



First Presbyterian  
Church of Sheridan

# The Good News

**April 2023**



## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday worship** at 8 am and 10:30 am this Sunday, April 2 with communion.

Thursday, April 6 is our Bridge meal at 5:30 pm followed by the 6:30 pm **Maundy Thursday worship service**.

**Good Friday Ecumenical service** will be held at First Presbyterian on Friday at 12 pm. The sanctuary will also be open all day for those who wish to spend time in prayer and reflection.

**Easter Sunday Sunrise** service will be held at 6:15 am followed by coffee and muffins at 7 am. Services continue with worship at 8 am followed by an Easter breakfast from 9 to 10:30 am and our Easter worship service at 10:30 am.

### Calling the men of the church!

Like last year, our men will be preparing and serving Easter breakfast between the services this year. If you are able to help out by flipping some pancakes, scrambling some eggs, washing some dishes, or just chumming it up then please come to the kitchen by 8:15 AM Easter morning to help with preparations.

Thank you!

If you wish to donate an **Easter lily** for our Easter Sunday worship, please drop them off any time Monday, April 3—Thursday, April 6.

Place the lily on the table in the information center where you will find a form to complete in whose memory or honor the lilies have been given. There will also be stakes there for you to write your name and insert in the plant so you can identify your lily when taking it home following Easter services.

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Dear Ones,

You may not know it, but I would bet that if you've seen some movies then you probably have some leitmotifs in your head. A leitmotif is a recurring musical theme in a production (movie, ballet, opera, etc.) that is usually associated with a particular place or person. Consider *Star Wars*. If you have seen that and I say "Darth Vader" then you might hear "The Imperial March" in your head. What about *Indiana Jones*? Maybe you can hum that classic theme without hesitation. The ominous "duuuuuh duh" from *Jaws* is another great movie example of a leitmotif.

My favorite leitmotif, however, is the recurring theme from *Swan Lake*. "Song of the Swans" begins with a simple flute playing this theme but through the course of the piece and the ballet this melody goes through swells, crescendos, and changes in the instrumentation carrying its song.

"Song of the Swans" is quite a bit like God's story as we know it in Jesus Christ. While the enduring line of grace is the melody, this is also carried in different ways. It rises and falls through different pieces of Scripture as we read it; it does the same in worship as we celebrate it; and it does the same in our lives as we live it. Grace crescendos. Grace diminuendos. There are times it is blasted by a tuba and times when a violin plays it.

The leitmotif of grace is especially fluid during Holy Week. Unlike "Song of the Swans," Holy Week begins with something a little louder and with more fanfare. We process into Jerusalem with Jesus. It is the music of a parade. But the melody begins to scale down as we approach Maundy Thursday. It becomes a light but ominous music accompanying the Last Supper. Perhaps low brass comes in (akin to *Jaws*) to heighten the awareness of something threatening approaching as the meal wraps up and the scene shifts toward Jesus's arrest. The music becomes more foreboding as Jesus goes before Pilate and the crowd chants for his death until he is placed on the cross and dies on Friday accompanied by a massive crescendo. Most of the instruments stop abruptly right then. But the percussion thunders. Creation cries out. God cries out. And then, silence.

There is a long rest in the piece at this point. Time is kept, God is still conducting, but no one plays. Yet, when Mary visits the garden on Sunday morning, as the sun comes up, the flute is cued back in with the leitmotif of grace. Jesus appears. The story continues because grace is eternal.

I hope you'll come to the various services during Holy Week to feel the rise, the fall, and the persistence of God's leitmotif of grace. We'll gather for Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM on the 6th, for our ecumenical Good Friday at 12 PM on the 7th at our church this year, and for Easter morning at 6:15 for a sunrise service outside and at 8 AM or 10:30 AM for traditional worship.

May you hear God's song this week,

Pastor Karl



Life is ever-changing, ebbing and flowing like a river. My newest nephew Noah Isaac Thomas entered this crazy world at the beginning of March. Noah's life is full of promises, love, and adventure. My brother and his wife are riding the wave of uncertainty. Little Noah has an older sister and brother. Lily and Ezekiel keep them on their toes. The new parents wonder how to handle things now that the kids outnumber the adults. But they will get used to being a family of five. They will find their rhythm while growing together and never look back. There will be love during the craziness of learning how to be a family of five. Passion will drive the decisions that they will make that will shape everyone. Knowing that each child is loved unconditionally will never come into the equation.

The month ended with the news of a good friend's father passing away. Faith's dad, Dean, was a strong man, both in spirit and faith. He talked about his life experiences and how they shaped his faith. He was the man who enjoyed a good cup of coffee in the morning, a drink at the end of the day, and conversation and laughter all the time. There is a Dean-shaped hole in all our lives. The hole that Dean leaves is shaped and molded out of love. His love for his wife, children, grandchildren, family, and friends was infused into his being. It is that essence that will leave the hole. I can imagine those closest to Dean will miss and seek to find glimpses of that now that he is gone.

Between these two events, there was the mundane of my weekly routine, or as ordinary as living with Hurricane Ottis can be. We embrace the rituals of getting up, having breakfast, preparing for the day, and going about it until we prepare for bed. Waking up the next day to do it again, or some same variation. There is a sense of comfort in knowing what each day will bring. There isn't added for the stress of, oh; no, who will pick Ottis up after school, or the craziness of rushing off somewhere and disrupting the routine.

As I reflect on these two events, it seems they reflect Lent's representation. Some people will choose to incorporate something new into their lives. They seek ways to grow and understand. They integrate a new spiritual practice, routine, or reflection time. They seek ways to draw us closer in their walk with God. They strive to balance the old life with a new way of doing something. As a result, they grow and learn and stumble along the way. Then, in theory, their practice becomes routine and second nature. The other group of people remove something; chocolate, social media, food. Instead, use the time to grow closer to God.

It was God's love for man that brought Jesus to us. All that he did was done in love. To model and show us what love is and how to love one another. Whatever you choose to do or not do for Lent is a personal choice, just like your relationship with the Triune God. Your decision was made out of love, love of the Lord in how you would nurture your relationship.

We are an Easter people. We celebrate and remember Jesus' death. We walk through life, reflecting on the end and the resurrection. We observe that Jesus was triumphant over death. He showed us what love was. He loved us enough to go to the cross. Go out into the world, spreading love. Remember that even after the ringing of the organ and the echoes of the hallelujah have ended, His love remains that should be reverberating in our hearts. It needs to be tendered and fostered all year long. Grasp on to the love until it becomes a routine, and when it is lost, you seek a way to find it, not just when it is Easter.



## Happy Easter from Presbyterian Women! He is risen!

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 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.

March 1st we were blessed by Willis Busenitz, Nadine Busenitz, and Eloise Snow joining us from Lame Deer, Montana. Willis is the Chairman of the Board of the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lame Deer. Nadine is Willis' wife who volunteers at the thrift store. Eloise is the manager of the thrift store.

Willis talked about the history of missions on the Northern Cheyenne reservation. The Catholic Church came to Ashland on 1874. The Mennonite Church came to Busby in 1904. Many types of missionaries came to the reservation over the years. Many left.

Willis and Nadine arrived in Busby in 1971 where he was the pastor at the Mennonite Church. In 1987 the pastors of the area formed the Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association that meets monthly to try to work together. The thrift store came out of the Ministerial Assoc. with a wish to give the people a hand up and not a hand out.

The motto for the store is: Reflecting God's love for all, in Christ Jesus, we seek to serve our people's needs, protecting each one's dignity.

There were many, many miracles that happened in the building of the store. The Mennonite church has a group called SOOP, which stands for Service Opportunity for Older People. The architect was from the SOOP organization. He came on the scene in May of 2015. He recommended a 72 x 120 feet building and drew up plans for it. A South Dakota contractor with Hopi connections donated the concrete work. The money came from many places.

The St. Vincent Foundation director came to talk to them about raising money. He told them they needed to show what they would raise among themselves first. They came up with about \$35,000 among the ministerial assoc. members. Then they applied for grants from the Murdoch Foundation in Washington State.

They were denied the first time and were told to earn more funds before they apply again. They hired Terry Beartusk, a grant writer, to write a grant for the Montana Coal Endowment Program. They were awarded \$300,000!

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They applied again to the Murdoch Foundation and received a large grant. They received \$30,000 from the Scott Foundation and First Interstate Bank. They received a \$25,000 donation from the Giranforte Foundation. They received general contractor building advice from O'dell Construction of Sheridan. They received another grant from the Montana Coal Endowment Program for \$150,000 and the Murdoch Foundation gave \$190,000. They ended up with a 1.1 million dollar building for 900,000 dollars!

The board decided they were not going to borrow money to build the thrift store and they didn't have to! The Lord provided through donations of money, labor and time.

The store opened November 17, 2019. A couple of years ago a lady in Wisconsin gathered new toys for the thrift store. She drove out from Wisconsin with a box truck full of toys that the thrift store could sell. Nadine told us that they do get toys donated at the reservation, but they are hand outs. The mothers aren't able to buy a toy and put it under the Christmas tree to say she bought it and gave it to them. This is where the dignity part of the store motto comes into the picture. The thrift store is a business. They hire employees the store pays their salaries. They have employees that Easter Seals pays. They have employees that are called Community Workers, who work for in-store credit at the rate of \$5.00 per hour. They take the clothing that does not sell and they sell it at 1 or 2 cents per pound to a business in Billings that bales clothing and ships it overseas to be recycled. This keeps clothing from filling up the landfill.

They always need these items: jeans, furniture, small appliances, diapers of all sizes, personal hygiene items, cookware and household items. They get plenty of women's clothing so they say they don't need those items. Many churches donate to them as well as private entities. The store is 80 miles from Sheridan and it takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes to get there.

PW is praying about providing toys for Christmas as a mission project this year.

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 our facilitator at Camp Story. The cost is \$160.00. This includes 2 nights 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.

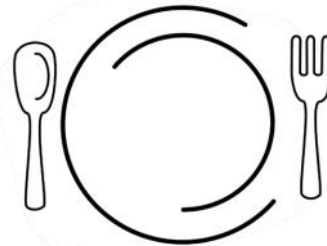
Love and blessings from your sisters in Christ,  
Helen 673-1710 and Rhea 683-2362

## Lunch Together

First Presbyterian will be serving  
Lunch Together Monday, April 10—  
Thursday, April 13.

Please contact Denise Mueller at  
828-712-9500 if you can prepare food or  
help serve meals that week.

Thank You!



**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**FPC Talent Show**  
**May 12th, 7 pm**

# FPC in Action!



Winner of the “Chopped” food challenge was Karen Fosher who created an entrée for the event.



Judges, Juanita Wardell and Dave Youngren, marking their score sheets for the “Chopped” food challenge.



BINGO! Fun!



Loren & Bridgett welcomed Baer Michael Muir Ruttinger into the family on 3/21!

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting for March was held on Tuesday the 21st at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest --

- The Fellowship Committee noted that the Bingo event was well attended with 35 people there to enjoy the fun. Coming up on May 12 is the Talent Show.
- The Tech Committee said that Ted Knapp and Craig Clem have installed the new projector in the Sanctuary and it will be ready for use for the March 26 services.
- Looking forward to this summer, Camp Story is a mission of this church and for it to be successful it requires not only our resources, but also our hands, feet, and time. How can you volunteer to help Camp Story in its mission?

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

Contact Alicia Ford at  
campstorywyoming@gmail.com.



## Last adult Sunday school class of the year!

From April 16 through May 14, our last class of the year will be *Half Truths: Things the Bible Doesn't Say*. What are phrases that sound Christian but we might not realize are not? We'll cover some of those in this class as we discover through table conversations more about God and more about ourselves. If you've never given adult Sunday school a try, join us Sundays at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for this short learning opportunity!

## New Member Class

There will be a new member class Sunday, April 23rd from 12 pm—3 pm for those interested in becoming members at FPC and for current members wishing a refresher.

Lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to Pastor Karl so we can prepare for lunch.

## Financial Summary for 2023 through the end of February

### Giving:

Actual Giving	\$ 60,969
Budgeted Giving	\$ 63,984
Difference	-3,015

### Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$ 68,222
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 72,101
Difference	-3,879

### Net:

Actual Giving	\$ 60,969
Actual Expenses	\$ 68,222
Difference	-7,253

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.

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

**Musicians:** Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Arianna Thurow, Mary Apple, Teresa Williams, FPC Choir Members, FPC Bell Choir

**Worship Leaders:** Dave Youngren, Rex Arney, Rachel Mathews-Landis, Tina Anderson

**Ushers:** Shelley Cundiff, Becky Motsick, Erica Bainter, Henry Szweck

**Communion Prep:** Su Rappleye-Jackson, Denise Mueller

**Communion Servers:** Becky & Dave Motsick, Scott Davis, Kim Wells

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

**Coffee Sponsors:** Jan DeVore, Mission Committee, Carla White



**Keep them in  
your prayers**



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

**Prayers for Peace & Healing:** Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Jae Satterlee, Jeannette Ruttinger, Diana Miller, and Bob Koester.

**Prayers for Mission Partners:** First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne and Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Big Horns.

## **Session Members and Committees**

### **Budget & Finance**

Scott Davis, Gary Laughton

### **Clerk of Session**

Gary Joy

### **Christian Education**

Amy Turpin, Rex Arney, Tori Milne

### **Fellowship**

Kim Wells, Becky Motsick

### **Congregational Care**

Bobbie Spahn, Jean Morgen, Larry Apple

### **Mission & Outreach**

Tina Anderson, Rachel Mathews-Landis

### **Personnel**

Shelley Cundiff, Nancy Cook

### **Properties**

Dave Youngren, Kurt Smith

### **Worship**

John Jackson, Beth Thurow

### **Tech**

Gloria Dierking, Craig Clem

## **Food trivia questions from the “Chopped” food challenge event.**

Which came first, chocolate chips or chocolate chip cookies? The cookie came before the chips. Ruth Wakefield who owned the Toll House Inn, used chunks of chocolate in her famous Toll House cookies hoping the chocolate would melt and make a chocolate cookie. The cookie was such a hit with the chunks of chocolate, Nestle created the Toll House Chocolate Chip.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1—Aaron Gray  
April 2—Gary Laughton  
April 3—Ty Malone  
April 4—John Lundberg, Bentley Malone,  
Arianna Thurow  
April 8—Miriam Nance  
April 10—Gary Joy, Rob Milne, Kurt Smith  
April 11—Marisa Zuniga  
April 13—Nathan Fitzpatrick , Dave Williams  
April 14—Thayer Shafer  
April 16—Gwen Roberts  
April 18—Ryker Zuniga  
April 19—Georgia Mueller  
April 23—Kathleen Shafer  
April 24—Linda Johnson  
April 26—Henry Szewc  
April 28—Mike Stoll  
April 30—Gene Bard, Margie Elkins,  
Rick Landeis



### Happy Anniversary! April

April 1—Rick & Tracy Landeis  
April 15—Rick & Louise Semino  
April 23—Craig & Marigene Vogt

### More trivia from the “Chopped” food challenge!

Where did the name for German Chocolate Cake  
come from?

From Samuel German, who developed a formula  
for dark chocolate, later used in the cake recipe!

## SUMMER •CAMP•



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

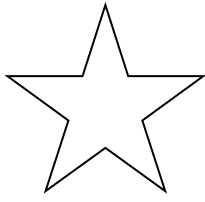


PLEASE  
CONTACT CJ  
FOR MORE  
DETAILS

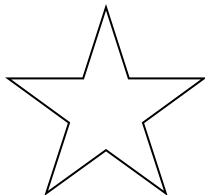
VISIT [CAMPSTROY.ORG](http://CAMPSTROY.ORG) TO CHECK  
OUT THE CAMP OPTIONS!



Around 35 people enjoyed an afternoon of  
Bingo with caller, Erica Bainter keeping all  
the anxious winners on the edge of their  
chairs!



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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 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.

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 8 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech Committee	3	4	<b>5</b> 12 pm PW Luncheon	<b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 12 pm Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at FPC	8
<b>9 Easter</b> 6:15 am Sunrise Service 7 am Coffee/Muffins 8 am Worship 9 –10:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 Worship	10	<b>11</b> 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:30 pm CE 5:30 Budget/Finance 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:45 pm Mission 6:30 Bell Choir	<b>12</b> 10:15 am Congregational Care Comm. Lunch Together	<b>13</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	14	15
<b>16</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Youth Group	17	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Session	<b>19</b> 10 am Circle 1 & Circle 2 12 pm Circle 3	<b>20</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	21	22
<b>23</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 12–3 pm New Member Class	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study Presbytery Meeting in Casper	28	29
<b>30</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir						



*First Presbyterian Church*

2121 Colonial Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

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