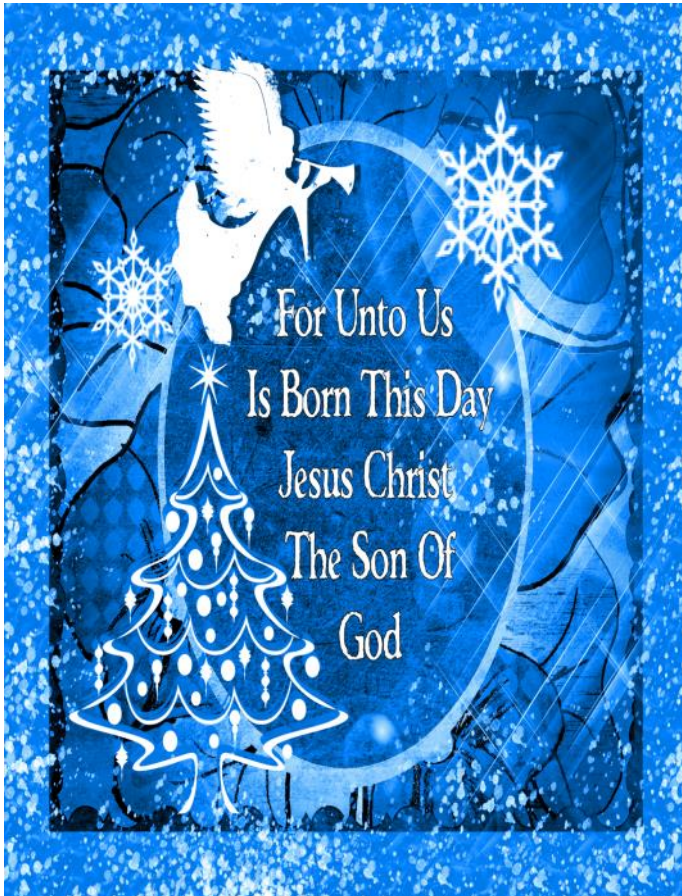




First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

December 2021



INSIDE:

Pastor Karl	2
Notes from CJ.....	3
PW.....	4-5
Lunch Together.....	6
Youth.....	7
Worship.....	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	9
Military.....	10
Calendar.....	11

December Advent & Christmas Schedule at FPC

Share a poinsettia this Christmas in memory or in honor of a loved one. The church will have the poinsettias delivered to the church and placed in the sanctuary for you. Smaller poinsettias are \$10 and larger ones \$20.

Advent Bible studies "Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes" continues through December, Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6 pm; and Thursdays 7 am & 10 am.

The **Angel Tree** reminds us to help others during this season of giving. All 3T-5T socks need to be wrapped, tagged and placed in the basket under the tree in the narthex by December 12th.

Food with Family will gather Wednesday, December 1st and Wednesday, December 8th and then will not be gathering again until Wednesday, January 5th.

FPC Youth will be sharing the Christmas story during worship on Sunday, December 12th. Grades 6 - 12 will meet at noon that day for a Christmas party.

Also on December 12, all **crafty kids** and adults are invited to meet at the church at 2 pm for an afternoon of crafting with hot chocolate and goodies.

December 13 - 16th **Lunch Together** will be serving meals.

Sunday the 19th during the 10:30 am worship service **FPC Choir** will be sharing the Christmas story through song.

We celebrate the Birth of Jesus at our **Christmas Eve Services** on Friday, December 24 at 5 pm and 8 pm.

First Presbyterian Church • 2121 Colonial Drive • Sheridan, WY 82801

• 307-672-1717 • office@sheridanfpc.church

Dear Ones,

We have moved into our Advent season, the first season in the church year. At worship on November 21, we moved through the whole of the church year in one service, exploring the traditional meanings and colors of the various seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time, etc.). Each season is an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with church traditions and symbols that are not only rich in meaning but often span centuries if not millennia, carrying Christian wisdom and echoing history.

One such symbol for the season of Advent is the Advent wreath. While the history of the wreath is uncertain because Christians in the Middle Ages used wreaths with candles during the Christmas season, it seems the first specific *Advent* wreath was used in the early 1800s by Johann Hinrich Wichern who was a Protestant pastor doing mission work in German cities with the poor.

Johann noticed one year that at the mission school the children would inquire daily when it reached December if Christmas had arrived yet. To help them mark time (and keep them from asking him the same question everyday), Johann created a wreath around the wheel of a cart. His wreath featured 20 red candles and 4 white candles. Red candles were lit on weekdays and white candles on Sundays.

The idea of the Advent wreath gradually moved from the children's home at the mission school into the church. It is relatively new to the United States, however, as it was in the 1920s that the Catholic church in the United States began to adopt the ritual after learning it from German Catholic immigrants. As the practice caught on, the wreath evolved. Now, various churches use either purple or blue candles to mark the Sundays of the Advent season along with a fifth white "Christ" candle to light on Christmas Eve. Some churches name the candles thematically to represent the themes of hope, peace, love, and joy in this season. A pink candle is sometimes used to represent the candle of love (we do this).

Aside from the candles, the evergreens that make the wreath have come to represent continuous life with no beginning or end as they lie in a circle. Some people put pinecones on their wreaths. These point to hope in the promise of life in their seeds. Holly or berries are sometimes added, too, pointing the story forward to Jesus' death and resurrection.

No matter the color of the candles, the presence of pinecones or berries, or even the number of candles, I want to encourage you to make an Advent wreath in your home this year if you do not have one. Kendra and I have a simple one on our table in the living room. We light the candle(s) each night when we have dinner. Our candles are all white because we couldn't find purple ones but they sit in glass jars that have purple or pink fabric wrapped around their bases. Our greens can be reused year to year because they're fake. No holly or pinecones adorn the wreath but a fake piece of holly and berries sits to the side. There is no right or wrong way to do an Advent wreath so long as it helps us mark the time and wait with hope, peace, love, and joy for Christ's coming.

Perhaps my favorite part of the Advent wreath tradition is that it is a tradition that originated in the home and moved into the church rather than the other way around. I'd invite you to reclaim that tradition of the home this year because Christ makes a home among us and within us surrounding us with God's hope, peace, love, and joy.

Expectantly waiting for Christ with you all,

Pastor Karl



Anyone else having a hard time wrapping their brains around the weather? Here we are at the end of November beginning of December with a weather forecast of upper 50's, 60's, and even a day of 70-degree weather? And not a single snowflake in the forecast. I am having a hard time getting into the Christmas spirit. Did you know that our weather the week of November 29 is warmer than what is forecasted for Bethlehem? I looked it up.

The more I grumble about the temperature and think about Christmas, the temperature reminds me that Christmas isn't about the weather or the lack of snow. It serves as a reminder that Christmas is a state of mind. It is easy to get wrapped up in Christmas concerts, parties, gift-giving, and trying to squeeze in last minutes appointments before the new year. Maybe the weather serves as a reminder that we need to be more conscientious about preparing for Christmas. Make time to read the Christmas story, talking about the story and all the players. It isn't the tree, the decorations, the driving around looking at lights. It is about this is a reminder of what it was like that first Christmas. It's the love that is present in all of these activities that make them unique. It is love that sent Jesus to us, and it is love that will carry His story throughout the world. Take this time to bask in the love that surrounds you and make memories, regardless of what the temperature says.

Congratulations to Jon Botten! He is the lucky winner of the bamboo fly rod. Thank you to all purchased tickets. The youth raised \$1,375 towards their trip to Triennium.

I want to shout out to all the beautiful people who have served as Sunday school teachers this fall; Troy and Melissa Price, Rachel Matthews, Nickie Arney, Rob Milne, Joyce Groneberg, Jeri and Gary Joy, Craig Clem, and Cheryl Kelsey. Not to be left out are the fantastic LOGOS teachers Lorrie Ledgerwood and Kim Kozel. Thank you for all that you do to mentor and care for the youth of this church! The last LOGOS for the Fall/Winter semester will be December 8 and will return January 5. Sunday school will wrap up on December 12 and return on January 9.

I want to invite you to join me on December 12 starting at 2 pm for family-friendly crafts for all ages. There will be craft stations set up around the room, and your craft guide will walk you through the activity. Goodies and hot chocolate will be available too! So join in the crafting fun, enjoy a cup of cocoa, and share in some laughs.

It isn't too late to sign up to join the crew heading to Triennium! We will be having a Triennium meeting Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Things that will be discussed will be: up-coming fundraising events, important dates, and answers to any questions that you may have. Triennium is open to all students 8th through 12th. Indiana Convention Center will host Triennium July 24 -27, 2022

Tuesday, December 21 at noon, the youth group, grades 6-12, are invited to a Christmas party here at the church. We will have lunch, play games, and have a white elephant gift exchange. The cap for the white elephant gift is \$5. Please email me at cj@sheridanfpc.church by Thursday, December 16, to RSVP.

Think you have a chili recipe that is blue ribbon worthy? Then, cook up a batch and have it ready for the annual chili cook-off. It will be on January 16 following the 10:30 service. So mark your calendars and come hungry!

Merry Christmas!



Happy End of 2021 from Presbyterian Women!

Happenings for Presbyterian Women for November:

We met the first Wednesday of November again! We each brought our own lunches and met together in the Fellowship hall for a time of chatter, learning about a program called CHAPS and prayer. Below is the Purpose of Presbyterian women in the church.

Our Purpose is this:

"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."

A little history about Presbyterian Women.....

Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In spite of numerous societal restrictions, the women's organizations gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

In 1872 the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) asked women members to devise some way to systematically raise money to support women missionaries in the field. In 1875 Sarah Foster Hanna spoke to the General Assembly and received permission to establish the first national organization for women in a Presbyterian denomination, the Women's General Missionary Society. Southern women were more hesitant about organizing a Churchwide missionary society; it took the women of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) more than 26 years to get permission to set up a national women's organization, Women of the Church. Presbyterian women's financial support of missions was phenomenal and included the Thank Offering (begun in 1888) and the Birthday Offering (begun in 1922), both of which continue today.

Two centuries after Presbyterian women first gathered to pray and give their money to the church, women have voice in the church and in the world. A legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in Presbyterian women's third century of organization. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are **adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous and dedicated to God.**

Presbyterian Women continue their life-changing work in the world, now with more recognition. PW incorporated in 2009, establishing itself as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Then in 2016, the General Assembly added Presbyterian Women to the PC(USA) Organization for Mission as a related corporation. This action formally acknowledges PW's unique role within the church: "The Organization for Mission is incomplete without referencing this important point of mission coordination for Presbyterians."

Locally, Presbyterian Women share mission donations with Sheridan Foster Exchange, Sheridan Health Center, Compass Center for Families, The Food Group and our beloved Camp Story. Our funds come from our famous, "ABC" sale, which we haven't been able to hold the last two years because of COVID, but mark your calendars; there will be one in April!!! (Lord willing) We also have the most awesome bakers in the world that donate to Presbyterian Women with funds raised through the "Bakeless bake sale". This Bakeless Bake Sale has been organized by our very own Jeanette Trohkimoinen and assisted by Juanita, the church secretary.



Our program for November was CHAPS and Kristen Marcus, the director, brought their Shetland pony named "Feather" and introduced her to us and they told the story of how many people they help with Equine therapy.

Continued on p. 5.....

.....continued from page 4

Names of God:

This month we'll focus on the name Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness.

First seen in Jeremiah 23:6 – Only other occurrence is in Jeremiah 33:16
Jehovah is actually YHWH (see Yahweh above) and means Lord and Master. It is the promised and proper name of God. Tsidkenu means justice, rightness, righteousness, deliverance, victory, and prosperity. Used together Jehovah Tsidkenu means *The LORD Who Is Our Righteousness*. God himself stands for us and provides us with His righteousness and justice when we don't have any in ourselves. He is the one who provides victory and our prosperity.

Why is it important that Jesus is Jehovah Tsidkenu? What does His righteousness mean for you?

The Bible is clear that we have no righteousness of our own. “There is none righteous, no, not one . . . All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10, 23). Even those things we think are righteous about ourselves are like soiled rags (Isaiah 64:6). **Not only do we have no righteousness of our own, it is impossible for us to achieve righteousness by our own efforts.** “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil” (Jeremiah 13:23). **This means that Jesus Christ is our only source of righteousness.** “He [God] made Him who knew no sin [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). **Jesus (Jehovah Tsidkenu) – the Lord Our Righteousness – offers to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.** He offers us His righteousness as a free gift when we accept Him as our Savior. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). His righteousness covers our sins. “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10).

Presbyterian Women's next meeting will be on December 1st at noon in the fellowship hall. We will be having a “pizza party”, with pizza from Big Horn Mercantile, salad from Sackett's market and cake for dessert. The singing group Spectrum from the High School, will come and share some Christmas songs with us! Afterwards we'll have our lunch, install the new officers and play a game or two with the white elephant gift exchange. It will be fun and will give us time to bond together in love and unity.



Feather, the pony, struggled a little and the trainer had to take her out 3 different times, she was just too warm inside! Feather is very well behaved and has been trained to do amazing work with people. Because it takes a lot to train them, Kristen said they are always looking for volunteers to train for helping with the Equine Therapy.

If you have any questions pertaining to Presbyterian Women, feel free to contact Jeri Joy, Co-Moderator at 307-752-4553 or email redheadgolferpw@gmail.com or Rhea Cooksey-Dixon at 307-683-2362 or email garrhedix@gmail.com. We are looking forward to an eventful year together as Presbyterian Women, keeping in mind all of the protocols of COVID-19.

Kathy Lundberg Travels to Camino Del Santiago

On October 20, 2021 at 12 noon, on day 21, I completed the 260km Portuguese Coastal Camino by entering the Pilgrim's Plaza in Santiago, Spain. I stood in awe, exhausted and exhilarated, facing the Cathedral of Santiago Compostela. I cried when the Pilgrim's Office official stamped my "passport" with the stamps from over 50 restaurants, cafes, and hostels that proved my walking journey.

I remembered day three in Portugal calling my husband in despair, riddled with extreme pain, doubt, and disappointment. This 65 year old out of shape woman with a slightly torn meniscus and with vague expectations of a "stroll along the beach" was determined to rebook my flight and come home immediately. John spoke encouragingly and assured me that I could do this. Each day I grew stronger. Each day I witnessed a culture of hospitality, steeped in Roman architecture, agriculture, art, cuisine unlike any I've experienced, and religious devotion to God. My friend, Rosie, allowed me space to walk by myself, space in which I was able to quiet my noisy head and listen for God's peace. Knowing that many people throughout history, since the Romans and Knights of Templar, had created this path that my humble feet stumbled on, gave me pause daily. I am home now. I am beyond grateful that I have been given this gift. It will take days, months or perhaps the rest of my life to truly know what this was all about. I'm assured more will be revealed.

Thanks to all for your prayers and encouragement you were always in my heart.

Kathy



LUNCH TOGETHER

FPC will be serving meals again December 13 - 16th. Contact Tina Anderson if you are able to help in any way.

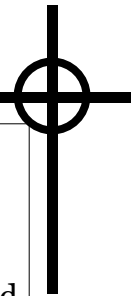
Beth and Izzi serving Lunch Together!



2021 Per Capita: \$44.95 per member

If you have not paid your per capita this year and are able to do so, we would encourage you to make this additional gift before the end of the year.

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.



December 12, 2021
2 pm
Fellowship Hall

Family Craft Afternoon

There will be craft stations set up around the room, and your craft guide will walk you through the activity. Goodies and hot chocolate will be available!
We will see you Sunday,
December 12!

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED



Thank You PW!

I personally want to thank all of you for your steadfast love and patience, as we have navigated through this COVID riddled time of indecision, isolation and fear.

We have all prayed and will continue to do so. My time with Presbyterian Women, as Co-Moderator has come to a close. I can say with absolute certainty that I have loved every minute of it.

Ups, downs, curves, successes and failures (no ABC sale)! I have no doubt that Presbyterian will not only survive in our community, but will thrive. Keep the prayers coming!!!! And welcome Co-Moderator, Rhea-Cooksey Dixon and Co-Moderator Helen Campbell. May God continue His work through our hearts! And may we continue to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus!!!

Jeri Joy

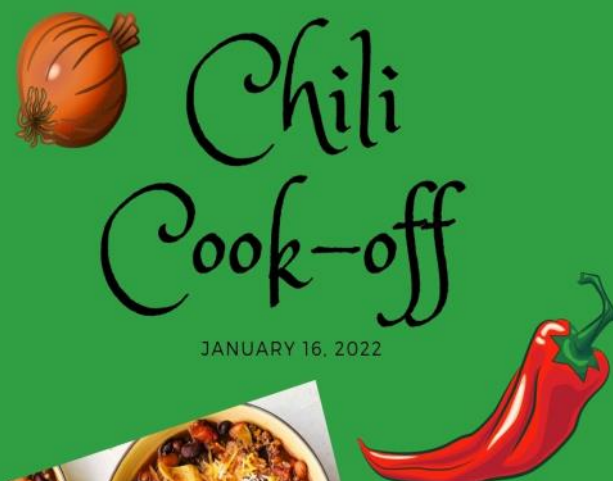
Youth Schedule

Sunday School for the youth will be on break from December 19 through January 2nd resuming January 9th.

LOGOS will be on break starting December 15 resuming January 5th.

Senior Survival will be meeting Sunday, December 19th, at 11:30 am . Topic is FINANCES with guest speakers.

Youth Group will begin break December 19th resuming meeting on January 9th.



The annual Chili Cook-off fundraiser is back! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 16, for raffles, auctions, and some good old-fashioned chili competition.

Do you think you can beat Jason? Then, contact CJ to reserve your spot!



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, Elizabeth Windsor, FPC Choir Members

Worship Leaders: Doug Moore, Teresa Williams, Howie Fitzpatrick, Tod Windsor

Communion Servers: Tod Windsor, Gary & Sherry Laughton, Amy Turpin, Greg & Beth Thurow, John Jackson

Ushers: Chris Smith, Amy Turpin, Doug Moore, and Kurt Smith

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Chris Smith, Prakash Landis, Eli Clem, and Maggie Turpin

Coffee Sponsors: Karl & Kendra Heimbuck, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, Jack & Nancy Elliott

Meal Deliveries and Lunch Together: Denise Mueller, Mary Ludemann, Jan Leupold, Doug Moore, Beth Bailey, Jan Devore, Karen Fosher, Jerilea Phillips, Jody Roberts, Sandy Birkholz, Tina Anderson, Izzi Clem.



**Keep them in
your prayers**

Ongoing Prayers: Jack Elliott, Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, Darlene McNair, Kathleen Shafer, Mary Holstedt, Roy Davis, Julie Bugher, Jerry and Myrna Saunders, Sig Palm, Leonard Hurst, Robert & Jeanette Ruttinger, and Cathy Coggins-Allen.

Prayers for Peace & Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Hannah Shannon, Dorothea Doerr, Marigene Vogt.

Prayers for Mission Partners: Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns, the Food Group, and Scott & Elmarie Parker.

Session Members and Committees

Budget & Finance

Scott Davis, Tod Windsor

Clerk of Session

Susan Smith

Christian Education

Shelley Cundiff, Kurt Smith, Amy Turpin

Fellowship

Jason Szewc, Kim Wells

Membership & Evangelism

Nancy Cook, Mitzi Knapp

Mission & Outreach

Jerilea Phillips, Loren Ruttinger, Craig Clem

Personnel

Teresa Williams, Beth Lenz

Properties

Doug Moore, Howie Fitzpatrick

Worship

Kim Kozel, John Jackson, Beth Thurow

Tech

Chris Smith, Gloria Dierking

Dear Church Family,

We thank you for all of your kindnesses during Elwyn's illness and Home-going. Your wonderful food and your kind words were so appreciated. Thank you so much and God bless you all!

Carol Maloy

Kayla, Kristi, Jill & Jason and families

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Happy Anniversary! December

December 3 - John Jackson & Susan Rappleye-
Jackson
December 4 - Dave & Becki Youngren
December 19 - Ron & Nancy Stanker
December 22 - Jack & Nancy Elliott
December 27 - Bill & Lynn Porter
December 27 - Bob & Marilyn Koester
December 30 - Mike & Cheryl Madden

Angel Tree

Mission and Outreach this year is helping the Head Start Program in Sheridan by asking the congregation to buy size 3T-5T socks for a boy or a girl. The socks need to be wrapped and tagged indicating whether the socks are for a boy or a girl.

The tagged and wrapped socks need to be placed in the baskets under the Angel Tree in the narthex by December 12th.

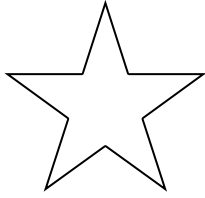
If you would rather make a monetary donation, indicate that it is a donation for the Mission and Outreach Head Start project. Oh, feel free to take more than one tag from the tree!

Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's work in our community.



The church office is open during these hours.

8 am - noon - Monday – Friday
Please call 672-1717 to leave a message.
office@sheridanfpc.church
Like us on Facebook!
<https://Sheridanfpc.church>

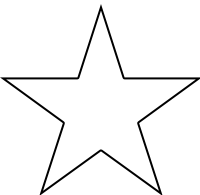


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Space Force

Ryan Laughton (Son of Gary & Sherry Laughton)

Air Force

Jason Browne (Son of Sandy and Rick Browne)

Bryce Williams (Son of Mike and Teresa Williams)

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

Megan Price (Granddaughter of Karen Fosher)

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 Fosher)

Carsie Mitchell (Grandson of Jim & Dianne Perry)

George Johannesen (Grandson of Sig and Judi Palm)

Bendix Johannesen (Grandson of Sig and Judi Palm)

Navy & Navy Reserves

William Ferries (Son of Jane Buell)

Army & Army Reserves

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

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

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 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 pm PW Luncheon LOGOS * 5 pm Food with Family 6 pm Advent Study	2 7 am Advent Study 10 am Advent Study 11 am Properties Committee	3	4 10 am - 2 pm Christmas at Camp Story
5 8 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:30 am Choir 4 pm Youth Group	6	7	8 9:30 am Membership 12 pm CE Committee LOGOS * 5 pm Food with Family 6 pm Advent Study 6:30 Triennium Mtg.	9 7 am Advent Study 10 am Advent Study 5:15 pm Fellowship Committee	10	11
12 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir 4 pm Youth Group	13	14 11:30 am Personnel 4 pm Worship Committee 5:30 Budget/Finance Committee 5:45 pm Mission Committee 6 pm Tech Committee	15 9:30 am Circle 2 10 am Circle 1 11:30 am Circle 3 No LOGOS/Food with Family 6 pm Advent Study	16 7 am Advent Study 10 am Advent Study	17	18
19 8 am Worship 9 am Adult Sunday School Only 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Choir 11:30 Senior Survival	20	21 7 pm Session	22 No LOGOS/Food with Family 6 pm Advent Study	23 7 am Advent Study 10 am Advent Study 	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship 8 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! 
26 8 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	27 	28 <div>Office Closed</div>	29 No Wednesday Night Activities	30 No Bible Study	31	
			* LOGOS 3:30 pm K- 5th 6:00 pm 6th - 12th			

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

