



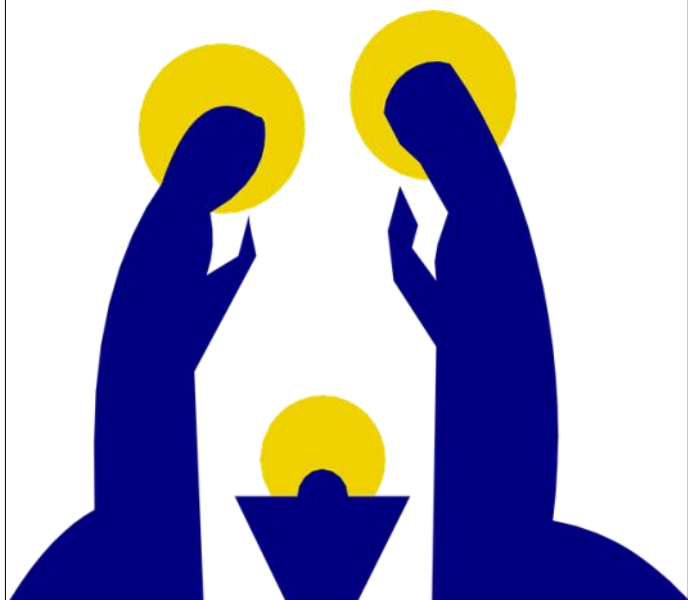
First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

December 2022

**Christmas Eve Services will be
held at 5 pm and 8 pm.**

**Christmas Day Worship will be the
Pajama Sunday service at
10:30 am only.**



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Choir Cantata

During both worship services on Sunday, December 4, FPC choir will present a creation-centered Advent and Christmas service.

They will share selected readings interspersed with choral anthems and congregational song. “Joy to the World” doesn’t mention a word about the manger, but sings rather of “fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains” repeating the sounding joy, while Christ comes to spread blessings “far as the curse is found.”

Come, join with all the angels who sing creation’s story. May God’s Spirit move among us and open our hearts to the music of the spheres that echoes our creator’s praise.

Advent Family Afternoon

Come explore the Advent season through crafts, food and fellowship Sunday, December 11 at 4 pm.

Beer & Carols at Luminous

Come for a night filled with Christmas cheer while we sing songs of the season and enjoy fellowship with one another 7 pm Saturday, December 17th at Luminous Brewery.

“Longest Night” Ecumenical Service at the Methodist Church

There will be an ecumenical “Longest Night” service 7 pm Wednesday, December 21st at First United Methodist Church, 215 W. Works St. The 21st is the first day of winter and known as the day with more darkness than sunlight. This service brings community together to support those dealing with personal loss/struggles to find joy during the holiday season.

Dear Ones,

Here I am writing about music again. But you know I love to sing. Music is one of the ways I connect deeply with God and the wonders of Christ's world. When a melody rises to a peak and then gently falls away or a harmony is just perfect in how it completes even a moment in time, I get chills. Sometimes a tear cannot help but to roll down my cheek. I lose myself in something larger than little ol' me.

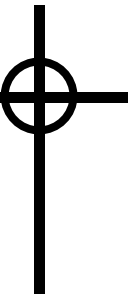
Advent and Christmas are particularly great times for music. The chill of the winter months is cut by the warmth of these songs. But the songs specific to these seasons are also just terrific! Give me "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" on repeat. Throw in "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" if it needs mixing up. Looking for a jazzier score? Sure, toss in Vince Guaraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Time to chill out for a little bit? I'd be fine with the album *December* by the pianist George Winston (which currently serves as Harper's nap time listening).

But what I especially love, as already noted, is singing. And it's singing with all of you that touches my heart most deeply. The songs of this season are some that we know the best as a collective. Thus, our voices are a little louder when we sing. A little merrier. A little more in tune even if just with the moment and not the key. We aren't loud when we sing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve and light our candles, but we are not lacking connection with Jesus Christ and one another in that moment either. Truly, we are closer than ever to the Incarnate One among us and to the hearts of those whom we sing alongside, "Christ the Savior is born!"

I think that is why I love singing. It provides a deep insight into this season and our life in Jesus Christ. The Savior is born so that we might be bound together with God and one another through something deeper than we can even imagine. And a song at a time, I think God uses music to make that known and to do that same thing. Perhaps that's why angels sing.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Karl



The Advent season is steeped in tradition in the church and homes. Growing up, my brother and I could not decorate for Christmas, sing carols, drink eggnog, or do anything Christmas before we saw Santa in Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. We would sit eagerly in front of the television, watching the floats with all the famous icons waving, the balloons bopping along, and the Rockettes dancing, waiting for the first glimpse of the sleigh. As soon I saw Santa, I would belt out at the top of my lungs whichever Christmas carol would pop in my head first.

I remember one year before a commercial break, and they showed a preview of Santa. I started singing because I saw Santa. I was informed that it did not count. It had to be during the actual televised parade and not a preview. Darn commercials!

Then I met Craig, who had his own Christmas traditions when we could start embracing the holiday spirit. His birthday is at the end of November. In his house, they couldn't do anything until after his birthday. Most years, they never line up, so we go with whichever one is later.

A Christmas tradition we can agree on is a live Christmas tree. We have hunted our trees in the wild, picked one out at a tree farm, and gone to Christmas tree stands that raised money for organizations. I think the only time I remember having an artificial tree was the Christmas my mom was diagnosed with cancer and had surgery. We just had too much stuff going on and didn't make it out, and we needed a tree, so we found a trio of thin tree trees. Brenden did crumble a little about not having a real tree, but then they realized they each got a tree all their own (pre-Ottis) they were okay with it.

Our tree this year we got at the Story Volunteer Fire Department. It may not be the fullest tree, but he isn't a Charlie Brown tree, either. The branches are not the strongest, so I skipped placing the ornaments on the tree. Instead, put my favorites and sentimental ones around the house. Wrapped the tree in lights and covered it with tinsel. I now can be found sitting in the dark with a cup of tea, staring at the tree. Looking at the ornaments reminds me of a story. I bought the Disney ornaments when Craig and I married to honor our first Christmas. I have one that Brenden bought me at the school Christmas store. I have several over the years that the kids made for me. Each one holds a special memory woven into our family's story.

The Christmas tree reminds me of the Jesse tree. Have you heard of the Jesse Tree? It is based on Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." NIV. Each ornament contains a symbol that represents a story from creation to the birth of Jesus. Like my tree, each ornament tells a story of God's love and promise. No matter what happened, it all led up to Jesus' birth. The Jesse Tree is an Advent story. Weaving in our history and story as we wait for the promise to come. Each night adding an ornament to the tree and reading the story. It reminds us that God keeps his promises, and we are a part of that promise.

This month's Family Event will be about traditions and Advent. We will work on making our own Jesse Tree ornaments.

Go out this season with remembrance. Remembering what has been, what is right now, and what will be. You are an ornament on God's tree, a cherished branch, and a story. You are a promise.

Merry Christmas from the Clem Clan!

Good News at FPC

Correction! In last month's highlights of the Sheridan High School Marching Band honors we incorrectly listed Carter Steidley as a band member. The article should have honored Cameron and Cole Steidley as members of the band.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!



**Thank you everyone
for your help!**



Kendra Heimbeck will assume the role of executive director, January 1st and under the direction of the board, will be responsible for the full management of The Brinton Museum.

Congratulations Kendra!



FPC in Action!

Our youth also helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!



Youth Bell Choir shared their talents and the joy of music during worship services on Sunday, November 20!





Merry Christmas from Presbyterian Women!

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.

All women of the church are Presbyterian Women. You are welcome to visit PW meetings, gatherings and Circles to see what it is like – you are always invited! Pray about it and see what the Lord reveals to you. If you can only attend sporadically – don't let that stop you – you are always welcome!

The Circles (small groups) gather on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Circle 1 gathers at 10:00 am in the Parlor

Circle 2 gathers at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Circle 3 gathers at noon in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own lunch)

The Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study for 2022-2023 is "Celebrating Sabbath" by Carol Bechtel. In our fast paced lives, do we forget to rest, turn from seeking our own pleasure and celebrate the Sabbath. Consider visiting one of our Circle studies to find out more.

The December PW Luncheon on Dec. 7th will include the Spectrum singing and dancing group from Sheridan High School performing at noon. Their schedule is tight so be here a few minutes before noon so you don't miss any of their performance. Break out the Christmas attire and enjoy the season together! Hope to see you there!

Love and blessings from your sisters in Christ,
Helen 673-1710 and Rhea 683-2362



The youth were wrapping up "Days of Creation" during the last gathering of The Bridge by creating terrariums.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Noteworthy News--

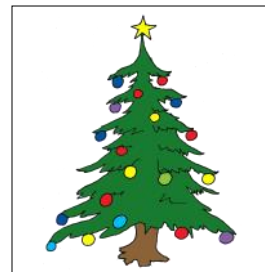
- Ordination of the newly elected elders will be on January 8.
- Accepted as new members of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church are Rob Araas, Karen Burtis, and Cindy Mitchell. Please welcome them!
- Alexandria Araas, daughter of Rob and Katie Araas, will be baptized on January 15.
- The Mission Committee is urging members to consider giving gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Also, if you would like to give a gift of mittens, socks, and/or hats to the Angel Tree, those gifts will be given to the people who attend the Lunch Together meals.
- The Worship Committee requests that poinsettias be dropped off to the church office before December 14 and picked up after January 1.
- Fellowship Committee is inviting all members to a special Thursday Night Football and Pizza night on December 1. Pizza at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall followed by the Bills vs Patriots at 6:15.
- The Tech Committee has installed new Wi-Fi Hearing Assist server.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

Creative Christmas Giving

If you are scratching your head, wondering what to give your family and friends this holiday season, consider the following gifts from the heart for those in need:

Fishing Net	\$15
A Family of Chickens	\$25
One Piglet	\$40
Educate a child	\$25
Farming Tools	\$10
Sapling Set	\$30



These life-giving Christmas ideas and many more can be purchased through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, available in the Narthex, or online at presbyteriangifts.org

You can even create personalized e-cards or paper cards.

Mission Committee has kicked off the holiday season by purchasing gifts of the heart to honor long time Mission Committee member **Marion Reed**. Please join us in our best efforts to feed the hungry, comfort the broken hearted and share our faith.

We believe in the power of giving.

Your Mission Committee

Questions? Please feel free to contact Committee Elders: Rachel Mathews - Landis and Tina Anderson



More terrarium building from the youth's last gathering at The Bridge, Thursday night activities.

Financial Summary for 2022 thru the end of October.

Giving:

Actual Giving	\$295,520
Budgeted Giving	\$314,049
Difference	-\$ 18,529

Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$289,127
Budgeted Expenses	\$311,852
Difference	-\$22,725

Net:

Actual Giving	\$295,520
Actual Expenses	\$289,127
Difference	\$6,393

November's books are not yet closed but offerings were generous this month! Thank you! We hope the seasonal generosity continues to help us close 2022 well and go into 2023 with a strong foot forward.

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, Mary Apple, FPC Choir Members

Worship Leaders: Jason & Henry Szewc, Rev. Bob Miller, Loren Ruttinger, Kim Wells, Eli Clem, Izzi Clem

Ushers: Dick Warren, Mike Browne, Catherine and Dave Engels, Tina Anderson & Mike Stoll

Communion Prep: Su Rappleye-Jackson, Denise Mueller

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Eli Clem, Craig Clem, Shelley Barrett

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Pastor Karl & Kendra Heimback, Gary & Sherry Laughton

Advent Wreath Lighting: Larry & Mary Apple, Brian & Erica Bainter, Daren Bainter



Thank You

Gary Laughton would like to thank the Tech Committee for their work in implementing the Bluetooth technology for hearing assists.

The improvement to the system is excellent!

Family Fun Advent

Sunday, December 11
4pm Fellowship Hall

Join families of all types for an afternoon of exploring the Advent season through crafts, food, and fellowship. The fun starts at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP to CJ
(cj@sheridanfpc.churh) by
Wednesday, December 7

**Keep them in
your prayers.**



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

Prayers for Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Sandy Browne, Jae Satterlee, Jeannette Ruttinger, Bob Koester, Laurie Paronto, Bethany Hunter, and Diana Miller.

Prayers for our Mission Partners: United Presbyterian (Laramie) and CASA.

Prayers for those Grieving: Hannah Shannon on the loss of her brother, Roland and the family of Annette Reed.

If you have prayer concerns that you would like shared, please call the church office at 672-1717.

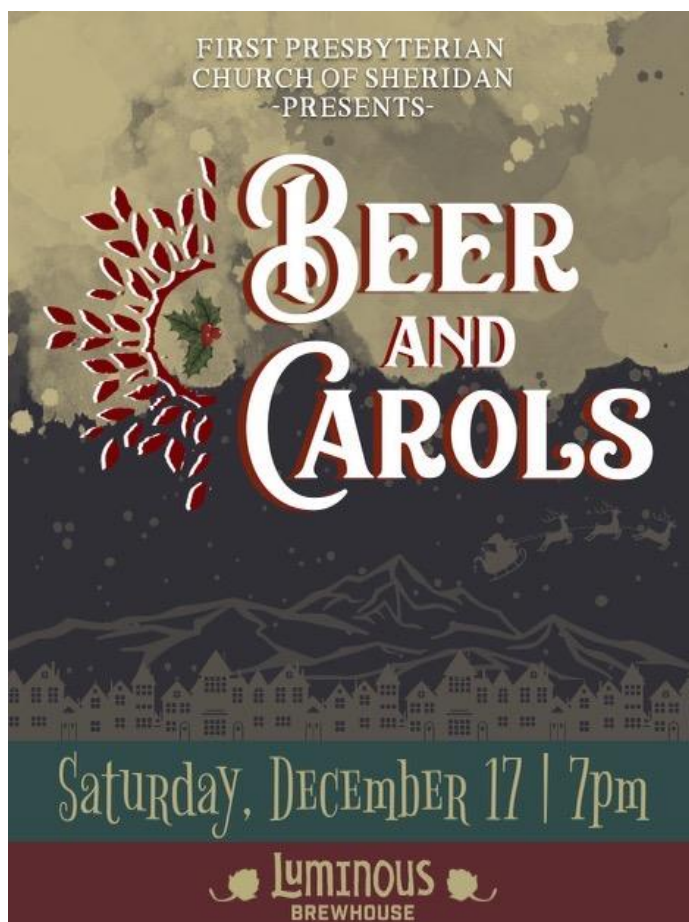
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 - Jacob Botten, Mary Hutton
 December 3 - John Will
 December 4 - Laurie Paronto, Mia Shifrar
 December 7 - Roger Porter
 December 8 - Shelley Barret (Cundiff),
 Judy Garber, Leonard Hurst
 December 9 - Myrna Saunders, Ron Spahn,
 Hannah Will
 December 10 - Kim Wells
 December 12 - Karen Schreffler
 December 13 - Sharon Basse
 December 15 - Graeme Ford, Ryan Landis
 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 - Nancy Cook, Sherry Laughton
 December 29 - Roy Davis
 December 30 - Brooke Holstedt
 December 31 - Zachary Fitzpatrick,
 Avery Quarterman



Happy Anniversary!

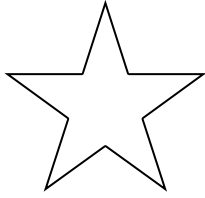
December 3 - John Jackson & Su Rappleye-
 Jackson
 December 16 - Rob & Tori Milne
 December 22 - Jack & Nancy Elliott
 December 27 - Bill & Lynn Porter,
 Bob & Marilyn Koester
 December 30 - Mike & Cheryl Madden



Come for a night filled with Christmas cheer while we sing songs of the season and enjoy fellowship with one another.



Little Bells!

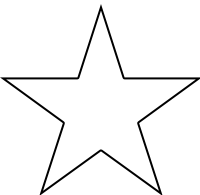


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Space Force

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)

Henry 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)

Jacek Aksamit (Grandson of Mary & Larry Apple)

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 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 4:30 pm CE Committee 5:30 pm Pizza & Football Bills vs. Patriots	2	3
4 8 am & 10:30 am Worship w/FPC Choir Cantata 9 am Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship	5	6	7 12 pm PW Luncheon	8 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	9	10 1 pm - 5 pm Bell ringing Salvation Army Kettle Drive
<div>←</div> <div>Lunch Together</div> <div>→</div>						
11 8 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 am Tech Committee 4 pm Advent Family Gathering	12	13 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission	14 10 am Congregational Care Comm.	15 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	16	17 7 pm Beer & Carols at Luminous
18 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 4 pm Youth Group	19	20 7 pm Session	21 10 am Circle 1 10 am Circle 2 12 pm Circle 3 7 pm Longest Night Service at Methodist Church	22 7 am Bible Study 	23	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship 8 pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 10:30 Pajama Sunday Worship Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31
<div>←</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>→</div> <div>←</div> <div>CJ Out of Office</div> <div>→</div>						

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

