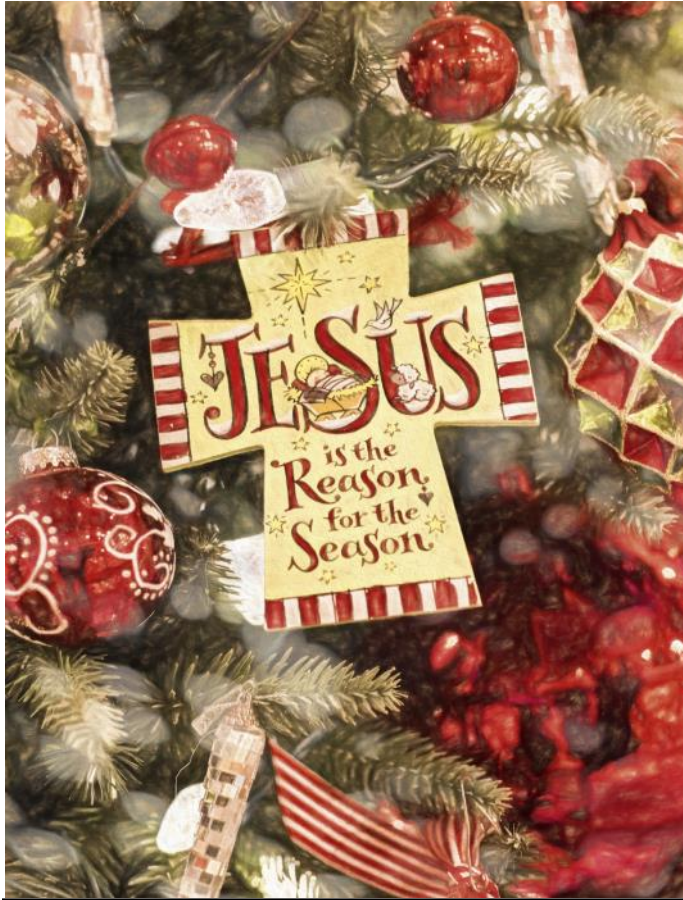




First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

December 2020



INSIDE:

Pastor Karl	2
Notes from CJ.....	3
Thank Yous.....	4
Worship.....	5
PW.....	6
Miscellany.....	7
Mission.....	8
Youth.....	9
Military.....	10
Calendar.....	11

December Details

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

There will be 3 Candlelight Christmas Eve services at First Presbyterian Church this year. Services will be held at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

A Christmas Eve service will also be prerecorded and available for viewing and broadcasting in your own home on the YouTube channel.

Christmas Youth Program

“The Very Best Gift of All” is a play based on a group of youth discussing who brought the best gift of all to the birth of Jesus. The play will be prerecorded and shared during the Sunday morning worship services December 20th.

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

Poinsettias adorn our church sanctuary during the Christmas season. There is a form to complete so we can recognize those you are remembering and honoring in the sharing of a poinsettia. The form and the poinsettia should be dropped off at the church office by noon on Tuesday, December 15th.

Angel Tree Donations

The Mission and Outreach Committee has designated all monetary Angel Tree donations to the Christmas Wish campaign this year. Please make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note “Christmas Wish” on the memo line of your check. Donations need to be at the church by December 8th.

Dear Ones,

There is a prayer mantra stemming from the Eastern Orthodox church and known simply as the “the Jesus Prayer” that goes like this: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” It is helpful in centering one’s life toward Jesus and the mercy of God that is known in him. During the Advent season, we are waiting for the one who has come and who also will come reigning in hope, peace, joy, and love. A prayer such as this can be a useful tool for keeping our focus on him.

You might be wondering, what does he mean by that?

Well, it is easy to lose focus. It is especially easy in the era of personalized advertising and hyper-partisan politics when everything is meant to arouse an instant reaction or provide for our desires with little or no pause. (Hello, Amazon two-day shipping.) Our minds can be busied with the latest political divisions raging or the allure of that which is advertised to us each day when we turn on the television, listen to the radio, or sign in to whatever our preferred social media platform is. We are distracted from the one who seeks our attention even as we wait for him and his promised coming. We are prone to slipping into malice and hatred.

Does this mean turn off all our technology? No. Distractions happen as we find ourselves worked up at the grocery store at a cashier or at our jobs with a co-worker, too. We cannot completely avoid the things that distract us from Christ, but we can recognize that rather than allowing the bad in all of the time we should seek to hold onto the good. We can allow the bad to float by us rather than grabbing on to it.

I find the Jesus Prayer is helpful for holding onto the good. It orients me toward Christ’s mercy. It reminds me of the gift of grace that comes in this season even when that grace is not due me, a sinner. And it is an easy prayer to pray. At any moment, this prayer can be on my lips. I can take it wherever I go. When a Facebook post riles me up, I can pray, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” When I’m waiting at a green light behind someone on their cell phone, I can pray, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” When I’m drawn to that which is of little consequence, I can pray, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” There is a much bigger picture to see. There is God among us, Emmanuel. There is a story of love breaking into our world and into our hearts. Whether it be the Jesus Prayer or something else, I hope you have a way of reminding yourself of that each day.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl



We live in a society where we can get things instantly. For good or bad, we can get the news as it is happening. We can communicate by email or text because it is faster. We video/audio call without thought. Television shows at our fingers tips. We can get new music the moment it is released. We have the world at our fingertips.

What does it say about our society that we can get everything instantly? Have we lost the skill to wait? I think about when I ask Ottis to wait while I finish up something before I give him my attention. He keeps peppering me with, “Are you done yet?” “Mom, what are you doing now?” “Can I have a cookie?” “Is my time up yet?” Have we turned into a society of 6 years waiting for our parents’ attention?

We are entering into the season of waiting, Advent. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus. How do we wait? Two thousand years ago, they did not have the privilege of knowing that Jesus’ birthday is in x number of days. They had to continue with their daily lives living by the teachings of the scriptures. They had to watch for the signs of the coming. They didn’t whip out the latest phone and Goggle “signs of the coming Lord” or “how many days until the Messiah is born.” They had to be patient, read the scriptures, and apply them to their lives.

How are you waiting? We have a wonderful Advent study available for you to do. In the Advent study, there are scripture passages to read; prayers to pray; and areas to reflect. There are opportunities in the church and the community to serve - ringing bells, monetary donations, ushering. There are Bible stories to share with the young people in your life. Use these opportunities to reflect on the experiences as expressions of love and honor, not as something you do at Christmas.

Our waiting and preparation were not just for December 24th when Jesus made his humble appearance into the world of man, but it is also a lesson in continued practice in waiting. Jesus will come again as promised. We do not know the time nor hour, but we have to live with purpose and conviction that all we do is done in the teachings He left for us. We do not lose focus in our instant world because the best gifts are worth the wait.

Merry Christmas friends,



Card of Thanks

Mary Holstedt wishes to express her thanks to everyone in the congregation for the many cards, phone calls and acts of kindness shown her during her recent hospital stay!

Thank You from Tod Windsor

It's Great to Be 90!

Many thanks to our Presbyterian friends who sent birthday greetings. I'll do my best this year to live up to all the good wishes.
Tod Windsor

Thank you to FPC's Highway Clean Up Crew

A special thank you to those who helped do highway cleanup this fall:

Dick and Sandy Birkholz

Dave and Becky Motsick

Scott Davis and Mary Ludemann

Gary and Jeri Joy

Dave and Catherine Engels

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

For those of you wishing to join FPC's Bell Ringing team, contact Dave Engels at 307-751-2009. Volunteers will be ringing for two hours at eight different sites Saturday, December 5th from 1:00—5:00 PM



Let's keep current!!

If you have changed your:

Phone

Mailing address

Email

Please let us know.

fpc@actaccess.net 672-1717

Free Office Equipment

Anyone in need of a Toshiba Satellite 12" laptop with a portable HP Office Jet 150 Mobile All-in-One Printer? The printer has an extra package of ink with it.

Please call the church office if you are interested.

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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Arianna Thurow

Flower Guild: Carol Maloy, Georgia Mueller, Jerilea Phillips, Becky Motsick, Jane Gallagher

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, Rick Semino, Chris Smith, CJ Clem, Ryan Landis, Craig Clem

Coffee Sponsors: Thank you to all who have been purchasing coffee during the month.

Meal Deliveries and Lunch Together: Denise Mueller, Jeri Joy, Becky Motsick, Brian Bainter, Doug and Kathy Beagle, Pastor Karl, Kurt Smith, Kim Wells, Beth Bailey, Tina Anderson, Dick and Sandy Birkholz, Jan Leupold, Jody Roberts, Jerilea Phillips, and Doug Moore for serving through the COVID period.



**Keep them in your
prayers**

Jack Elliott, Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, Darlene McNair, Kathleen Shafer, Mary Holstedt, Dorothea Doerr, Roy Davis, Julie Bugher, Karen Fosher, Jerry Saunders, Sig Palm, Carla White, Jean Morgen, Leonard Hurst, and the family of Gloria Stresky.

Gloria Stresky Memorial

Our prayers go out to the family of Gloria Stresky who passed away, Friday, November 27. Gloria's family has requested memorials be sent to First Presbyterian Church in Gloria's memory.



Session Members and Committees

Budget & Finance

Carol Davis, Scott Davis

Clerk of Session

Susan Smith

Christian Education

Shelley Barrett, Kurt Smith

Fellowship

Kathy Lundberg, Mitzi Knapp, Jason Szewc

Membership & Evangelism

Jean Morgan, Nancy Cook

Mission & Outreach

Doug Beagle, Jerilea Phillips, Loren Ruttinger

Personnel

Teresa Williams, Beth Lenz, Doug Moore, Nancy Cook

Properties

Doug Moore, Howie Fitzpatrick

Worship

Cheryl Kelsey, Kim Wells, John Jackson

Tech

Tod Windsor, Chris Smith



December Blessings from Presbyterian Women!!

We are gearing up (getting ready for, getting excited about, planning) for our favorite time of the year! During this interesting/crazy year of **2020**, I'm sure we have found many **blessings!!!** It may **feel** different, but we have learned some things! For instance....the sun still comes out every day. And God is with us, no matter what. We've all had time to re-wire our way of thinking understanding that all of the things we knew before COVID can be tweaked in one way or the other because God has given us strength and grace to help us adjust. Lots of people are feeling lonely and isolated, yet God says **HE** will always be with us; Emmanuel, God with us. This is no accident. On purpose, He created us. On purpose, He gave His only Son for us. On purpose, He loves us. God says, "Fear not." God asks us for faith, not fear. Faith in him as LORD over all is our strength that overcomes all fear, both real and imagined - "For I am with you" – no matter the situation, as long as we remain, "in faith" we have nothing to fear for God is with us and God is protecting us.

This month there will be not be any particular PW woman article, but a chance to say how unique and beautiful you all are. Rhea and I (Jeri) have enjoyed sharing the responsibilities of Co-moderating for our little Sheridan group. We look forward to 2021, because we'll have the chance to learn more and grow closer together. We'll have another chance to be all God has called us to be. Some people say they aren't interested in being part of the group, because they think in order to do this, you must wash

dishes or serve in some great capacity that you don't feel called to serve in. Truly, being a part of this group of ladies is being friends with one another. Cost? A kind word, a hug (watch out when COVID is over, you're all going to be swooped on!!!) and a chance to make some great memories with other women who need each other.

We all have issues and we all need each other for so many ways of support. Please consider becoming a part of our sweet ladies group!!! If you have **ANY** questions about Presbyterian Women or regarding your involvement in Presbyterian Women, please don't hesitate to contact Jeri Joy, Co-Moderator, Rhea Cooksey-Dixon, Co-Moderator, Gloria Dierking, Secretary or Hannah Shannon, Treasurer. We look forward to having ALL women (as they are able) to join us at our events. Please watch your emails and newsletters for updates on upcoming PW events.

Important dates to remember:
August 5-8, 2021. Churchwide Gathering, St. Louis, Missouri.



Romans 15:13 – "May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may **overflow with Hope** by the Power of the Holy Spirit."

The Presbyterian Women of the USA board will be having a zoom meeting in the first part of December to decide the fate of our next Churchwide gathering, as stated above. **Please keep this in your prayers, it's so important that we get to have it!!!**

May God's perfect will be done and may He help us all through it!



Part-time Maintenance

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a part-time maintenance position. The qualified person will be responsible, but not limited to: maintaining the safety of the church grounds and buildings, outside lawn and maintenance, coordinating any repairs/servicing with outside companies, minor repairs, and special projects. Expected pay is \$15/hour for up to 20 hours/week. For a full job description or to apply, please contact Juanita in the church office.

CONTINUE IN OUR GIVING

This is our time to continue our ministry in a full and vibrant manner. We will continue to support our partners in mission and our staff will continue to minister. You can give your offering online via the following link

<https://sheridanfpc.church/give/>

or by

mailing a check to: First Presbyterian Church, 2121 Colonial Dr., Sheridan, WY 82801.

Pastor Karl's email:
fpc.karl@actaccess.net



“The Very Best Gift of All” is the Christmas play the youth will be sharing via video during all the Sunday morning worship services on December 20th.

The office will be open during these hours.

8-noon- Monday– Friday

Please call 672-1717 to leave a message.

fpc@actaccess.net

Like us on Facebook!

Church web site

Sheridanfpc.church

2020 Per Capita: \$44.95 per member

Per capita contributions are required of churches by our higher councils (Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly) and connect us to the wider work of the church by supporting Presbyterian efforts at regional, national, and international levels. Please consider making this contribution in addition to your annual giving as a sign of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

Mission Committee

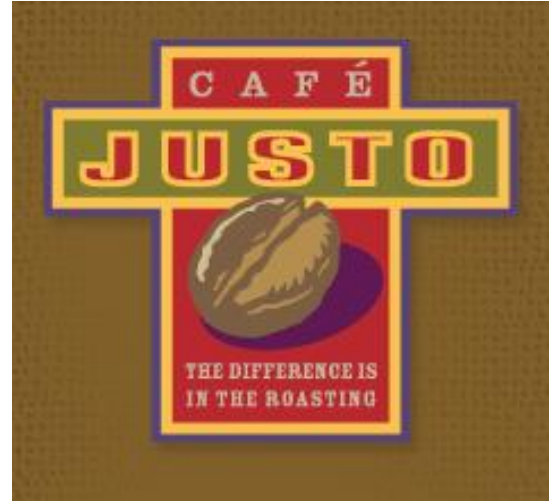
The Mission and Outreach Committee has chosen two recipients for the Angel Tree this year. The Christmas Wish campaign being sponsored by Sheridan Media covers all phases of living expenses as well as Christmas gifts for those in need in our community. The other entity is once again students in need in School District 1. Please send or deliver your donations to the church and designate that it is for the Angel Tree project. Donations need to be into the church by Tuesday, December 8th.

Other issues discussed this month addressed the upcoming budget for the new year. As you have seen in previous news articles, the committee addresses the needs of our local community and global needs. For example, the committee discussed funding the cost of meals during our church's soup kitchen weeks. Likewise, we will continue to support the community needs as this pandemic progresses.

As the Christmas season approaches, it is the committee's wish that we count the many blessings our Lord has given us in these trying times. Let us reflect during this holiday season on the words in Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Nancy Elliott

Mission Committee



Order Just Coffee Online

Running low on coffee? You can order Just Coffee online at www.Justcoffee.org. Just go to their home page and scroll down to the Buy Coffee button. There are 2 Just Coffee sellers out there so make sure you see their logo. Let's continue to support this important mission and make our home stay enjoyable at the same time, because a good cup of coffee is one of life's little pleasures.

Thank You!



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1—Jacob Botten, Mary Hutton
 3—John Will
 4—Laurie Paronto, Mia Shifrar
 6—Amy LeDoux
 7—Roger Porter, Kurtis Steinhorst
 8—Shelley Barret, Judy Garber, Leonard Hurst
 9—Myrna Saunders, Ron Spahn, Hannah Will
 10—Jo Sholey, Kim Wells
 12—Karen Schreffler
 13—Sharon Basse
 15—Graeme Ford
 16—Wally Palm
 17—Brian Morgen, Nathan Motsick
 18—Bill Cunningham, Carla White, Chad Rieger
 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



Youth Happenings!

CJ's Time With the Children is on First Presbyterian's YouTube channel every Friday.

Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the youth room. Masks are required. Youth Group will not meet on December 23rd and 30th.

Confirmation Class meets at 12:30 pm each Sunday. There will be no Confirmation on Sunday, December 20th and 27th.

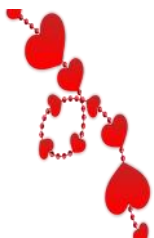
LOGOS@Home information is emailed each week. LOGOS introduces, reinforces, and strengthens faith development.

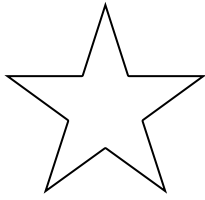
Fun for the whole family!

Happy Anniversary!

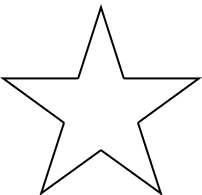
December

3—John Jackson & Susan Rappleye-Jackson
 22—Jack & Nancy Elliott
 27—Bill & Lynn Porter
 27—Bob & Marilyn Koester
 30—Mike & Cheryl Madden





**P
r
a
y
e
r
o
f
o
u
r
M
i
l
i
t
a
r
y**



Air Force

Jason Browne (Son of Sandy and Rick Browne)

Ryan Laughton (Son of Gary & Sherry Laughton)

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, Grandson of Jim & Margaret Litle)

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

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

Jacob Botten (Son of Jon and Rene Botten, Grandson of Joan Botten)

Chance Quarterman (Son of Chad & Amber Quarterman)

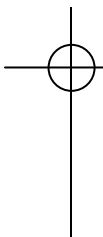
Marines

Zachary Fitzpatrick (Son of Howie & Sandy Fitzpatrick, Grandson of Jim & Margaret Litle)

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 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:30 am PW 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom	3 7:00 am Bible Study via Zoom 11:00 am Properties Committee 7 pm Choir	4	5 Bell Ringing 1—5 pm for Salvation Army
6 8:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:00 am Worship w/ Communion 12:30 pm Confirmation	7	8 <i>Angel Tree Donation Deadline</i> 4:00 pm Fellowship 5:00 pm Mission 6:00 pm Budget & Finance	9 10:00 am Membership 12:00 pm CE 4:00 pm Worship 7:00 Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom	10 7:00 am Bible Study via Zoom 7 pm Choir	11	12
13 8:00 am Worship Service 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Confirmation	14	15 <i>Last day to bring poinsettias to the church</i> 7:00 pm Session	16 9:30 am Circle 2 10:00 am Circle 1 11:30 Circle 3 7:00 Youth Group 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom	17 7:00 am Bible Study via Zoom	18	19
20 8:00 am Worship Service 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Worship No Confirmation this day	21	22	23  No Youth Group this day	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26
27 8:00 am Worship Service 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Worship No Confirmation this day	28	29	30 No Youth Group this day	31 New Year's Eve		

 *First Presbyterian Church*
2121 Colonial Drive

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

