



First Presbyterian  
Church of Sheridan

# The Good News

October 2023



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## Church Clean Up Day

Please note the first Saturday in October, the 7th will be our church cleanup day. The properties committee invites you to join in the cleanup beginning at 9 am that day.

## Confirmation Begins

Confirmation begins Sunday, October 15 for youth in 6th grade and up. Contact CJ if you have questions concerning confirmation.

## M3 (Monday Morning Meet-ups)

The 3rd Monday of the month, high school youth will meet at 6:45 am—7:30 am at Java Moon. This is a great way for the youth to have a time for conversation and to start their week in a positive light!

## October Family Gathering

On page 7 of this newsletter you will find the poster for the October Family Gathering at Koltiska's Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 8. Meet at 4 pm for a group photo and then head out to find the perfect pumpkin!

## The Bridge

Come and join us for The Bridge on Wednesday evenings.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm and educational programming will follow from 6:15 to 7 pm. Attend one or all of the activities of our time together.

Click [here](#) to sign up for the meal on SignUp Genius. Our cook teams need to now how many people are planning to attend and therefore how much food to prepare. You'll also find each week's menu on this link.

If you like to cook, you can always sign up to be a cook team or be a part of a cook team. See Kim Wells if you're wondering what a cook team does!  
See you there!

Dear Ones,

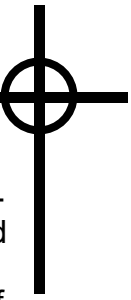
In adult Sunday school, we have spent the past three weeks talking about how the Bible went from an oral tradition to the bound book that we engage each week in worship and study. We have talked about the choices that were made along the way by various translators, the movement from Hebrew to Greek to Latin to English, and the explosion of translations in the 21st century. All the while, we have held close how the Spirit has been at work through the story of God as we have perceived it and continues to be each time we encounter these holy works. The conversation has been wonderful and I am thankful for a congregation that engages with one another in this way around a variety of topics. We will finish the class up this week by talking about different ways that the Bible has been interpreted through time.

Focusing on this sort of overview of the Bible has made me think a little more about how the stories themselves, not just the published book, have been shaped. In the Old Testament there are a few defining stories for the Israelites. The first is the exodus. This is the story of Israelite salvation and the story that names the people as God's people. It grounds them, gives them a core identity, and marks the fulfillment of God's vow to deliver them to the Promised Land. The next defining moment comes in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel as the people organize themselves, against divine wishes, into a monarchy. Saul reigns as the first king, but he is replaced by David through whom God makes another vow that his descendants will forever be on the throne. David reigns in Jerusalem, develops that city as the center of Israelite culture and religion, and makes Israel into a real player in the region militarily, politically, and economically. But this heyday does not last forever before too many generations have passed, other empires rise and oppress the Israelites. The Babylonians, in particular, take control of the region and forcibly exile many of the Israelites. This is the third defining story. They took many of the people from their home in Jerusalem to Babylon, destroyed the temple, and left the city in ruins.

It is during the time in exile and after that many of the stories of the Israelite tradition begin to be collected, edited, and retold with a focus on making sense of how and why God's people were removed from God's Promised Land. We do the same thing today. In any sermon, we are utilizing the stories that have been handed down to us to make sense of our present day. One way in which the Israelites do this is through the creation story in Genesis 2 where Adam and Eve are placed in the Garden of Eden (i.e. the Promised Land), rebel against God, and are cast out (i.e. exiled). That story follows the arc of the whole of the Old Testament/Israelite experience wherein God delivers, the people defy, and the people lose what has been given to them. But even though Adam and Eve are cast out, God still goes with them. The story does not begin again with an absence of the divine. The location changes, but God's presence does not. Outside of the Promised Land, the people must make a new way, but they are not abandoned by God. This story, no matter how it came to be in front of us, and no matter which translation we read, is the story of redemption. For those of us in the Christian tradition, the New Testament continues that story of redemption. We make our own way and do not always follow the God who delivers us and saves us, but God still goes with us. God cannot help but to love you. It's just who God is and the story tells us that in Jesus Christ this is who God will always be.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl



One thing I have done over my career as a parent is having family dinners. We share a meal with a no-phone-at-the-table policy. Some days, due to busy schedules or Craig not getting off on time, it is 7/7:30 before we sit down for dinner, and it could be a mixture of leftovers, but we are all together. This is when we check in and talk about our day, highs and lows, school stuff, homework, and everything else. We have had some fascinating conversations. We have laughed, cried, and sometimes argued. As the kids have gotten older, this is something they cling to. When our routines are off, and we haven't had a sit-down meal with everyone together, the kids ask for it. I have had one say that not having dinner together feels wrong. When Brenden moved back, we started having dinner together at least once a week. It is not a set night because Brenden wants to know the menu for the week and then will say what night is coming based on that. Regardless, it is a night that everyone looks forward to.

One of our dinner-time routines is grace. We say the same grace almost all of the time. We use, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let this food to us be blessed. Amen." I don't know where it came from. I am pretty sure it was one from my childhood. Sometimes, when we feel a little sassy and want to mix it up, we sing the Johnny Appleseed grace. Johnny Appleseed was the grace we always sang when we gathered at my grandmother's house, with either grace that we say wasn't something explicitly taught. Grace wasn't something that I was told we were saying grace because we were thanking God for what God had provided to us. It was just something that I picked up. I am not sure I even told my kids when they were little that this is why we say grace. I might have to investigate and see if my kids remember if it was taught or if it was something they picked on their own or somewhere else.

I came across this mealtime prayer by Traci Smith.

At our table we love.

At our table we welcome friends.

At our table we tell the truth.

At our table we forgive.

All are welcome at our table.

One of the reasons this grace speaks to me is that it sandwiches my favorite things. We love. The prayer reminds us that this is what we do: we love. When we focus on love, welcoming friends and telling the truth is more accessible. Forgiveness is difficult, but it is easier to talk about and offer with love. It ends with all welcome. Everyone is welcomed at God's table, and we are challenged to be like God, to accept the lairs, the unforgivable, the friendless, and those unloved.

I want to know if I can sneak this prayer into our rotation. It is funny how my children are set in their ways, and any changes are met with objections.

Just a reminder that this month's Family Fellowship is the Koltiska Pumpkin Patch! We will meet at 4 p.m. for a group picture and then go on the hunt for the perfect pumpkin. Just like the grace's ending, all are welcome. See you at the pumpkin patch!



### Enjoy the Fall Season from Presbyterian Women!

Pumpkin Spice, Caramel Apples, Candy Corn, celebrating the harvest...we are thankful for all of the blessings of the season!

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month during the school year September through May.

- 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 next PW luncheon is on October 4<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall. These luncheons are a good time of fellowship and fun. This time our program will be a presentation from Carolyn McBurney, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Wyoming Moderator. She was selected to attend a United Nations experience in March. I'm sure it will

We are supporters of a larger organization of Presbyterian Women Worldwide. What we do matters in a bigger way than we can even imagine. God is always at work even when we have no idea what He is doing. Just like Pastor Karl's sermon on the Israelites in the desert, they were grumbling and complaining about having no water, they couldn't see what God had in store for them. He brought them to the oasis so they could rest and be refreshed. God is up to good things for our good and His glory. We have to step out in faith. Ask God to show you how you can use the talents and resources he gave you to be His hands and feet. We have free will. Let's use our free will to follow Jesus and work for His purposes. Thanks to those who serve Him in our church. Thanks for God's amazing grace! If we have failed you, we apologize. Please give us grace and try us again. Our God wants us all to be reconciled. John 14:34 says, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you."

We hope to see lots of Presbyterian Women and guests on October 4<sup>th</sup> at noon!

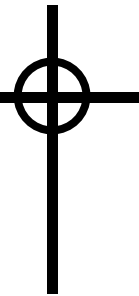
PW will have a **Pie Sale for Mission** on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned for more details.

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



**FRESH BAKED**  
★ **PIES** ★





# FPC in Action!



**Kick Off Sunday!**

Farewell prayer and blessing for Brooke as he moves.



What do you suppose these 3 were up to following worship at Camp Story?





## Good News at FPC !



Baptism and celebration  
of Baer Ruttinger.



Congratulations to Emily & Brenden Clem  
on their marriage which took place in Italy.

Meet Huxon Sadler who was born in  
September, son of  
Rockie and Jerrod Sadler.



**The church office is open during these hours.**

8 am - noon - Monday – Friday

Please call 672-1717 to leave a message.

[office@sheridanfpc.church](mailto:office@sheridanfpc.church)

**Like us on Facebook!**

<https://Sheridanfpc.church>

All worship services can be viewed on First Presbyterian Church's YouTube Channel.

## Financial Summary for 2023 through the end of August

### Giving:

Actual Giving	\$ 259,990
Budgeted Giving	\$ 255,883
Difference	\$ 4,106

### Expenses:

Actual Expenses	\$ 243,519
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 264,283
Difference	\$ -20,763

### Net:

Actual Giving	\$ 259,990
Actual Expenses	\$ 243,519
Difference	\$ 16,470

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.

Your contributions to our Per Capita obligation to the General Assembly totals \$3,305 thru July. Our total 2023 Per Capita assessment is \$13,600.

## Church Clean Up Day!

Saturday, October 7 starting at 9 am we will be having our church clean up day.

## Highway Clean Up Day!

On Saturday, October 21st, FPC will be cleaning our section of highway. Meet at the Big Horn Y at 8 am if you are able to help.

Call Dave Engels at 751-2009 if you have questions.



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

**Musicians:** Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, Doug Moore, Kathy Beagle

**Worship Leaders:** Gloria Dierking, Stevie Baxter, Beth Thurow, Erica Bainter

**Ushers:** Mitzi Knapp, Jean Morgen, Ron & Bobbie Spahn, Frank Rugh, Shelley Cundiff, Brian & Erica Bainter, Ron Patterson, Jeri Joy, Doug Moore, Scott Davis, Denise Mueller

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

**Communion Servers:** Scott Davis & Mary Ludemann, Doug Moore, Bobbie Spahn

**Audio/Visual Systems Operators:** Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Craig Clem, Prakash Landis

**Coffee Sponsors:** Janet Burtis, Larry & Mary Apple, Mission Committee



## Thank You

To all the volunteers who baked  
bread for World Communion Day!

## Keep them in your prayers



**Ongoing Prayers:** Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, Darlene McNair, Kathleen Shafer, Jerry and Myrna Saunders, and Robert & Jeanette Ruttinger.

**Prayers for Peace & Healing:** Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Jae Satterlee, Diana Miller, Mary Hutton, Jay Gallagher (Pat & Jane's son), and Sharon Basse.

**Prayers for those Grieving:** Family and friends of Leonard Hurst.

**Prayers for Mission Partners:** First Presbyterian (Burns) and the Food Group.

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

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





## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1—Julie Kennedy, Gabe Thurow,  
Greyden Nield

October 2—Jim Litle

October 5—Keith Luegge

October 6—Becki Youngren

October 10—Ethan Milne

October 13—Carter Steidley, Tyler Wells,  
Emmi Johnson

October 14—Sharon Porter, Taylor Cameron

October 16—Jill Martin, Ryli Malone

October 17—Tyler Milne, Cory Hamstreet

October 18—Helen Campbell

October 22—Logan Groshart

October 24—Decker Nield

October 25—Isaac Gray

October 26—Sandy Birkholz

October 28—Greg Thurow, Linda Luegge

October 31—Cheryl Kelsey



**SUPPORT FROM THE HEART**

# MAUI FIRE RELIEF LUNCH FUNDRAISER

2121 Colonial Drive, Sheridan

**SATURDAY, OCT. 28TH | 11 AM-1:30 PM**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



Join us for a Hawaiian lunch to raise funds for the communities affected by the Maui Fires. Lunch includes a Pulled Pork Sandwich on a Hawaiian King Roll, with all the right fixings!! Donations accepted and proceeds, up to \$2,000, will be matched by The First Presbyterian Mission Committee. First 25 people will receive a handcrafted paper Lei.

Questions? Please contact FPC @ 672-1717



## Happy Anniversary! October

October 7—Cory & Janet Hamstreet

October 11—Jeff & Denise Mueller

October 13—Roy & Carol Davis

October 14—Kurt & Heidi Smith

October 15—Bryan & Shawn Luedtke

October 17—Kevin & Beth Bailey

October 18—Gary & Jeri Joy

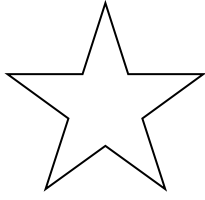
October 31—Dave & Mavis Williams

## Lunch Together

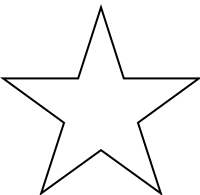
First Presbyterian will be serving Lunch Together the week of Monday, October 9 through Thursday, October 12.

If you would like to volunteer to help, Denise will have a table set up on both Sunday, October 1 and Sunday, October 8 for signups.





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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 Foshier)

**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 Foshier)

**Carsie Mitchell** (Grandson of Jim & Dianne Perry)

**Henry Johannesen** (Grandson of Judi Palm)

### **Army & Army Reserves**

**Ethan & Johnna Hall** (Grandson & granddaughter-in-law of Carol Maloy)

**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.

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 11:45 am Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts <div></div>	<b>4</b> 12 pm PW Luncheon 5:30 The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells <div>CJ Out of Office</div>	<b>5</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study <div></div>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9 am Church Clean Up
<b>8</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech Committee 4 pm Pumpkin Patch	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 5 pm CE 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget/ Finance 5:45 pm Mission	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Congregational Care Committee 5:30 The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>12</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>13</b> 11 am Leonard Hurst's Funeral	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Session Retreat
<b>15</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Session	<b>1/</b> 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3 5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>19</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8 am Highway Clean Up
<b>22</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir <b>PW Pie Sale</b>	<b>23</b> <div>  </div>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>26</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11 am—1:30 pm Maui Fire Relief Lunch Fundraiser
<b>29</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				





*First Presbyterian Church*

2121 Colonial Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

