

January 2018



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**January 28, after the
10 am service.**

Pot luck lunch! So please bring something to share, before the 10 am service.

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Stewardship Update

As with most churches, First Presbyterian Church operates on the generous gifts of its members and friends. You believe in what we stand for and support the work we do. Thank you.

Each year you are asked to prayerfully consider what God would have you give to our church's ministry and mission. We want to keep you apprised of the anonymous pledges we have received to date. As of January 2 we have received

45 Pledges for \$152,990.00.

To each family that has returned their pledge cards we say, "Thank You." If you have yet to return your card, please consider doing so. Your anticipated giving helps your leaders better anticipate the operating of the church in the new year.

Per Capita

Within the Presbyterian structure we attempt to separate some administrative costs (especially travel cost and meals for our elected representatives) from those of doing mission. One way we do that is by charging an administrative fee for each member of a local church called "Per Capita." The cost is divided out to cover the work of the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery, the three regions of the church beyond our local body. This year that fee will be approximately \$45. It helps our annual budget process if you are able and can give a special gift to the church for that amount. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

More on Stewardship on page 4.

Howdy Everyone.....

...and thank you for all the wonderful Christmas greetings you sent Terri and my way this year. What a joy to celebration with you the birth of our Lord through worship, songs, children's programs, Christmas caroling, special visits to our shut-ins, ... These are great ways to Pass on the Faith to our children, our family, friends, and neighbors.

And now, WELCOME TO 2018!! Hard to believe but here we are and what a great year it is going to be. And why will it be great?

Not necessarily because of a new tax code, even though we hope right decisions are being made to help our community and nation continue its economic prosperity;

Not because there is peace on earth for there are still too many power-hungry leaders pursuing their goals at all costs;

Not because all diseases will be cured in the near future even though we pray for God's healing touch and the end of suffering;

Not because everything will be hunky dory on the home front because issues always seem to arise within church and amongst family and friends;

No, it will be a great year because we have an opportunity to live this year in relationship with a living God who loves us, understands us, and will direct us through the work of Holy Spirit as we follow Jesus our Lord!!

As we enter 2018, we are preparing to discern what God has next for FPC. There will be three steps along the preparatory way this coming year.

1. New Elders. We will elect 8+ new Ruling Elders to guide the ongoing ministry and mission of our church. Even though we do this every year, this year we have a larger number to elect. We are very grateful for those who have served and anticipate the energy and direction God will initiate through this new team and the ongoing Elders who continue to serve.
2. Mission Study Team. Part of the Pastoral Search process is to do a mission study. A team of seven has committed to serving in this capacity on behalf of the church. The work they do and the conclusions they reach will shape the leadership FPC seeks for its future mission and direction. Keep these folks (who will be elected at the January 28th Congregational Meeting) in your prayers.
3. Pastor Nominating Committee. Following the completion of the Mission Study the congregation will elect a PNC. This critical team will publish our Church Information Form, receive resumes (called Pastoral Information Forms – PIFs), filter through and select a handful of candidates to pursue, and select and present a candidate to the congregation.

What a full year this will be. Prayer is the foundation for discerning God's direction and receiving a successful outcome. Please keep the process and those involved central in your prayers.

One final note. Beginning January 7, we will offer Sunday School classes for **children and adults**. We will focus on the Book of Acts and how God transformed the world through the early Christians. Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall and children in various classrooms. CJ and I are structuring discussion questions so that those who participate with their children and/or grandchildren can discuss during the week what we are learning. Should be a great family building time. If you plan to attend, please let the church office know so we can prepare materials for you.

Looking forward to a GREAT 2018 with you.





As I sit here and write my article, all is quiet in the church, A few hours earlier at our youth lock in, it was full of jokes, laughter, maybe scream or two as someone pops out from around a corner and yells boo. I always go into these thinking why am I doing this and what have I gotten myself into, but when I come out on the other side I am like oh yah for the kids and the relationship that they have with each other, myself and the memories. I pray they will look back and remember fondly the church and the love that they felt.

Christian Education took the feed back and the suggestions from the church wide study and would like to introduce a 9 am Sunday school study. Our first study will focus on the book of Acts starting January 7th. Everyone is welcome to join. We understand that choir starts at 9:30, but please do not let that discourage anyone from attending. We can fill you in on what you missed. I am also excited to offer a children/youth study also on the book of Acts. It will run in conjunction with the adult study. Our goal is to give families the opportunities and resources to discuss what was learned in Sunday school. Their will be discussion points to carry over to your dinner table. If you have a child interested in participating in the youth study, please let CJ or Paul know. We would like to ensure enough materials for everyone.

The next fun and exciting event on my agenda is the annual youth ski retreat in Casper. This overnight experience, for 5th graders and up, will start off Friday, January 12 with games, scripture and fellowship with other Presbyterian youth from across the state. We will finish of the over night with a full day of skiing or snowboarding at Hogadon Mountain. For \$50, your child will have the opportunity to ski or snowboard with full equipment rental, learnings geared towards their ability level, and lift ticket. The Presbytery of Wyoming will cover breakfast and lunch on Saturday. If you have a non-skier, like me, they are more then welcome to still join us and hang out in the new lodge with me and spend the day socializing and/or reading. That cost is \$20. Money and registration, rental agreement, and all the other necessary paperwork is also do to me by the 7th. Friends are encouraged to tag along.

If that isn't enough excitement for the month of January, Sunday the 21st, is the youths 3rd annual Chili Cook-off. In addition to the committees, individual members are welcome to throw their ladle into the chili pot. Money raised from the Cook-Off will go towards the youth mission opportunities this summer. There are several in the works. The ROCCS (Recreation, Outdoor, Camping, Conference and Service), a committee of the Presbytery of Wyoming along with Jackson Hole are looking at a mission trip this summer to serve in an area that was damaged in the hurricanes of last fall. If leaving the state is not your youths thing, we will also have the chance to serve again this year with the mobile Vacation Bible School.

During the Chili Cook-off this year, the Christian Education committee will be hosting a silent auction to help raise money for First Presbyterian Church's portion of camp tuition. The past 2 years our church has sent an average of 10 youth from this church to camp. Did you know that the Presbytery of Wyoming challenges each congregation to pay 1/3 of the camping cost to send a child from their church to camp? The silent auction will help with our portion. If you are blessed with a talent that you would like to offer as an item for the silent auction, or you are gifted with the art of organizing a silent auction please contact CJ or a member of the Christian Education committee. In the past items such as, bird houses, services, baked goods, hand crafted items have been donated to help raise money.

As I hear the youth starting to stir, I will wrap up my article. I would like to send you off with a blessing for the New Year. "In this New Year, may you come to know our Lord as a close friend, comforter, Savior and this year be filled with as many blessings as there are stars I the sky."

Happy 2018!



An Almost Year-end Note from Your Budget and Finance Committee

Your Budget and Finance Committee wants to thank you for your generosity to the ministry of First Presbyterian. Transitional years can be difficult on church giving, especially when a long-term pastor and family departs. This year we have also had several unanticipated expenses with our mechanical systems. Yet, in the midst of these things you have remained faithful. Several members have gone over and above with special gifts. One member blessed us with a surprise gift of gold coins one Sunday in the offering at year-end 2016. Wow! When we sell the coins and with the special gifts given, we anticipate ending 2017 close to break-even. Hallelujah and thank you!

As your financial team we not only manage the income and outflow of our finances, we also work to anticipate what may be coming. There are two areas of special concern as we move into the future.

First is the reality that we have an aging building. Last year's repairs of the sump pump, air conditioning system, and boiler are symptomatic of potential future needs. We want to continue building reserves (Rainy Day Funds) so when (not if) repairs need to be made we will have some resources with which to do so.

Second we know additional expenses are coming in our search for a new pastor. Our treasurer, Dennis Heizer, anticipates an additional \$20,000 for the search, find, and move process. This expense will come from our reserves as well.

As you prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give to this ministry during this next year, please keep these three things in mind: Our annual budget, the Rainy Day Reserves, and the pastor search process. All of our tithes and offerings serve the Kingdom of God. All giving beyond annual expenses will go into our reserves for the future. Thank you once again for your support of the ministry of FPC.

The Christmas Gift - by Maureen

**The gifts I'd have beneath your tree,
Aren't those that you can touch or see.
Not wrapped in Christmas tissue gay,
But gifts to bless you every day
The gift of friendship warm and true.
Is one that I would leave for you,
Good health and happiness and cheer.
To keep you smiling through the year.
The gift of peace that comes from God,
With prayer to guide each path you trod,
And when your heart has lost its song,
The gift of hope to cheer you on,
These are the gifts I'd leave for you.**

**Merry Christmas, fro your
Fellowship Committee**

Your Nominating Committee has been working hard this fall to invite a large number of our members to serve on two leadership teams: The Session and the Mission Study Team. To date we have 16 who have said "Yes." We will present these folks at the Congregational Meeting, January 28. There are still two Elder positions to fill. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to fill one of those positions. Serving is a wonderful opportunity for personal growth while serving our Lord. If you feel the nudge by the Spirit, talk with either me, Carla White, or Pastor Paul. Thank you.

Carla White, Chairman



For their service to the church during the month of December the Worship Committee would like to thank these faithful servants...

Worship Leaders: Youth, Shelley Barrett, Jerry Saunders, Paul Hayden, Scott Hollingsworth, Peggy Blaha, Susan Smith

Communion Servers: Tina Anderson, Mike Stoll, Nickie Arney, Rex Arney & Youth

Altar Guild: Carol Maloy, Diane Peterson, Jane Gallagher, Jerilea Phillips, Joyce Groneberg

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Elwyn Maloy, Rick Semino, Chris Smith, John Lundberg, Jim Blaha, Ron Stanker

Sugarland Worship Leaders: Paul Hayden, Jan Leupold, Loren Ruttinger

Head Ushers: Kim Kozel, Jeri Joy, Dennis Schreffler, Tina Anderson, Mike Stoll

Greeters: Youth, Howie & Sandy Fitzpatrick, Keith & Linda Luegge, Jim & Dianna Perry, Clem Family, Dennis & Karen Schreffler.

Girls School Worship: Girl's school Worship team

Communion Preparation: Communion Guild

Coffee Fellowship: PW Circles/ Fellowship/Session

Session Members and Committees

Budget & Finance

Beth Bailey, Teresa Williams, Tina Anderson

Clerk of Session

Carla White

Christian Education

Janis DeVore,

Fellowship

Kim Kozel, Jeri Joy

Membership & Evangelism

Mission & Outreach

Peggy Blaha

Personnel

Properties

Doug Moore

Worship

Loren Ruttinger,

Keep them in your prayers

Bill Davis, Jack Elliott, Margie & Art Elkins, Jim Litle, Dede Shrum, Karen Townsend, Pat Gallagher, Wilma Browne, Darlene McNair, Billie May Means, Charlie

Pastor Paul Hayden's email address:

fpc.paul@actaccess.net

Let's keep current!!

If you have changed your:

Phone

Mailing address

Email

Let us know!! :)

fpc@actaccess.net/ 672-1717



Well our "Lunch Together" program the week of December 4-7 had a resurgence of the "Men's Day" assignment that had long since faded by the wayside. A big thank you to the "crew" of Doug Beagle, Scott Davis, Brooke Holstedt, Doug Moore, Ron Patterson, Jerry Saunders, Jason Szewc, and Tod Windsor for coming together to get that wonderful activity started again. As seasoned volunteers for the Lunch Together program they were willing to band together for the first of (hopefully) many "men's day" assignments to come. Thank you gentlemen for stepping up and hopefully sparking an interest and a calling to other men in our 1st Presbyterian family to volunteer for the next installment of "Men's Day" at Lunch Together. A special thank you to Jason Szewc for cooking the main dish as well as serving.

Faithfully yours, Doug Moore

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . , you did for me." Matthew 25:40

**Next time FPC serves at LT will be
February 5 – 8, 2018**

Blessings for the New Year from the LT Gang:
Tina Anderson 751-4810
Jan Leupold



A challenge!! For every \$20 donated to Camp Story by individual Presbyterian women, the state of Wyoming PW will match that donation. You can give your donation to Kathy Beagle. Make you check to PW and in the memo put Camp Story. The deadline is Spring Gathering 2018!

Another way to give is through Amazon Smiles, when you place an order through Amazon.

January 31 , the Powder River Pizza, [803 North Main](#), will sponsor a special day for the Life Link program of Sheridan County. They will offer this all day, lunch and dinner, with the benefit supporting Lifelink.

Life Link is a non profit agency that provides the medical alert buttons that enable emergency help calls to be made to a central receiving line. Should the call require medical service or merely a call to the neighbor listed as their personal responder, help calls are all responded to for whatever the need might be.

Please support us this day because , “ We care and could save a life.”

Further information about Life Link of Sheridan County can be found at [307-751-9348](#)

Introducing our new officers for 2018:

SHERRY LAUGHTON, Moderator: In July, 2016 Sherry and her husband moved back to Sheridan after 23 years from Vancouver, WA. She worked a combined 28 years as a support person in Special Education before retirement. She enjoys thrifting, recycling pottery into yard art and making beaded jewelry. She is serving on Camp Story Commission, a mission that has been close to her heart for many years.

SHARON BROWNE, Co-Moderator: Sharon has been a member of our church since 1972. She has served as an Elder and is a Stephen Minister. She retired from teaching after 38 years. She loves to do counted-cross stitch, making baskets by coiling together pine needles, and making beaded jewelry. Her oldest son, Jay passed away in 1999 and her husband, Jerry passed away in 2016, both from cancer. Her son Todd and his wife Tomomi live in Sheridan and are expecting their first child in April. Grandma is super excited!

RHEA DIXON, Secretary: Rhea is originally from Miles City, MT where she worked at the Miles City Veterans Administration Hospital. She transferred to the Sheridan VA in Nov. of '85 and retired from there in August of 2015 with 33 1/2 years of service to our Veterans. She was a Pharmacy Technician who did purchasing. She married Gareth Dixon in Sept. of 1987 at Camp Story with Ted Tromble officiating. The Dixons live in Story and enjoy skiing, backpacking, scuba diving and traveling in the U.S. and abroad. They started coming to our church three years ago because of how friendly and welcoming Pastor Doug and all the people were. They also both sing in the choir.

KATHY BEAGLE, Returning Treasurer: Kathy has been part of our church since 2004. She is married to Doug and they have 2 daughters (Emily and Sarah). Kathy has served as an elder, helped with LOGOS, held different offices in PW, and is currently on COM. She also plays the String Bass with several orchestra and local groups.

We would like to thank the outgoing officers for all their hard work and leadership. JOB WELL DONE!!

In closing, as stated by Sherry: " this transition time for FPC is an exciting time with anticipation to see where Presbyterian Women are called as we move forward as a congregation".

Have a Blessed New Year.

Sharon Browne



Outgoing Moderators:
Nancy Cook & Nancy Elliot

Incoming Moderators
Sharon Browne & Sherry Laughton



Treasurer– Kathy Beagle
Secretary– Rhea Dixon



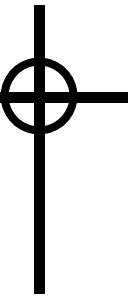
Christmas at Camp Story 2017



Christmas at Camp was a huge success!!! We had about 50 folks come join the wonderment of winter in the peaceful surroundings of camp. Chili, cinnamon rolls, carols and laughter were had by all! God answered our prayers and even helped with a little snowstorm that day to get us into the Christmas spirit! I want to thank everyone who donated food, time, and all those other supporters who show their constant love and support for Camp Story!! It truly would not be the camp it is without all of you!!



Miscellany



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Mike Stadick
- 3- Marilyn Michelena
- 5- Izabel Clem,
- 6- Janet Burtis,
- 11- Rex Arney, Betty Leavitt, Chris Smith
- 12- Noni Paronto
- 13- Phyllis Wilhelm
- 14- Bailey Bard, Danielle Reel
- 15- Alexandra Cameron, Doug Moore
- 16- Ted Knapp, Elwyn Maloy
- 21- Greta Johnson, Linda Pruitt
- 23- Hazel Ford, Rudy Osborne
- 24- Jim Aksamit, Karen Foshier
- 27- Howie Fitzpatrick
- 29- Brenden Clem, Mary Holstedt, Jerry Saunders
- 30- Teresa Williams
- 31- Karen Izzard, Pam Moore.

Happy Anniversary!

- 2- Jim & Peggy Blaha
- 5- Lynn & Galen Tipton
- 19- Brian & Jean Morgan

Your Church Finances

YTD

Income: \$ 297,098.29

Expenses: \$ 311,425.10

Total: -\$ 14,326.81

Thank you for your faithfulness!

Sue 's hours starting Jan. 2, 2018 will be:

8-noon Monday- Friday.

Please make note of this change.

Temporary Change of address:

Ted & Carolyn Meline
227 Ln. 9
Powell, WY 82435

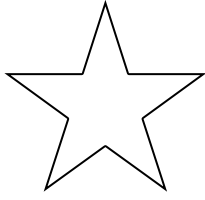
The office will be open during these hours.

8-noon- 1-4; Monday- Friday

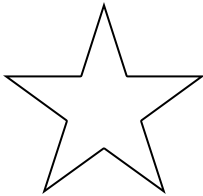
fpc@actaccess.net

Like us on Facebook!

We are working on rebuilding the web page.
Will let you know when it is up and running!!!



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Air Force

- Jason Browne** (Son of Sandy Browne)
- Ryan Laughton** (Grandson of Joe Laughton)
- Howard (Ace) Shrum** (Grandson/Dorothy Shrum)
- Brennan Negrete** (Grandson of Elwyn & Carol Maloy)
- Damon Sevier** (Son of Patty Usher)
- Jeff & Michelle Durand** (Cousin of Phyllis Wilhelm)
- Kai Grimmell** (Nephew of Gloria Stresky)
- Alicia Ferries** (Daughter in law of Jane Buell)
- Bryce Williams** (son of Mike and Teresa Williams)
- Brennan & Sydney Negrete** (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law of Elwyn & Carol Maloy)

National Guard

- Shawn Meline** (Son of Ted & Carolyn)
- Allen Price** (son-in-law of Karen Fosher)
- Carsie Mitchell** (Grandson of Jim & Dianne Perry)

Navy & Navy Reserves

- William Ferries** (Son of Jane Buell)

Army & Army Reserves

- Kyle Jennings**-(Grandson of Bernice Jennings)




Marines

- Zachary Fitzpatrick**-(Son of Howie & Sandy Fitzpatrick)

If you would like to have your loved-one in the military list on this page, or if you would like to have their address printed in the newsletter, or their picture on our picture board, please give the information to Sue in the office.

January 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 pm– LOGOS organizational meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 am– Breakfast study</p> <p>6:30 pm–Lessons & Carols service @ St. Peter’s, all welcome!!</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Session training 9-10:30 am</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10 am– Worship Communion 11:30– Bible study 4:30– Jr. High youth</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 pm– Bells</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Committee meetings</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 am–PW Brunch 3:30– LOGOS</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 am– Breakfast study 10:45– Youth deliver meals 7 pm– choir practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Session reports due in the am.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Jr. High Ski retreat in Casper</p> </div>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8 am– Worship 10 am– Worship 11:30– Bible study 4:30– Jr. High youth 6 pm– Sr. High youth</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>7 pm– Bells</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 pm– Session</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30– LOGOS 9:30– Circles</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 am– Breakfast study 7 pm– choir practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Paul out until the 23rd.</p> </div>
<p>21</p> <p>8 am– Worship 10 am– Worship, Chili Cook-off 11:30– Bible study 1:30– Sugarland 4:30– Jr. High Youth</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 pm– Bells</p> <p>Reports for Annual meeting due.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1-3 3:30– LOGOS</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 am– Breakfast study 7 pm– choir practice</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8 am– Worship 10 am– Worship Annual Congregational meeting & pot luck 11:30– Bible study 4:30– Jr. High youth 6 pm– Sr. High youth</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 pm– Bells</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>3:30– LOGOS</p>			

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here



Falling into Fellowship! This fall has been busy with fun activities for our church members. Just in November our activities were a dessert potluck celebration, after our all church study, the Christmas Tree cutting at the Birkholz cabin, then the trimming of the tree on Sunday the 26th with a pie social right afterwards. December 8th was a trolley ride to view some Christmas lights in Sheridan County. There were 32 aboard plus the driver and Pastor Paul led us in singing Christmas Carols!!!! Several people then rallied around the table at Perkins for pie and hot chocolate! There are many more events being planned for:

January. There will be a chili cook off with silent auction January 21, after 10 o'clock service.

Bar J Wranglers at the Wyo Theater on January 27 at 7:30 p.m. The Wyo Theater has graciously set aside 40 seats with a special price of 28.00 per person for tickets to see these amazing vocalists, all the way from Jackson Hole Wyoming!

Finally on January 28th our annual Congregational meeting with a potluck afterwards will finish off our list for January.

It is a true blessing to be a part of this congregation and so much fun to plan exciting fellowship activities. It is a wonderful time to get to know others in the congregation and share some "good clean fun".

We are looking for new, fresh ideas and people to join our little planning group!! If you have questions about times and planning sessions, please contact Jeri Joy at 752-4553 or Kim Koziel at 425-361-5430. Or you can find us after church service. Merry Christmas from our hearts to yours!