



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

February 2023



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Bluegrass Sunday

During Sunday morning worship on February 12, we will be celebrating Bluegrass Sunday.

Guitars, string bass, fiddles, piano, and the joyful sound from the choir will all be leading us in song.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 22nd.

Lenten Study

Beginning February 23rd, Pastor Karl will be offering a Lenten study called “Meeting Jesus at the Table”. This study will be offered at two different times—Thursday at 6:30 pm following The Bridge meal and the other time begins February 26th during 9 am adult Sunday school.

Trivia Night

The Fellowship Committee is planning our annual Trivia Night for Sunday, February 26th at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

Build your team and join the fun!
Gathering in-person this year.

Dear Ones,

Normally, I like to write about a theme in the newsletter. With Lent approaching, this would be a good space to have our annual reminder of the importance of that season and all that it holds for us. But a lot has happened and a lot is coming up so I want to give a little recap and some reminders here so that I might express deep gratitude for our congregation while making sure that you are aware of all the great opportunities and events coming up.

We had a terrific annual meeting a couple of weeks ago! It was the first time in THREE years that we have sat down together in the fellowship hall and shared a meal and time together to hear about and reflect upon the past year at FPC. And it was another great year! The church is a wonderful body that has been gifted to us by God so that we might form community with one another (as difficult as that might be sometimes) and work to pass that gift on from generation to generation in a little bit better shape than we received it. That work is ever evolving and ever calling to us for deeper engagement, but we are not shying away from it either. This was all evident at that meeting.

The big piece of the congregation meeting was an amendment to our bylaws. By an overwhelming vote of 66 to 6, the Session's motion to the congregation to change the session from 21 elders to 12 was approved. I want to thank the task force that worked diligently over the past year to bring some ideas to the Session to help them decide whether or not to put an amendment before the congregation. Craig Clem, Nancy Cook, Shelley Cundiff, and Beth Thurow were an amazing team to see at work discerning who we are and the leadership structure that will best serve us going forward. The practical piece of this means that the next class of elders will be a class of 4 instead of 7. This will persist going forward meaning the Session will scale down to 12 over three years.

Now, what's coming up? The next special service on the calendar that I want to bring to your attention is **Bluegrass Sunday on February 12!** We have some talented musicians in this congregation and that day, a group of those will bring their talents on guitars, bass, and fiddle to lead us in worship. Plenty of your favorite country gospel songs will be sung that day and my sermon will focus on one of those favorites: "In the Garden." I am incredibly excited for what I hope becomes an annual event for us.

While I am not expounding upon the theme(s) of Lent, I do want to lift up some of the Lenten calendar to you. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7 PM on February 22. Also for Lent, I will lead a study called "Meeting Jesus at the Table" which looks specifically at feeding stories and times Jesus ate with others throughout the Gospels as a guide for our own embracing the table and relationship with one another and Jesus during the Lenten season. There will be two times offered for the study. You can join on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM in the parlor after dinner at the Bridge. This group will begin meeting on February 23. If that does not work, you can join Sunday morning at 9 AM between services. This group will begin on February 26. The accompanying book for the study is available in the office for \$10. Please let me know by February 15 if you would like to participate in the study. You can do so by coming by the office to get a book or by letting me know your intentions via a call to the office or an email to karl@sheridanfpc.church. This is just to ensure that we have enough books for everyone and can order more in time if need be.

With joy in my heart,

Pastor Karl



When Eli was in fourth grade, he came home excited about a book they were reading in his reading group. So my first thought was, yes, the reading bug has finally hit Eli. I then proceeded to ask questions about the book that he was reading. He told me that they were reading Wonder by R.J. Palacio. Eli told me it was about a boy who looked different and what it was like for him to start public school. So I asked Eli why he liked it. His response was typical of Eli's: "I don't know, I just do." I had a mini mom fail. I didn't read the book my child was excited about, but I got him a copy for Christmas. Fast forward to January, and the 7 am book study picked Wonder to read. Now that I have read it, I can see why Eli loved the book. It is a fantastic story of courage, growth, acceptance, and perseverance.

The story follows a young boy with two genetic disorders that caused a craniofacial abnormality as he transitions from homeschooling to a private middle school. The story is told in August, the main character, his sister, and several other kids who play essential roles and viewpoints. Each child talks about what they are experiencing, how they interact with the world and each other, and how life shares shape and changes them.

The characters are from different social circles. They only interact with each other once they meet August. Through these relationships, they were more aware of the situations where bullying and exclusion were happening. For example, boys in the story bully August for looking different. They then proceeded to target kids that were Augie's friends. Through these interactions, friendships were made, life lessons were learned, and fear was conquered. I love children and young adult book genres. These books can be so straightforward. Here is an issue, and this is how you should handle it. Or it is a topic, what do you think about it? The text captures the innocent of a reader. Then, as the reader matures, they can go back and reread the same book and pull a more mature understanding and discussion from the book. Wonder was written for children 7-12 years of age, but the adults in the 7 am book study had thought-provoking conversations. For example, there was talk about including someone on the edge of society who doesn't seem to fit in, which led to some robust discussions.

A section of the book highlights an email exchange concerning Augie's place in the school. The parent doesn't feel he should be at the school based on preconceived prejudices. The book implies the parents haven't met Augie but have determined that he is not good enough for the school and want him removed. The email's author is also the parent that had Augie photoshopped out of the class picture.

Reading this book has examined how I interact with those who are different. I ask myself, am I inclusive in my current life? How am I teaching my acceptance to my children? Children learn and watch from their parents, and other adults interact and accept others. In my examination, I reflected on how I represent my inclusiveness at the church. What does it mean and look like to be inclusive? Then my mind went down a rabbit hole of questions. I had the opportunity at the beginning of January to attend PSYM, Perkins School of Youth Ministry. The conference's main speaker shared we are in the cycle of the church that we have never been in before. We are entering a church period where people are more secular than ever. Youth and young adults are not looking to hear what they should wear, how they should act, or who they should be. Instead, they want to be included in the church they are without judgment. They want authenticity and to be had just the way they are. That is what we all want.

I was reminded that inclusion is reaching out to those already in our circle, young, old, and everyone in between, that we may overlook. Don't get so comfortable with who and where you are that you miss the opportunities around you.

Love and Peace,

FPC in Action!

Adopt-a-Highway Recognition

Presentation recognizing FPC's 32 years of highway cleanup!



On behalf of FPC, Carolyn Griffith accepted the plaque from the Department of Transportation as her husband Gene started the Adopt-a-Highway partnership in 1990.



An Afternoon of Bowling

Members of FPC enjoyed an afternoon of bowling for their January Family Fellowship.

More bowling pictures throughout this newsletter.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2—Laurie Graves, Vivian Tarver
February 3—Todd Browne
February 8—Jay Bergstrom, Karen Townsend
February 10—Christina Araas
February 12—Gareth Dixon
February 17—Dave Motsick
February 20—Maxine DeTavernier
February 21—Ted Tomlinson
February 22—Brad Steidley
February 23—Erin Osborne
February 24—Carolyn Griffith
February 26—Jane Gallagher, Wyoma Sampson,
Carter Wells
February 27—Bob Koester, Heidi Smith
February 28—Scott Davis

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

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

Worship Leaders: Kim Wells, Tori & Rachel Milne, Tyler Milne, Gloria Dierking, Jason Szewc

Ushers: Dave & Catherine Engels, Ron Patterson, Dave Youngren, Shelley Barrett, Ron Spahn

Communion Prep: Su Rappleye-Jackson, Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Dave Youngren, Ron Patterson, Jeri Joy, Jean Morgen

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

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, Mary Ludemann & Scott Davis



Happy Anniversary!

February 12—Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson

Special Anniversary

Doug and Robin Melius are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on February 3rd.

They celebrated their 30th and their 40th while here in Sheridan.

Anyone wishing to send them cards or greetings should send them to:

robinmelius@gmail.com

or

Doug & Robin Melius
115 South 9th St.
Livingston, MT 59047

**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, Diana Miller, Rhea Cooksey-Dixon, and Rebecca Koehn.

Prayers for our Mission Partners: Shell Community Church (Shell) and CASA.

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



A Very Happy Valentine's Month 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 Bi-
ble study
- To support the mission of the church world-
wide
- 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 Wom-
en. You are welcome to visit PW meetings, gath-
erings 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 spo-
radically – don't let that stop you – you are al-
ways 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.

Backing up to December, I want to thank those
who brought door prizes which everyone
seemed to enjoy; Sherry Laughton, Helen
Campbell and Rhea Cooksey-Dixon.

While I am saying thank you...a "Very Heart-
felt Thanks" to our church family who sup-
port PW activities throughout the year.
Thank you all for all you do!

A special thanks goes out to those who have
continued to pack bags for Food Group.

A special thanks to Rod Fuller for his help!

Thanks to my church family as well for all of
the thoughts, prayers, calls, offers of help and
meals while I have been recovering from a
broken ankle. You all are the best!
Love you all! Rhea

The PW Luncheon on January 4th found us
installing the new officers and having a short
memorial time for Mary Holstedt, Pat Allen,
Patti Brandt and Annette Reed. We had a
wonderful luncheon with delicious food.
Many thanks to all those who helped in any
way to make this a lovely time of fellowship.

The March Luncheon will be on the 1st. Our
guest speaker is Willis Busenitz, who is
Chairman of the Board of the Everything
Beautiful Store in Lame Deer, MT.

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



The church staff would like to extend a
sincere THANK YOU to Ted Knapp for all
his computer support in installing the new
computer and monitors in the office and for
his many hours of assistance with comput-
ers, monitors, and sound boards in the
sanctuary both during Sunday morning
worship and many hours during the week
"fine tuning" all the equipment setups!

Thank you Ted!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting was held on Tuesday, January 17 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest --

- Shelley Cundiff was elected to be our delegate to Presbytery. Nancy Cook was elected as the alternate.
- The Silent Auction to support our youth is continuing through this Sunday.
- The Mission Committee is planning a trip to visit the people of Frontera de Cristo, which is where we get our coffee. The trip is tentatively being planned for the first week of January 2024. If you might be interested, contact Tina Anderson or Rachel Mathews-Landis.
- The Congregational Meeting is this Sunday and will be followed by a Potluck. Bring your favorite dish if you have one, but dish or no dish, bring your appetite.
- Work is continuing to repair the dishwasher in the kitchen.
- Two pianos, the one in the parlor and the one in the Fellowship Hall, are for sale. If you are interested, contact Dave Youngren.
- The Technology Committee is purchasing a new 4K Large Venue Projector for the Sanctuary. The images you will see on the big screen will be clearer, with better colors, and it will be a lot quieter than the current projector.

Gary Joy
Clerk of Session



Registration is Open!

Registration is open for the 2023 session of summer camp at Camp Story.

"Making Christ Known in the Great Outdoors"

Camp brochures can be picked up in the information center at the church.

Contact Alicia Ford campstorywyoming@gmail.com.



FPC Family Fellowship

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 12,
at 4 pm Fellowship Hall

Come to cheer on your team of choice, enjoy the commercials, or come just for the company.

Bring your favorite football food to share. Drinks will be provided.

Contact CJ with any questions.

Financial Summary for 2022 January thru December

Giving:

Actual Giving	\$ 390,017
Budgeted Giving	\$ 376,859
Difference	\$ 13,159

Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$ 352,893
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 376,859
Difference	- \$ 23,965

Net:

Actual Giving	\$ 390,017
Actual Expenses	\$ 352,893
Difference	\$ 37,124

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

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKES

JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS FOOD
AND A GREAT CAUSE!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
5 PM - 7 PM

\$10

ADULT

\$5

KIDS
12 and younger

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2121 COLONIAL DR.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE
SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO
KANSAS CITY.



More bowling fun!

Get Your Taxes Done for Free!

Tracy Landeis is working with the Wyoming Free Tax Service to provide free tax preparation in Sheridan and in Buffalo.

Wendy Faldowski will be in Sheridan on February 23 and March 4 from 9 am to 5 pm. In Sheridan, these appointments will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall. Buffalo dates are February 21-22, March 11, and March 25 at the American Legion. You may also provide information to have taxes done online for you by Tracy at getyourrefund.org/wyoming.

Please call Wendy Faldowski (Wyoming Free Tax Service Coordinator) at 307-710-1022 for an appointment.

SUMMER •CAMP•

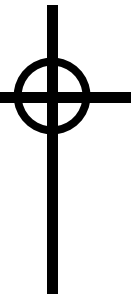


ANY CHILD GOING TO
CAMP THIS SUMMER
QUALIFIES FOR A 50%
SCHOLARSHIP FROM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



PLEASE
CONTACT CJ
FOR MORE
DETAILS

VISIT CAMPSTORY.ORG TO CHECK
OUT THE CAMP OPTIONS!



Ordination and installation of newly elected elders for the upcoming 2023 year took place on Sunday, January 8th.



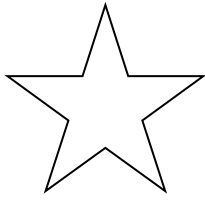
One of our many bowlers having fun at Family Fellowship's afternoon of bowling.



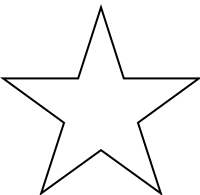
Chili Cookoff Winner!

Jason Szwec was our chili cookoff winner with Tori Milne and Bobbie Spahn coming in as runners-up.

All the chilis were delicious!



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Space Force

Ryan Laughton (Son of Gary & Sherry Laughton)

Air Force

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)

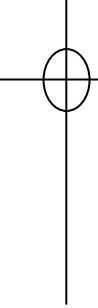
Jacob Botten (Son of Jon and Rene Botten, Grandson of Joan Botten)

Jacek Aksamit (Grandson of Mary & Larry Apple)

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.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	3	4
5 8 am & 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech Committee	6	7	8 10 am Congregational Care Committee	9 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	10	11
12 Bluegrass Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Family Gathering to watch the Super Bowl	13	14 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:30 p m CE Comm. 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission 6:30 pm Bells	15 10 am Circle 1 10 am Circle 2 12 pm Circle 3 ← → Karl, CJ, Alicia Out of Office Camp Story Commission	16 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge ← →	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Youth Group	20 ← →	21 5 pm Pancake Fundraiser 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Session Juanita Out of Office	22  7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 7 am Bible Study 9 am Tax Prep 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	24	25
26 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir 6 pm Trivia Night	27	28 6:30 pm Bells				



First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

