

“Child of God” Youth Program

Come listen to our children share an account of “the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham,” Mathew 1:1. The program will be presented during the December 8th, 10:30 worship service.



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**Congregational Meeting
December 8th following the
10:30 am worship service.
Purpose of the meeting is to
elect elders.**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Childcare provided at both services.

Dear Ones,

I'm switching the months around, I know. I wrote about Advent and the arrival of the new church year at the beginning of this month, and now, at the end of it, even with Advent approaching, I am going to write about giving thanks. The luxury of this newsletter coming out before the Thanksgiving holiday allows such and the importance of gratitude in our lives demands it.

At Logos last night (11/24), the table I sat at discussed that for which we are grateful. This is a common practice at many Thanksgiving gatherings. The last time my family gathered altogether – my parents, brothers, spouses, and their daughters – we, too, shared that for which we were grateful. At that gathering, 3 years ago, I gave thanks that my call to congregational ministry had culminated with a call to serve First Presbyterian Church in Mountain View, Wyoming. This Thanksgiving, I will express my gratitude for God's call to serve here, alongside all of you, sharing together in ministry in the terrific town of Sheridan.

I hope all of you will also take time this Thursday to practice gratitude because our expression of thanksgiving in our lives is an important spiritual practice. As Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk and mystic, noted, "To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything [God] has given us – and [God] has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of [God's] love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense grace from [God]. Gratitude, therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God."

Merton's observation that gratitude is the practice of recognizing God's love is, first and foremost, an insight that makes the practice worth undertaking. We should always be seeking glimpses of God in the world around us and giving thanks regularly helps open our eyes to such wonder. But I am especially struck by his recognition that gratitude "is never unresponsive" and "is constantly awakening." Gratitude is not only useful for helping us to know God's goodness but also for positioning ourselves to respond to the places in our world where thanks is difficult to come by. In that way, to be grateful is to live in a posture that allows us to respond to hurt and pain around us. Gratitude should not remove us from the suffering of the world but help us to see that because God's goodness and love are infused throughout God's creation, we can reveal that love to others by reaching out, seeking justice, and offering mercy. In our practice of giving thanks, we position ourselves to best respond to the needs of the world because we position ourselves to best know the love of God.

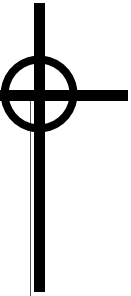
As we gather around our various tables with people who are family, friends, and even strangers this week, remember that Jesus gathered with all sorts of people to also eat at the table. And when he did so, Jesus revealed the love of God to them and strengthened them to go into the world to share that love.

Give thanks. Be strengthened. Share love.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34, CEB)

Sincerely and with immense gratitude for each you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Karl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.



Here we are in the Advent season. It seems like the older I get, the faster time moves. It seems just like yesterday, I was preparing for confirmation and graduation and now we are getting ready for Christmas. You know making lists and checking them twice.

I LOVE making lists. I make lists for; groceries, to do, chores, gifts, birthdays, wish list, prayer lists, scripture lists, youth group planning, on and on and on. I even have a yellow notebook at home that is labeled My Big Book of Lists. Some may say I have a problem. There is just something about making a list that is therapeutic to me. They also help in making sure I don't forget anything or anyone. I feel organized and I know what I am doing. That feeling of crossing an item off my list gives me a sense of accomplishment, if nothing else goes right today, I got something done. Working on creating my lists things just flow.

For me, when I make a list it makes me take a moment to reflect/think about my list. I usually sit down at my table, or my desk, with a pen, paper (yes, old school) with something to drink and reflect on why am I making this list. It is something I have to be present for. When life interrupts my list making, I can come back and start working again. I may have forgotten exactly what I was writing, but after a moment it comes back and I may have new ideas or things I hadn't thought about to add.

This time of year it is important to take a moment to reflect and step back from the chaos of life. I recommend sitting down and make a list of the reasons why you are excited about the season, what it means to you, memories, things you want to do, etc and post it in a place that you will look at it at least daily. You have a that visual, concrete reminder of what this time of year is all about. I am starting my list of things I want to do. When I look at the list, I think about what is keeping me from it and is it really that important? For example, one my list is making cookies with the kids to send to Brenden. In my mind I have to have a clean house, but when I look at the list, I stop and think would rather have a clean house or make cookies with the kids? (and after making cookies with Ottis I will need to clean anyways.) Everything will get done, but it may take time and I will still get to cross something off one thing of my list.

So in keeping with my love of lists here are the happenings this month that I want to share!

December 5 - Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall!!! There are a couple of time slots still available! Here is a great way to cross off several things on your list. Like, being a hero, donate to someone in need, burn extra calories (did you know you burn like 800 calories donating blood?) help a family, get your cholesterol and iron checked, and get a cookie!

December 8 - Youth Christmas program! Join the youth at the 10:30 service as they share the talents and a story with you.

December 15- The last Sunday for children's Sunday school and Logos until January 5.

December 18- The last Youth Group until January 8th.

December 27-28 Youth Lock In- I will be hosting a youth lock in for students 6-12th grade on Friday

December 27-28. Please watch email, weekly updates, and bulletins for more information.

Thank you to all that have supported the various youth activities over the past year!

Merry Christmas from the Clems to you!

Give A Poinsettia In Memory or In Honor of a Loved One

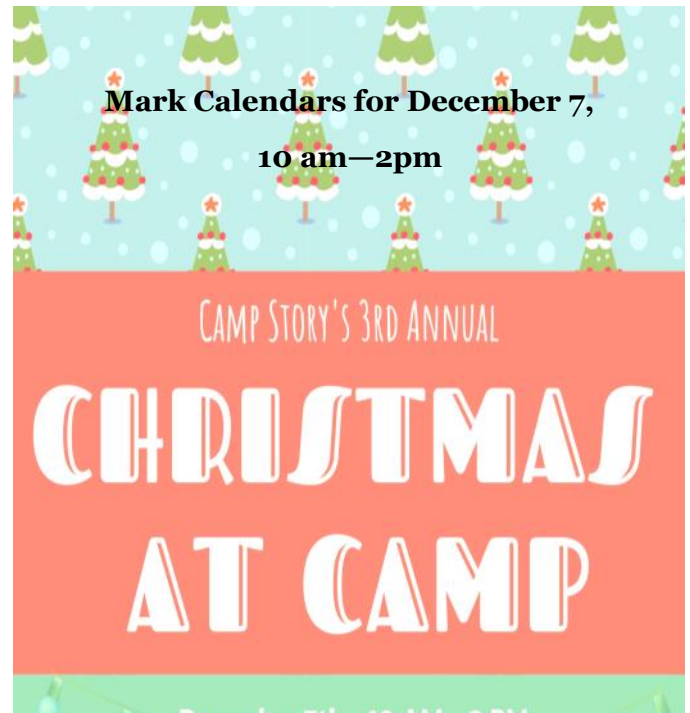
Poinsettias adorn our church sanctuary during the Christmas Season. There will be forms to complete so we can recognize those you are remembering and honoring in the sharing of a poinsettia. The form and the poinsettia can be dropped off at the church office any time during the week of December 9—13th but no later than December 13th.



Bell Ringers Needed

Every year, First Presbyterian puts together a Bell Ringing Team to support the efforts of the Salvation Army. Our team will be ringing bells Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Please consider joining the team !



Mark Your Calendar

The Christmas Cantata called *Sing a Song of Christmas* is schedule for December 15 at the 10:30 am service.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this Musical Celebration of the Christmas Story.





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

Worship Leaders: Dave Engels, Karen Schreffler, Marion Reed, Susan Smith, Shelley Cundiff, Teresa Williams

Flower Guild: Carol Maloy, Jane Gallagher, Jerilea Phillips, Myrna Saunders

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Elwyn Maloy, Rick Semino, Chris Smith, Jim Blaha, Loren Ruttinger, Craig Clem

Elmcroft Worship Leaders: Pastor Karl & Jan Leupold

Head Ushers: Doug Beagle, Howie Fitzpatrick

Greeters: Jay, Maggie & Baylor Bergstrom; Ryan, Rachel & Prakash Landis; Brian & Jean Morgan; and Jeff, Denise & Georgia Mueller

Communion Preparation: Denise Mueller, Kurt & Heidi Smith

Coffee Fellowship: Dianna Perry, Miriam Nance, Rene Botten

Meal Deliveries: Marion & Annette Reed, Carla White, Ron Patterson, Tina Anderson, Denise Mueller, Jerilea Phillips, Jody Roberts

Coffee Sponsors: Gary & Sherry Laughton, Jim & Peggy Blaha, Doug & Kathy Beagle, Dick & Sandy Birkholz

Session Members and Committees

Budget & Finance

Beth Bailey, Carol Davis, Kim Wells

Clerk of Session

Susan Smith

Communication & Tech

Tod Windsor, Chris Smith

Christian Education

Judy Garber, Shelley Barrett

Fellowship

Jeri Joy, Kathy Lundberg

Membership & Evangelism

Tina Anderson, Jean Morgan

Mission & Outreach

Doug Beagle, Jerilea Phillips

Personnel

Teresa Williams, Beth Lenz

Properties

Doug Moore, Howie Fitzpatrick, Brett Burtis

Worship

Linnet McGoodwin, Cheryl Kelsey

Keep them in your prayers

Jack Elliott, Margie Elkins, Jim & Margaret Litle, Karen Townsend, Darlene McNair, Kathleen Shafer, Mary Holstedt, Dorothea Doerr, Gloria Stresky, Roy Davis, Jeanette Trohkimoinen, Annette Reed, Marion Sept, Julie Bugher, Dick Birkholz

Let's keep current!!

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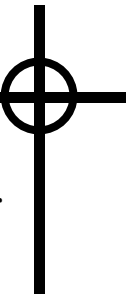
Phone

Mailing address

Email

Please let us know.

fpc@actaccess.net 672-1717



Presbyterian Women (PW)

OUR PURPOSE:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves:

- *To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study**
- *To support the mission of the church worldwide**
- *To work for justice and peace, and**
- *To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the Promise of God’s Kingdom.**

Important DATES TO REMEMBER:

All women in the congregation are invited.

December 4, Noon, PW Luncheon meeting in Fellowship Hall (CT meets in Parlor at 9:00)

Remember to wear your favorite Christmas sweater.

Program- Sheridan High School Spectrum Christmas Presentation

*** PW MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INVITE GUESTS TO THIS SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP ***

Presentation- Woman of the Year

Installation- New Coordinating Team

We are pleased to present the new slate of Sheridan Presbyterian Women officers: Jeri Joy, Moderator, Rhea Cooksey-Dixon, Co-Moderator, Gloria Dierking, Secretary Hannah Shannon, Treasurer.

Continued on next column.....

We will immediately adjourn for a yearly group picture to be taken by Carla White to add to our picture wall. PW members please plan to stay to be included in the picture.

December 11, Packing bags for **Food Group** at office on Broadway next to Sheridan Commercial. If you can help please call Nancy Elliott.

December 18, Wednesday Circle Meetings and Bible Study*

Circle 1: 10:00 am in the Parlor

Circle 2: 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall-

Circle 3: Noon at Sherry Laughton’s home—Please RSVP

*2019-2020 PW/Horizon’s Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

2020 ACTIVITIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

January 8, 10:00 am Brunch Meeting. The program will be presented by Kathy Lundberg moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery and Jeri Joy will report on her USA Mission Experience to the Finger Lakes of New York entitled “Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women”.

January 15, Circle Meetings and Bible Study

Blood Drive—December 5th

7:00 am to 10:15 am

Be a good Samaritan.

Give the gift of life this Christmas, donate blood.



The Food Group

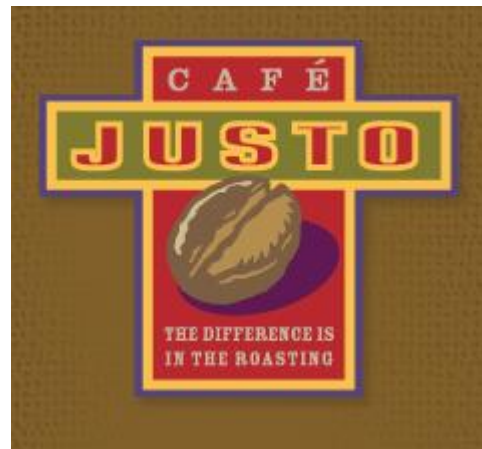
Are you looking for a rewarding mission project that only commits you to one day a month? On the second Wednesday of each month volunteers meet at the Food Group building 305 Broadway Street at 10 AM to fill bags with food that will help feed a child over the weekend. Then the food is transported to the school. If you are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile cause, contact Kathy Beagle or Nancy Elliott.



We hope to see you

Wednesday, December 11 at 10 AM

**at the Food Group Building at 305 Broadway
next to Sheridan Commercial.**



A reminder for the holidays!

Mission Committee can special order coffee for you and we have gift certificates available.

Pastor Karl's email:

fpc.karl@actaccess.net



Nursery Supervisor and Assistant

Sunday mornings– 8:30-11:30

Contact the church office for more information
and an application.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Jacob Botten, Mary Hutton
3- John Will
4- Laurie Paronto, Mia Shifrar
7- Kurtis Steinhorst
8- Shelley Cundiff, Judy Garber, Leonard Hurst
9- Myrna Saunders, Ron Spahn, Hannah Will
10- Jo Sholey, Kim Wells
12- Karen Schreffler
13- Sharon Basse, Brandon Brettin
14- Chris McDowell
15- Graeme Ford
16- Wally Palm
17- Brian Morgen, Nathan Motsick
18- Bill Cunningham, Chad Rieger, Carla White
19- Marilyn Koester
21- David Hackert, Rachel Heuerman
22- Dorothy Johnson, Rick Semino
23- Lois Trujillo
28- Sherry Laughton
29- Roy Davis
30- Brooke Holstedt
31- Zachary Fitzpatrick, Avery Quarterman
29- Jack Elliott, Jim Douglas



Happy Anniversary!

- 3- John Jackson & Su Rappleye-
Jackson
19- Ron & Nancy Stanker
22- Jack & Nancy Elliott
27- Bill & Lynn Porter
27- Bob & Marilyn Koester
30- Mike & Cheryl Madden

Be sure and visit the church website!

sheridanfpc.church



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...*



Bring non-perishable food items to church on the **3rd Sunday** of each month and help FPC support your local Salvation Army.

Per Capita for 2019 is: \$44.27

The office will be open during these hours.

8-noon- Monday- Friday

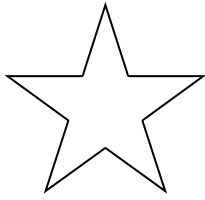
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fpc@actaccess.net

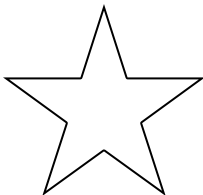
Like us on Facebook!

Church web site

Sheridanfpc.church



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Air Force

Jason Browne (Son of Sandy Browne)

Ryan Laughton (Son of Gary & Sherry Laughton, Grandson of Joe Laughton)

Howard (Ace) Shrum (Grandson of Dorothy Shrum)

Damon Sevier (Son of Patty Usher)

Kai Grimmell (Nephew of Gloria Stresky)

Bryce Williams (Son of Mike and Teresa Williams)

Brennan & Sydney Negrete (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law of Elwyn & Carol Maloy)

Megan Price (Granddaughter of Karen Foshier)

Captain Rory Montgomery (Great Nephew of Harvey & Linda Johnson)

Brandon Fitzpatrick-(Son of Howie & Sandy Fitzpatrick)

National Guard

Allen Price (Son-in-law of Karen Foshier)

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)

Ethan & Johnna Hall (Grandson & granddaughter –in-law of Elwyn & Carol Maloy)

Jacob Botten (Son of Jon and Rene Botten)

Chance Quarterman (Son of Chad & Amber Quarterman)

Marines

Zachary Fitzpatrick-(Son of Howie & Sandy Fitzpatrick)

If you would like to have your loved-one in the military listed 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 the office.

December 2019

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 8 am– Worship/ Communion 9-10-Youth Sunday School 10-10:30– Fellowship 10:30– Worship– Communion 11:30 Tech Committee 3 pm– LOGOS</p>	<p>2 7 pm–Advent Study at PR Pizza 7 pm–Bells</p>	<p>3 11:30-am CE Committee</p>	<p>4 12:00 Noon PW Luncheon 6:30 pm Dayton/ Ranchester Advent Study 6:30-8:00 pm Youth Group 7 PM Advent Study Powder Horn</p>	<p>5 6:30 am- Breakfast study 6:30 am-Advent Study at church 9:45 am-Bible Study 11:00 am-Properties 7 pm–Choir 7 pm-Advent Study at Heimback’s</p>	<p>6 6:00 pm- Trolley Ride 6:00-pm Advent Study Young Adult Group</p>	<p>7 10:00 am– 2:00 pm Christmas at Camp</p>
<p>8 8 am– Worship/ Communion 9-10-Youth Sunday School 10-10:30– Fellowship 10:30– Worship Congregational Meeting After Service 3 pm– LOGOS</p>	<p>9 7 pm–Bells 7 pm-Advent Study at PR Pizza</p>	<p>10 11:30 am-Personnel 4:00 pm-Worship 4:30 pm-Fellowship 5:15 pm-Mission & Outreach 5:30 pm-Budget, Finance & Stewardship</p>	<p>11 10:30 am– Membership Meeting 6:30 pm-Dayton/ Ranchester Advent Study 6:30-8:00 pm- Youth Group 7 pm-Advent Study Powder Horn</p>	<p>12 6:30 am-Advent Study 6:30 am- Breakfast study 9:45 am-Bible Study 7 pm–Choir 7 pm-Advent Study at Heimback’s</p>	<p>13 6:00 pm- Advent Study Young Adult Group</p>	<p>14 9:00 am–1:00 pm-FPC Bell Ringing for Salvation Army 3:00 pm–5:00 pm- Gingerbread House Decorating</p>
<p>15 8 am– Worship/ Communion 9-10-Youth Sunday School 10-10:30– Fellowship 10:30– Worship 1:30– Elmcroft 3 pm– LOGOS</p>	<p>16 7 pm–Bells 7 pm –Advent Study at PR Pizza</p>	<p>17 7:00 pm-Session</p>	<p>18 9:30-noon Circles meet 6:30 pm-Dayton/ Ranchester Advent Study 6:30-8:00 pm- Youth Group 7 pm-Advent Study Powder Horn</p>	<p>19 6:30 am- Breakfast study 9:45 am -Bible Study 7 pm– Choir 7 pm-Advent Study at Heimback’s</p>	<p>20 6:00 pm- Advent Study Young Adult Group</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8 am– Worship/ Communion 10-10:30– Fellowship 10:30– Worship</p>	<p>23 </p>	<p>24 5 pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 7 pm–Choir</p>	<p>27 Youth Group Lock In 7 PM– 7 AM ←————→</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8 am– Worship/ Communion 10-10:30– Fellowship 10:30– Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year’s Eve</p>				

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here



CAMP STORY'S 3RD ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
AT CAMP

December 7th • 10 AM - 2 PM
Camp Story
11 Presbyterian Rd. Story, WY

This is a free family friendly event! Join us for chili and cinnamon rolls, crafts, carols, door prizes and more!

