



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

March 2023



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Daylight Savings

Don't forget to move your clocks forward when Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday, March 12th.

Bingo

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to join in the fun of Bingo from 3–5 pm on Sunday, March 19.

Mark your calendars!

FPC Family Edition “Chopped”

Be sure to check out page 9 of the newsletter for all the details of FPC's own Food Network “Chopped” event on Sunday, March 12.

Create your dish and come and challenge all the other chefs.

A team of judges will announce the winner.

“These Days”

The April–June copies of “These Days” have arrived. You may pick up your copy either in the information center or in the church office.

Spring

The first day of spring is Monday, March 20th. How many more snowstorms do you think we'll have before then?

Dear Ones,

We are one week into Lent at this point. I told a story to begin our worship service this past week that encapsulates, for me, one way of understanding this season. The story was this:

An anthropologist was studying a nomadic tribe during one of their migratory seasons. The tribe stopped after walking for a number of days to take an extended break. After a couple of days, the anthropologist thought they would be getting back into the migration so as not to lose days in the precious season. But the tribe continued to rest. The anthropologist just observed.

Eventually, the tribe began moving again. But a little while later, they stopped again for an extended break. The anthropologist found himself curious again but just observed. When the tribe finally reached its destination, the anthropologist just had to ask, "Why did you stop and waste those precious days of this season of good weather?" One of the elders in the tribe replied, "We had been pushing so hard, we had to stop and let our souls catch up to our bodies."

Lent is a time to let our souls catch up to our bodies. For early Christians, this was through practices of prayer, fasting, and the giving of alms (that is, increased generosity made possible by saving on what you gave up for the season). In our 21st century, we need time to rest our weary bodies. It is no stretch to say we are addicted to being busy and worn down. We look at a stack of papers in front of us or our lengthy to-do list, but even if we lament the stack or the list because of the anxiety they produce, there is still something within us that is accepting of this as normal. Perhaps this is because we mistake being busy for being useful. If we have created a lot for ourselves to do then we think we must be in high demand and thus an important piece of the bigger puzzle. This paradox is something from which we need to rest and something we need to evaluate.

So, rest in this season. Evaluate. Embrace your mortality (Ash Wednesday) for the sake of living more fully the aspirations of earnest and sincere discipleship. Let your soul catch up to your weary body and when it has then take the time to wonder to yourself about what made you so weary (it wasn't Jesus). Such time for contemplation is the gift of the Lenten season for we cannot proclaim and live a life of resurrection if we are worn down.

Should you desire a space for reflection or conversation, please let me know. I am always happy to meet with each of you and walk with you on this journey.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl



Remember, we received star words on New Year's Day during worship? How are you doing with your word? Mine is written on my whiteboard on the wall before my desk. I look up several times a day and see it. It is written in blue and has a swirling line underneath it, comprehension. Blah.

According to dictionary.com, comprehension means 1. the act of process of comprehending 2. the state of being comprehended 3. perception or understanding 4. capacity of the mind to perceive and understand; power to grasp ideas; ability to know 5. logic the connotation of a term. 6. inclusion. I wanted to ask Karl and Monic whose bright idea was it to add comprehension to the basket. I wanted to return it, but that wouldn't be fair, and the word jumped into my hand.

Comprehension and I are now three months in. I am still struggling with what comprehension means concerning my faith. Are we talking about Bible comprehension? I can recall the stories, the passages, and the words in the Bible, but what is true comprehension of the Bible? Can we, as humans in all our earthly glory, comprehend what Jesus' love means? I understand that God's love is unending. Jesus died on the cross for us. But do I really know what that is like? I love my children and would do anything for them, but I don't know if I would willingly send them into a situation knowing that the outcome would be their death. I don't even want to think about it. So, can I genuinely say my understanding of how unconditional His love truly is?

Comprehension is the power to grasp ideas. What are the ideas of the Bible? Love the Lord your God with all your mind, heart, and body. Go forward and be His hands and feet in the world. Go and make disciples of all nations. As a teacher, I was asked to show that my students could proficiently comprehend a lesson that was taught. The administration was the happiest when I could provide concrete evidence that students did grasp the skill, lesson, or idea that was taught. How do we do that with our faith? There isn't a comprehension test. I had a college professor refer to tests as suck and puke tests because you suck up all the information and then spit it out. There isn't a rubric to show the comprehension of the Bible. Ottis and I have been discussing the season of Lent and how Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. His comprehension of the story led to his statement that Jesus couldn't live that long without food because you would starve in seven days, and forty days is greater than seven. He isn't wrong, and his questions guided us in an excellent discussion. His comprehension of what we read wasn't incorrect. We just needed to go deeper. I hope that through that discussion, his grasp of the meaning of Lent and the practice of giving something up or adding went deeper. At least maybe the seed was planted.

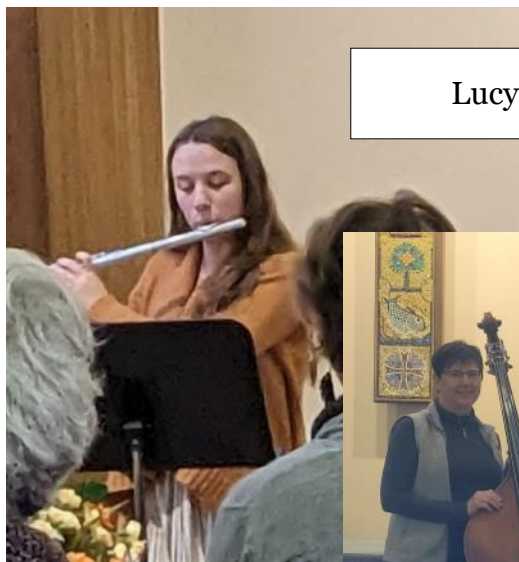
Reviewing the definition of comprehension, number six, inclusion, popped out at me. I never thought of comprehension as inclusion. Jesus was all about inclusion. He included everyone; the rich, poor, sick, healthy, young, and old. Jesus didn't discriminate against someone who may have disagreed with him. Instead, he sat with them, shared a meal, and talked. Including others in what you do is sharing your faith. Do not discriminate because that person isn't a certain age, you don't know how to talk to them, oh so and so wants to do that, or fill in the blank with a statement you have heard to justify why someone isn't included. Jesus included everyone, even the person he knew would betray him, with no exceptions. What would comprehension of that lesson look like?

I recently saw a meme of an image of Jesus sitting on rocks all alone. Across the picture is text saying, "Lent, because the extroverts can't have all the holidays." When I first read it, it made me chuckle. Of course, Jesus going into the desert for forty days is an introverted thing, but the more I thought about it, the more I don't know if I appreciate the more profound meaning.

Faith is a relationship between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It's personal, but then again, it isn't. If we comprehend the teaching that we must go out and serve others and be in communities with fellow believers, are we truly alone? We are taught when more than two are gathered, He is with us. Does that mean we need to surround ourselves with other believers for true comprehension? We also require alone time to talk with God, reflect, meditate, listen, and do whatever else we need to grow our faith. How do we find the balance? All these thoughts run through my head because of a word, comprehension, on a star that I pulled out of a basket. Who would have thought I would be wrestling with comprehension and I have ten months until I get a new word to mull over.

My kids and I would watch a cartoon, Phineas and Ferb. There was a character called Dr. Doofenshmirtz who spoke with a Germanish accent. He was the villain whose plans were broken up by Perry the Platypus. Dr. Doofenshmirtz always said when Perry saved the day, "Curse you, Perry the Platypus!" So in the past couple of months, when comprehension and I sat down to ponder why and how this word interacts with my faith, I may have in my mind said, "Curse you comprehension the star word!" in Dr. Doofenshmirtz's voice.

FPC in Action!



Lucy B. sharing her musical talents!



Bluegrass Sunday Musicians!



Our chef Ryan flipping the pancakes for the Youth's Pancake Fundraiser for their summer mission trip.

Eli and Zach manned the ticket sales.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2—Harper Jo Heimbeck, Tod Windsor
 March 3—Steve Kennedy
 March 4—Jacob Grimes, Becky Motsick
 March 7—Brett Burtis
 March 9—Shawn Luedtke
 March 12—Louann Hamstreet, Denise Mueller,
 Richard Warren
 March 13—Troy Price
 March 16—Tim Lenz
 March 19—Alivia Denzin, Ron Patterson,
 Craig Vogt
 March 20—Prakash Landis
 March 22—Dusty Ledgerwood
 March 23—Joyce Meling
 March 25—Su Rappleye-Jackson,
 Galen Tipton
 March 26—Kathy Lundberg
 March 27—Cheryl Heizer
 March 30—Cole Steidley, Mary Jo Stresky
 March 31—Zachary Luedtke



Happy Anniversary!

March 6 — Sandy & Marilyn Michelena
 March 14 — Mike & Teresa Williams
 March 19 — Robert & Jeannette Ruttinger
 March 29 — Jon & Rene Botten

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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, FPC Choir Members, Lucy Brock, Kathy Beagle, Erica Bainter, Greg Thurow, Loren Ruttinger, Pastor Karl, Doug Moore, Mandy Baxter

Worship Leaders: Tina Anderson, Nancy Cook, Aiden Milne, Teresa Williams, Becky Motsick, Rachel Mathews-Landis

Ushers: Dave & Catherine Engels, Jane & Pat Gallagher, Greg & Beth Thurow, Ottis Clem, Gary Laughton

Communion Prep: Su Rappleye-Jackson, Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Pat & Jane Gallagher, Greg & Beth Thurow, Becky & Dave Motsick, Amy Turpin, Gary & Sherry Laughton

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

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Mary Ludemann & Scott Davis, Doug & Kathy Beagle

**Keep them in
your prayers.**



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

Prayers for Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Sandy Browne, Jae Satterlee, Jeannette Ruttinger, Bob Koester, Diana Miller, and Rhea Cooksey-Dixon.

Prayers for our Mission Partners: Federated Community Church, Presbyterian/Methodist (Thermopolis) and the Food Group.

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



Happy March 2023 and Happy Spring 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 ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible 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 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.

We had a wonderful presentation on Saturday February 18th. Heather Comstock talked about dementia. She likes to call it people dealing with change rather than dementia. There are many types of change that people experience. Change comes from many causes. Some people experience change at an early age. The more we know about the changes – the more we can do to help those dealing with change. There is a caregiver support group as well as a support group for those experiencing changes. Heather will hopefully come back to talk to us again. Facing our changes can be freeing and much less fearful with a friend like Heather helping. Heather is a part of Dementia Friendly Wyoming (DFW). DFW is a department of the HUB on Smith Street. Heather received her Master's Degree in Dementia Studies from Stirling University, Stirling, Scotland (UK). Thank you to Nancy Elliot, CJ, Pastor Karl and Gloria Dierking for their help making this presentation possible.

The April Luncheon will be on the 5th. Our guest speaker is Barbara Hill, a Messianic Jewess. She will talk about Sabbath from her perspective, which goes along with the "Celebrating Sabbath" study that 2 of the 3 Circles are studying. We hope to see you there!

We have the author of "Celebrating Sabbath" Carol Bechtel as our guest speaker at the PW Camp Story Women's Retreat being held June 2-4. Carol Bechtel is an Old Testament Professor at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Carol is also a Pastor and will be leading our worship at Camp Story. The cost is \$160.00. This includes 2 night's lodging and 6 meals. It is a bargain at today's prices! Registrations have been sent via email and will be available in the information center at the church. Or you can call Rhea at 683-2362.

Read Psalm 121. You can see a clip of Carol Bechtel playing the Celtic harp as music therapy at the Holland Hospital. This clip is under Carol Bechtel's section of "Meet the Staff" at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI.

Love and blessings from your sisters in Christ,

Helen 673-1710 and Rhea 683-2362

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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The monthly Session meeting for February was held on Tuesday the 21st at 7pm in the Youth Room.

News of Interest --

- The Mission Committee will be sending \$2,500 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund to provide relief to those suffering from massive earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
- The committee is looking at changing the date for the 2024 mission trip to Frontera de Cristo from January to October.
- The Properties Committee has approved bids for some sewer line work and for the kitchen hot water project.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

Financial Summary for 2023 through the end of January

Giving:

Actual Giving	\$ 30,888
Budgeted Giving	\$ 32,017
Difference	\$ -1,129

Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$ 37,227
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 40,002
Difference	\$ -2,775

Net:

Actual Giving	\$ 30,888
Actual Expenses	\$ 37,277
Difference	\$ -6,339

These numbers reflect that a few large annual donations received early in the year are divided by the remaining months in the year and then added to each months actual giving.

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!

Session Members and Committees

Clerk of Session

Gary Joy

Budget & Finance

Scott Davis, Chair; Gary Laughton

Christian Education

Army Turpin, Chair; Rex Arney, Tori Milne

Mission & Outreach

Tina Anderson, Chair; Rachel Mathews Landis

Congregational Care

Bobbie Spahn, Chair; Jean Morgen, Larry Apple

Fellowship

Kim Wells, Chair; Becky Motsick

Personnel

Shelley Cundiff, Chair; Nancy Cook

Property

Dave Youngren, Chair; Kurt Smith

Worship

John Jackson, Chair; Beth Thurow

Technology

Gloria Dierking, Chair; Craig Clem

Get Your Taxes Done for Free!

Tracy Landeis has added one more date to the schedule for tax preparation.

There are openings on March 25 from 9 am to 5 pm. Appointments will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall.

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

Alicia is looking for a few folks to record a short video of their experience with Camp Story and the impact or memories camp made in your life. Contact Alicia at 907-570-6014 or by email Alicia.campstory@gmail.com.



In February, Pastor Karl, Dick Birkholz, and CJ Clem, members of the Camp Story commission along with Camp Story Director, Alicia Ford and executive interim Presbyterian, Monica Hall all traveled to John Knox Center in Texas.

There they were able to meet with camp director, Henry Owen and camp support staff to share ideas and inspiration on how to grow camp ministry.



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 may be picked up in the information center at the church.





CHOPPED

FPC Family Edition

Have you ever wanted to be a contestant on FoodNetwork? If so, here is your chance.

If you have never heard of CHOPPED, here's what it is about. On the television show, four contestants are given a basket of weird and unrelated items that would not usually go together, like pork rines, cauliflower, and cookies, and they make a dish. The creation is then presented to the judges. The competition has three rounds; appetizer, main dish, and dessert. After each round, a contestant is eliminated until one is crowned Chopped Champion and wins \$10,000.

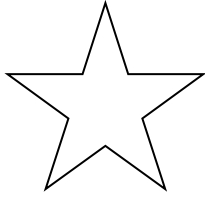
FPC Family Chopped is going to be a bit different. One, the winner, unfortunately, will not win \$10,000. It is not in the budget, but maybe next year. The contestants will have a little more free reign with the ingredients and what dish, appetizer, main, or dessert will be made. In honor of the Lenten season, the plate must contain a purple main ingredient, one white main ingredient, and one of the following; honey, figs, fish, or lentils.

Then on **Sunday, March 12, at 4 pm**, we will all gather in the fellowship hall to present the dishes. Your team will introduce your plate to our FPC top chefs panel. Once all the teams have shared their creations, the judges will tally the points and announce the winner. Feel free to make extras to bring and share.

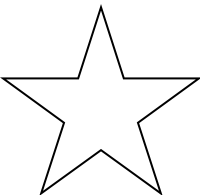
Any further questions can be directed toward CJ.

And your time starts..... now!





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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)

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.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 pm PW Luncheon	2 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	3	4 9 am—5 pm Free Tax Prep
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
				<div>Karl Out of Office</div>		
12 8 am & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Family Gathering Food Network Competition	13 <div>Karl Out of Office</div>	14 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:30 p m CE 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	16 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	17	18
19 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir 3 pm Bingo 4 pm Youth Group	20	21 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Session	22	23 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	24 	25 9 am—5 pm Free Tax Prep
26 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir	27	28 6:30 pm Bells	29	30 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge	31	
		 <div>Daylight Savings Time Begins—March 12th</div>				

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

