



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

May 2023

*Congratulations
graduates!*



Wishing you blessings of health,
happiness and success!

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Last Day of Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday school (all ages) will be Sunday, May 14. The adults will be finishing *Half Truths: Things the Bible **Doesn't** Say*.

Join us in the fall once again as we continue learning opportunities!

Mark Your Calendars!

FPC Talent Show

May 12th, 7 pm

It's not too late to sign up for the talent show hosted by the Fellowship Committee! We've had several groups/individuals sign up already.

It is promising to be a fun night!
See you there!



Camp Story Work Weekend

Camp Story's annual work weekend is scheduled for May 26th—29th. As always, we need lots of helping hands to get the work completed before we can open for our summer season.

Please RSVP online at www.CampStory.org or sign up in the narthex.

Contact Alicia Ford at 307-763-0919 for questions or additional information.

Dear Ones,

At the April Session meeting, your elders and I discussed summarizing our mission statement: *Glorify God... Follow Jesus...Be Christ's Light in the World. This is a great mission statement. It is in line with who we are theologically as Reformed Christians and captures what we are trying to do as First Presbyterian Church. But it felt a little long to remember! We wondered if there might be a way to capture the essence of the statement with something shorter. I am incredibly pleased with what the Session settled on:*

Worship. Learn. Love.

This does not replace our mission statement but it helps us remember a little more easily what we gather to do, the transformation we seek, and our call to go out into the world. In expounding a little on these three words, I hope we all might gain some new insights into our mission statement and our call as followers of Jesus.

Worship - Primary to our life as individuals and together as a congregation is gathering for worship. The act of worship reminds us that all that we have stems from God and that the call to love the world begins by loving God. Worship binds up our wounds and binds us together. In the sacraments, we are renewed by God's grace so that we might go into the world to love. In the fellowship we share, we are uplifted so that all we do might be done joyously. We begin all we do by glorifying God. Everything, everything, everything is grounded in this.

Learn - While we begin with worship, we do not stop with worship. Teaching and learning was important to Jesus. He was, after all, a rabbi. His followers listened so that they might grow in their spirituality and be transformed for the sake of the world. At First Presbyterian Church, we wish to do the same. We do not sit at Jesus's feet in a literal sense, but we come together to learn with the same spirit of discussion around the teachings of Jesus and the whole of the Scriptures so that we might not just glorify God but also follow Jesus.

Love - This encapsulates so much. God sends us into the world to love. It is love that has the power to transform everything. It was Christ's love that went to the cross and Christ's love that burst forth from the tomb. Love has the power to change everything. In recognition of this, we go forth to love like Christ or to "be Christ's light." In the conversation about this piece of summarizing the mission statement, it was noted that our love should mean we are in the community working to meet needs, seeking to bind up those with broken hearts and spirits, and welcoming into our congregation each person who comes however they might come. Christ's love is unconditional. To shine Christ's light is to love unconditionally, too.

As I look back on this I am reminded of the centrality of **worship** and its grounding for our lives. I am reminded that faith is a lifelong endeavor as we seek to **learn** and to be transformed by Jesus's teachings. Finally, I am reminded and encouraged that the **love** of Christ is shown to the world in our own love poured out for one another, for those close to us, and to all whom Christ loves (i.e. the whole world!).

With love for God and for all of you,

Pastor Karl



I may be vain when it comes to my hair. When I was younger, I did not enjoy it. I couldn't get it to do anything "cool." I don't know if you remember the "Rachel" haircut. Rachel Green made it famous in the tv series "Friends." I wanted that haircut, just like everyone else. It was cute, flirty, and fun. Unfortunately, I could not get that haircut. Well, I could, but it would look different from everyone else. It would make my head look like a curly mess and nothing like hers. It felt, to teen me, that I was the only one who didn't have "the" haircut, so I was the curly head weirdo without the cool haircut. I wanted to straighten my hair SO bad so I could do my hair like everyone else. I tried getting it chemically treated, didn't do anything but damage my hair.

If the trauma of not having the "cool" haircut wasn't enough, a friend sat behind me one day in high school choir class, playing with my curls. She would pull it straight and then let it go, and it would spring back, which would cause her and several others around her to laugh. The choir director stopped the class and asked what was going on, and she proceeded to tell him instead of resuming the song. He then spent the next 10-15 minutes of class. Fourteen-year-old me was embarrassed. I was called out for being different.

As I have gotten older, I enjoy my curly hair, and I am disappointed that Eli was the only one who got my curly hair. I will spend my free time looking into which shampoos and conditioners are best for my type of curls, what I can do to make them healthier, and what routine I can do to make them curlier. I care for my curls because they have come to help define who I am. They are not the only thing that makes me, me, but those few days a year when I straighten my hair, it is noticeable. Or the eight-year-old tells me, "You look weird."

"Who am I?" It is a question that youth and adults alike struggle with. When was the last time you thought about what it meant to answer that question? The LOGOS creed would answer it by saying we are beloved children of God.

We are all God's children, created in God's image. Yet we are all different. We have different shades of skin, eye, hair color, and curly, straight hair. Yet, God is there in the differences that make us who we are. We should celebrate these because, in the crazy world, God threw something in there to mix it up.

I have now raised two teenagers and working on my third one, and I can tell you they do not like being told what to do. Telling them they are a beloved child of God would probably get me an eye roll and a yeah, I know, so? How do we encourage their exploration of who they are as children of God? How do we get them to own it and live out their meaning? How do we help them find their identity?

Can you answer these questions? These are the ones that I am still working on. But these are questions we all wrestle with our whole lives. We are created in the image of God, and God is a complex being, and so are we. I know that in my struggles, I often focus on my shortcomings and areas of improvement. How do I make myself better so that I can be worthy? I am worthy. When God created people, the claim was that we were very good. God continued to create us even when we sinned. God loves us despite our judgmental ways, during the lashing out, and when we act in ignorance.

We are children of God. We are not adults of God. Just as a young child explores the world around them to establish who they are, we too are still growing and learning to be a part of creation. We are still learning and exploring what our talents are and how to use them. No one can tell us who we are. We have to learn for ourselves. We learn from those around us, the good and the bad things.

As I was writing this, I was listening to music. The song "This is Me" from "The Greatest Showman" came on. I have always loved this song. The song talks about embracing your faults and differences, stepping into the light, and letting the world see who you are. Just as you are a beloved child of God. You are created in God's image with all your talents, "flaws," and differences.



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 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 next PW luncheon is on May 3rd. Kathy Lundberg will be showing slides of her Israel trip. The food has a Hawaiian theme. Find your luau attire/Hawaiian shirts/dresses and join the fun!

We are also asking the Lord to speak to your hearts about diapers. We are going to organize a field trip to the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lane Deer. We would like to take a load of diapers of all sizes to donate to the Thrift Store.

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. Deadline for retreat registrations is May 15th or you can call Rhea at 683-2362.

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



Congratulations to Our Graduates!



CARTER STEIDLEY

Carter's parents are Jeni and Brad Steidley. Carter's accomplishments include being accepted into the All State Orchestra three times; he's been concertmaster for Sheridan High School Symphony Orchestra; and he has maintained a 4.0 or greater GPA all four years of high school.

His hobbies and interests include his love of playing the violin and he enjoys building large puzzles or Lego sets.

Carter has been accepted into the Colorado School of Mines and plans to major in chemistry and minor in music. He will also be playing in the college orchestra.

ZACH LUEDTKE

Zach is the son of Shawn and Bryan Luedtke. Zach was a three time varsity athlete for basketball. His hobbies and interest are golf, listening and writing music, driving around, and cooking food.

Zach's plans for the future are to be an entrepreneur and make money for he and his family while doing finance. Zach will be attending the University of Wyoming.



FPC in Action!



Easter Sunrise Service



Blessings of Easter



Sherry Laughton and Bobbie Spahn were recently recognized by The Hub for their volunteer work at the Urban Thrift warehouse.

First Presbyterian Church was also recognized and received a certificate for their support of The Hub.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting for April was held on Tuesday the 18th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest --

- The Properties Committee said there will be work on a sewer line upgrade on May 8, so the building will be closed that day.
- The Worship Committee gave a look ahead at upcoming Sunday services:
 - May 14 is Mother's Day and honoring teachers and graduates.
 - May 21 is Music Appreciation Sunday
 - May 28 is Pentecost with Bob Miller in the pulpit.
 - June 11- the coffee mission folks from Frontero de Christo will preach.
 - June 18- Pastor Karl will be away and Doug Goodwin will be in the pulpit.
- The Christian Education Committee announced that next month's Family Fellowship, which is on Sunday, May 14, will be decorating flower pots. Also, Vacation Bible School is planned for Tuesday, August 1 – Thursday, August 3. VBS will be held at the United Methodist and St. Peter's Episcopal churches.
- Camp Story is a mission of this church. What can we do to lead and support this ministry (monetarily, physically, prayerfully, etc.)?

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.



Financial Summary for 2023 through the end of March

Giving:

Actual Giving	\$ 89,660
Budgeted Giving	\$ 95,950
Difference	\$ -6,290

Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$ 98,367
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 104,801
Difference	\$ -6,434

Net:

Actual Giving	\$ 89,660
Actual Expenses	\$ 98,367
Difference	\$ -8,707

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 month's actual giving.

Family Fellowship

Sunday, May 14, 4 pm-5 pm

Families come in all shapes and sizes. Whether it is your biological, friend, church family, children, small, medium, or grown children, you are welcome to join the Family Fellowship.

This month we are gathering to plant and blossom with creativity. You're invited to come and customize a pot. Once your pot is just how you like it, you can fill it with a flower. Please RSVP by May 11, 2023.

To RSVP
click [here](#) or
contact CJ

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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, FPC Choir Members, Doug & Pam Moore

Worship Leaders: Gloria Dierking, Becky Motsick, Dave Youngren, Tina Anderson, Scott Davis

Ushers: Nickie & Rex Arney, Amy Turpin, Rob & Tori Milne, Katie Turpin, Tyler Milne, Dave & Catherine Engels, Jane & Pat Gallagher, Kim Wells

Communion Prep: Su Rapple-ye-Jackson, Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Gary & Jeri Joy, Amy Turpin, Tracey Burke, Beth Thurow, Rex Arney, Tori Milne, Jean Morgen, Gloria Dierking, Bentley Malone

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



Thank You!

Thanks to the “blight crew” of Teresa Williams, Scott Davis, Gary Joy, Dave & Becky Motsick and Dave & Catherine Engels for their work on US 87 semi-annual highway cleanup on April 22.

Thank You!

A special thank you to Mike Browne and Mcgregors for the donation of food for the Easter Breakfast!

**Keep them in
your prayers**



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

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

Prayers for Mission Partners: First Presbyterian (Cody) and CASA.

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

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2—Maiya Browne, Kerek Ford, Brooklyn Glock,
Linnet McGoodwin
May 3—Elizabeth Windsor
May 5—Jeri Joy
May 7—Mary Otteson
May 8—Lorrie Ledgerwood, Grace VonKrosigk
May 11—Karli Glock, Jeff Mueller
May 12—Jason Browne, Carole Hansen
May 13—Tracey Burke, Jean Morgen
May 14—Londyn Bergstrom
May 15—Stevie Baxter
May 16—Beth Bailey, River Osborne
May 17—Nancy Jenny
May 18—Greg Glock
May 20—Darlene McNair, Reese Osborne
May 21—Sandy Fitzpatrick
May 22—Joyce Groneberg, Jim Perry, Diane Peterson
May 24—Janis DeVore
May 25—Margaret Litle, Marion Sept
May 26—Judi Palm
May 31—Fielding Phillips



Happy Anniversary! May

May 6—Tod & Jan Windsor
May 11—Janis DeVore & Clif Cook
May 18—Doug & Kathy Beagle
May 19—Dave & Becky Motsick
May 28—Ryan Landis & Rachel Mathews-Landis
May 29—Tim & Beth Lenz
May 31—Keith & Linda Luegge

SUMMER •CAMP•



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



PLEASE
CONTACT CJ
FOR MORE
DETAILS

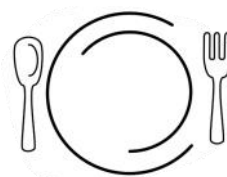
VISIT CAMPSTROY.ORG TO CHECK
OUT THE CAMP OPTIONS!

Lunch Together

A huge thank you to all our
April Lunch Together volunteers !
It was an awesome week!

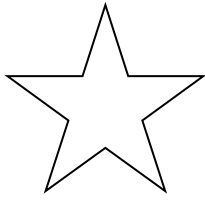
Our next time to serve is June 12—15.
See you then!

Denise Mueller
828-712-9500

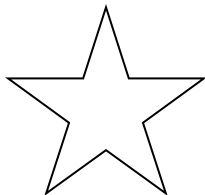


Talent Show

Come and join us for FPC's annual talent
show 7 pm on Friday, May 12th. We have
many amazing "acts" signed up.
It will be a fun night you won't want to miss!



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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.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12 pm PW Luncheon	4 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	5	6
7 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	8 Church building closed for the day for plumbing work!	9 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	10 10:15 am Congregational Care Comm.	11 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	12 7 pm FPC Annual Talent Show	13
14 Mother's Day 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Family Fellowship	15	16 7 pm Session	17 10 am Circle 1 & Circle 2 12 pm Circle 3	18 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	19	20
21 8 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 4 pm Youth Group	22	23	24 	25 10 am Bible Study	26 Pastor Karl Out of Office ←————→	27
28 8 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship ←————→	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			
						



First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

