-filled skies insulate us from this onslaught, the 55 new cases recorded in Gallatin County represent the highest weekly total since mid-May, back when school was still in session. This hyper-aggressive Delta variant has me once again writing these words in this space: Folks, it will get worse before it gets better.

It will get worse because for three straight nights at the Gallatin County Fair last week the grandstands were filled to capacity with people packed in elbow to respiratory receptor swaying to concert music. It will get worse because Music on Main clogged downtown last Thursday with breathing organisms anxious to reconnect with other breathing organisms. It will get worse because statistics tell us at least half of the aforementioned human beings obstinately refuse to get the vaccine that would make all of this handwringing a moot point. I guess those t-shirts declaring that “Freedom Isn’t Free” are on to something.

On Sunday Jody read from the pastor’s prayer contained in the third chapter of Ephesians which says in part, “I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being.” We will need strength in our inner beings to practice a new kind of evangelism, to spread a different type of good news, to proclaim a public health gospel.

Creator God,

Help us to be patient and untiring  
disciples. Give us the strength to be  
gracious as we explain how the vaccine  
is the key to ending this nightmare.

We give thanks for those voices who have  
recently seen the error of their ways  
and have repented of the indifference  
and misinformation they had been  
disseminating. Give them new strength  
to continue telling the truth as we collectively  
demonstrate the key to controlling this  
dread virus comes from more jabs,  
and Lord we beseech you to answer  
our call to ‘arms.’

Amen



Rockhaven Chapel

# First Presbyterian Church

## August 2021



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship On-line and In-Person	2 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	3 7pm Boy Scouts	4 12:15 pm Worship Team	5 7am Men's Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship On-line and In-Person	9 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	10 7pm Boy Scouts	11 12:15 pm Worship Team	12 7am Men's Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship On-line and In-Person	16 Office Hours 10am-3pm 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	17 7pm Boy Scouts	18 12:15 pm Worship Team	19 7am Men's Bible Study	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship On-line and In-Person 5pm Rockhaven Outdoor Gathering	23 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	24 7pm Boy Scouts	25 12:15 pm Worship Team	26 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Session	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship On-line and In-Person 10:45 Retirement Celebration 5pm Rockhaven Outdoor Gathering	30 4 pm Pandemic Response Team	31 7pm Boy Scouts				

Some of the activities on the calendar are on Zoom; some are in-person; some are hybrid. Please check with the leaders of each group to know how to attend.