



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

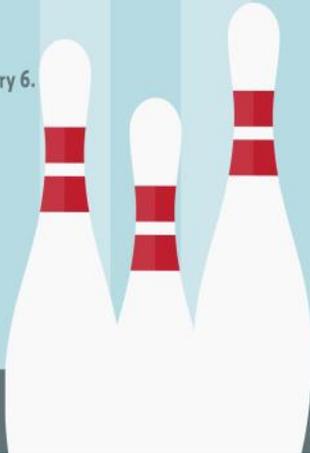
January 2023

Family Fellowship time January 8, 2023

IT'S BOWLING TIME!

Grab your bowling shoes and your family and join us at Cloud Peak Lanes Sunday, January 8, at 4 pm to celebrate the new year.

RSVP to 672-1717 or email CJ (cj@sheridanfpc.church) by January 6.



Happy New Year!

The church office will be closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday.

The Thursday 7am Bible Study will resume Thursday, January 12th (not the 5th as was noted in the Weekly Update).

Details of the January 22nd Annual Meeting can be found in the newsletter on page 4.



January 15-22

CJ is looking for donations. Donations can include gift certificates for homemade items, local businesses or services offered, handcrafted items, new board games, or brand-new items. Please have all donations to the church by January 12. If you have questions, please get in touch with CJ at cj@sheridanfpc.church.

Money raised will go towards youth faith-building opportunities.

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Dear Ones,

Something about the calendar flipping over is freeing. We receive another year and another chance to renew ourselves. We do something akin to flipping over the calendar this time of year in worship, too. In the middle of January each year, we typically read the story of Jesus' baptism, and we renew our own baptismal vows within that service. When each of us were baptized either we or our parents on our behalf made vows that most likely sounded something similar to these below (liturgies change through time). The bold lines are the responses we've each given.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

*Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his word and showing his love?*

I will with God's help.

These vows are not complex but they change our lives when we seek to live into them. To live with Jesus as our Lord and Savior means rejecting the idols we make in our lives of money, power, politics, possessions, and sports (to name a few) so that Christ alone is the compass by which we are guided and discern how to use each day.

To obey Christ's word is as life-changing as anything. If we live in obedience to him, we will find ourselves loving our neighbor (Mark 12:31), loving and praying for our enemies (Matthew 5:44), giving without expectation (Luke 6:30), and rethinking how we relate to whom and how we define family (Luke 14:26-27).

Finally, to show his love means considering every action we take in light of the One who loves us beyond all comprehension. This means that the way we behave may not always make sense in light of a world that tells us to get ahead, get an upperhand, or turn a profit. It means that what we do may just be sacrificial. Yet, that is exactly the kind of love Jesus showed to us.

We renew these vows each year because they are difficult to live even if they are not complex to promise. We also renew them because part of the good news of baptism is that God's mercy comes to us even when we fail to uphold these vows. God's love is eternal and steadfast.

So, don't just let a new year wash over you, let the saving grace of Christ renew and guide you. Take a moment to look at these vows and remember that the love of God should change us. And come January 15, when we celebrate a baptism that day and renew our own vows, flip the page on shortcomings of the past, remember and give thanks for moments of faith lived well, and look into this year as the opportunity to proclaim who your Savior is in living as Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word, and showing his love.

In Christ,

Pastor Karl



Do you make New Year's Resolutions? I usually do not. I always feel disappointed when inevitably I fail. But I do set monthly goals. They are drinking 80 ounces of water, working out for at least three days, doing yoga, and such things.

However, my friends have been discussing what they want to do for their resolution for the past month or two. Of course, there have been common resolutions; eating healthier, workout more, using less social media, and being more present in their life. These are great and focus on self-improvement. Research shows that when you share your goals, you are more likely to stick with the plan.

There are two that have stuck with me. You may have seen the 12 book recommendation floating around on your social media page. This friend asked about books we have read in the last year that touched us personally. The thing that she tacted on was after the book was read, she wanted to go out for coffee, or connect in some way, to discuss the book.

The other resolution request that stuck with me was a friend requesting scriptures. I am not sure if you would call it a resolution or a prayer calendar, but it touched me. She explained her request was for her planner. She would put the scripture in her daily planner and when your scripture came up. She would read it and then pray for the contributor that day. It could be favorite scripture, a passage that spoke at the moment, or just one that is calling to you.

The thing in these requests that touch me the most is the personal interaction that they are asking for as part of their request. I love that they were reaching out to people in their circle to deepen the relationship. We thrive on community. Knowing these people as I do, I know they want to connect and deepen relationships. Each of these requests is a personal link to who you are, and they want to be a part of that.

Think about what types of books you enjoy ready. What does it say about you? Do you lean more toward adventure? Or comedy? Romance? A book to take you away, and you don't have to concentrate on what you are reading? I know people who read textbooks because they are always wanting to learn more, and there is nothing wrong with that. I have friends who read all nonfiction. Or you have people like me. I am all over the place! In the past month, I have read a young adult fiction book (and cried), a literature classic, several children's books, a rom-com (because after the book that made me cry, I needed a pick me up), and a nonfiction book. The enthusiasm is there to share about the book.

I think that this is why book clubs are so popular. Here you have a group of people discussing a book at least one of them found and thought sounded interesting. Through the discussions, relationships are formed and strengthened, and strangers become friends.

Isn't that what the church is all about? We gather and build relationships. We have to make an effort to get to know someone. It could be a discussion after Bible study, across the table during The Bridge meal, or teaching Sunday school. The building is a great place to start the relationship, but the church is bigger than just the walls of the building. It is our responsibility to make connections and foster relationships. It can be as easy as asking someone for their favorite scripture and praying for them after you read it, or it can be a discussion of a book over a cup of your favorite beverage. Either way, you are putting yourself out there by asking and letting the Holy Spirit take it from there.

Annual Meeting on January 22nd

There will be a potluck following the 10:30 AM worship service the day of the annual meeting.

Please bring something to share!



Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

At the January 22nd FPC annual meeting, WYDOT District Engineer Scott Taylor will be presenting the church with a plaque commemorating its 32 years of service in the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup program. The church would like to honor those who have participated in the program at any time over the years. If you have at any time assisted with cleanup of "our" stretch of US87, it would be appreciated if you would plan to attend the annual meeting.

At this meeting, we will receive annual reports from each committee and approve changes to the pastor's terms of call. The Budget, Finance, and Stewardship committee will present the 2023 budget as approved by the Session. We will elect the Nominating Committee for the next year. Pastor Karl will present his report. This year, we also have one unique item. Any change to the by-laws must be approved by the congregation. Based on the work of a task force, the Session is recommending to the congregation that we change the by-laws to move from a 21-member Session to a 12-member Session. A synopsis of that task force's work can be found on the following page.

The annual meeting is an in-person only meeting this year.
There will not be a Zoom option for attendance.

We hope to see you there!





Brief Synopsis of Task Force Report to Session on Session Size

In January 2022, the Session formed a task force for the purpose of reviewing the structure of the session of First Presbyterian Church and its appropriateness for the present day congregation. The following elders volunteered to serve on the task force: Craig Clem, Nancy Cook, Shelley Cundiff, and Beth Thurow. Pastor Karl served as an ex-officio. Here is a synopsis of the work and their recommendation to the Session which the Session has passed on.

Historical Summary of FPC

From the 1979 directory: *“In 1970 a Session committee was appointed to study a leadership reorganization plan. Up until that time the affairs of the church government were conducted by three groups: the Session, composed of ordained elders: the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Deacons. In 1972 after much discussion and deliberation the Session recommended, and the congregation approved, a unicameral plan of government. This resulted in a Session made up of twenty-one ordained elders who share the responsibility of leadership and carry out all the functions of the three original boards.”*

Cultural Summary of FPC

The overall culture of FPC is called “pastoral” (by the Alban Institute’s church types definitions). This means we value close relationships, access to and care from the pastor. This size church prefers small administrative staff and programmatic leadership by laity. This requires time and commitment from the congregation and personal engagement by the pastor. In general, the congregation asks for growth but is ambivalent about the required cultural changes. We have not always been a pastoral church as we have most often sat in the plateau zone between a pastoral church and a program church trying at different times to be each.

Regarding the Session and service, the congregation seems to assume and expect the elders to engage in and carry the work of the committees. The work of some committees is done completely by elders. Committee participation beyond elders can be limited resulting in elder burnout and lack of understanding by non-Session members as to the direction of the church. This mindset discourages the engagement of members in the full life of the church.

Results of Session Survey - September 2020

In September of 2020, Pastor Karl offered a survey to the Session reflect upon the size of the Session (21 elders). The results of the survey:

Advantages: broad representation, two elders per committee, quorum easily met, trustworthy, shared responsibilities and accountability, large pool of knowledge and experience,

Disadvantages: lack of accountability, inefficiency, burnout, moderator burdened, lack of consensus/mixed messaging, redundancies, disengagement of congregation because elders “do it all,” unintended consequences of change, conversations not candid vs. free and open

Recommendation

Through prayerful discernment and consideration of everything above, the task force recommended to the Session and **the Session is recommending to the congregation that FPC transitions over the next 3 years from a 21 member Session to a 12 member Session.** Further details of the report are available in the office and will be presented at the congregational meeting.



Happy New Year 2023 from Presbyterian Women!

Praying for God to Help Us Bloom Where We
Are Planted in 2023!

Our Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and
empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit our-
selves:

- 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 pleas-
ure and Celebrate the Sabbath.

Consider visiting one of our Circle
studies to find out more.

The December PW Luncheon on Dec.
7th included the Spectrum singing and danc-
ing group from Sheridan High School per-
forming the Polar Express music. What a
treat to enjoy the premier performance of
these talented students! We had a wonderful
luncheon with delicious food. We had many
guests – it was very close to a full house.
Kathy Lundberg led us in a few carols. We
had many door prizes. The food for our free
cupboard was plentiful and we collected
\$229.00 for the HUB for seniors in need.
Praising God and thanking you all for your
generosity. Thanks to all who worked to
make this a special time of fellowship.

January Luncheon will be on the 4th at
noon. We will have the installation of officers
and the Memorial for our Presbyterian Wom-
en who joined the Church Triumphant in
2022. Hope to see you there!

February Luncheon will be the 1st of
month at noon. Stay tuned for more details.

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



Dear Friends,

Over the past six months I have been over-
whelmed and deeply humbled by the out-
pouring of prayers, caring concern, cards,
food and love from members of First Pres-
byterian Church (especially the choir). I
wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to
all.

Diana Sabo Miller

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting was held on Tuesday, December 18 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest --

- Since May, a task force of four elders has been studying the governance of the church which, since 1972, has been the Session with 21 members. Their recommendation is to reduce the number of elders on Session from 21 to 12 over the next three years.
- The Mission Committee needs more volunteers for the Thursday Hub Delivery Team.
- The Worship Committee is encouraging our musical congregants to attend the Worship and Music Conference of the Presbyterian Assoc. of Musicians June 25-30 in Montreat, NC.
- The Chili Cook Off is scheduled for January 15 for those who would like to enter a pot of chili.
- Thanks to Mitzi Knapp, Doug Moore, Loren Ruttinger, and Jason Szewc for their service on Session. Their terms ended with the December meeting.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

Join Us Sunday, January 15!

Chili

COOK OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

11:45 AM FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP

Who will have bragging rights to the best chili?

The Chili Cook-off is a fundraising event for youth faith-building opportunities.

HAVE A CHILI YOU THINK CAN WIN IT ALL? CONTACT CJ.

For more information: cj@sheridanfpc.church

Financial Summary for 2022 thru the end of November.

Giving:

Actual Giving (\$ 346,156)
Budgeted Giving (\$ 345,454)
Difference \$702

Expenses:

Actual Expenses (\$ 318,675)
Budgeted Expenses (\$ 342,868)
Difference -\$24,193

Net:

Actual Giving (\$ 346,156)
Actual Expenses (\$ 318,675)
Difference \$27,481

These numbers reflect that a few large annual donations received in January are divided by 12 and then added to each months actual giving



A large group gathered at Luminous Brewery for Beer and Carols! What great voices and what fun sharing our favorite Christmas carols.

FPC in Action!



FPC Youth presenting their Christmas program in December.



FPC Choir Director, Ryan leading our favorite Christmas carols at Beer and Carols.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1 - Steve Kitto, Jan Wagner
January 3 - Doug Hall, Marilyn Michelena
January 5 - Izzi Clem, Avery Von Krosigk
January 6 - Janet Burtis
January 8 - Tori Milne
January 9 - Zach Gray, Paxton Zuniga
January 11 - Rex Arney, Betty Leavitt
January 12 - Mavis Williams
January 13 - Phyllis Wilhelm
January 14 - Bailey Bard
January 15 - Alex Cameron, Doug Moore
January 16 - Ted Knapp
January 21 - Greta Johnson, Linda Pruitt
January 23 - Hazel Ford, Rudy Osborne,
Bridgett Ruttinger
January 24 - Karen Foshier
January 27 - Howie Fitzpatrick
January 29 - Brenden Clem, Jerry Saunders
January 30 - Max Brock, Teresa Williams
January 31 - Pam Moore

Happy Anniversary!



January 19 - Brian & Jean Morgen
January 25 - Dennis & Cheryl Heizer



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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, FPC Choir Members

Worship Leaders: FPC Choir Members, Tina Anderson, Rachel Mathews-Landis, Kendra Heimbeck

Ushers: Dave & Catherine Engels, Bobbie Spahn, Tina Anderson, Jean Morgen, Nancy Cook, Dick Warren

Communion Prep: Su Rapplewe-Jackson, Denise Mueller

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Eli Clem, Craig Clem, Shelley Barrett, Gloria Dierking, Lucy Brock

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, Harper Jo Heimbeck, Larry & Mary Apple

Advent Wreath Lighting: Kurt Smith, Jan Leupold, Janis DeVore, , Dave & Catherine Engels, Tom & Miriam Nance, Karen Burtis, Janet Burtis, Cheryl Kelsey, Jean Morgen family, Ottis Clem, Jason Szwec

**Keep them in
your prayers.**

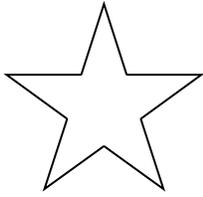


Ongoing Prayers: Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, Darlene McNair, Kathleen Shafer, Jerry & Myrna Saunders, Sig Palm, Leonard Hurst, Robert Ruttinger, Cathy Coggins-Allen, and Roy Davis.

Prayers for Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bughier, Sandy Browne, Jae Satterlee, Jeannette Ruttinger, Bob Koester, Bethany Hunter, Diana Miller, and Rhea Dixon.

Prayers for our Mission Partners: First Presbyterian (Mountain View) and the Food Group.

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



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)

Bridger Ammann (Grandson of Joyce and Gary Meling)

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

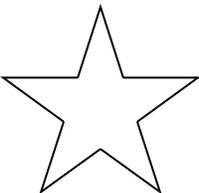
William Ferries (Son of Jane Buell)

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)



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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.

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am & 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Fellowship	2	3	4 12 pm PW Luncheon	5 10 am Bible Study	6	7
8 8 am & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech Committee 4 pm Family Gathering	9	10 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission 6:30 pm Bells	11 10 am Congregational Care Committee	12 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	13	14
CJ Out of Office for Professional Development						
15 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Chili Cook-off 4 pm Youth Group	16 Annual Reports Due 	17	18 10 am Circle 1 10 am Circle 2 12 pm Circle 3	19 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	20	21
Silent Auction Ongoing this Week!						
22 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 12 pm Congregational Meeting w/potluck	23 	24 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Session	25	26 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	27	28
29 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir	30	31 6:30 pm Bells				

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

