



First Presbyterian  
Church of Sheridan

# The Good News

January 2024

## Worship Schedule

Starting Sunday, January 7 we will resume our worship schedule of two services. Plan to join us that day at either 8 am or 10:30 am worship with communion.

## Congregational Annual Meeting

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, January 28. That is the day of FPC's Annual Meeting. It will be held immediately following the 10:30 am service that morning.

There will also be a potluck lunch that day. Please bring a dish to share.

## Bluegrass Sunday

Also Sunday, January 28 is our Bluegrass Sunday. Do you remember our Bluegrass Sunday from last year? There was a lot of our favorite hymns, clapping and foot stomping! You won't want to miss out this year.

## Chili Cook-Off

Join us on Sunday, January 21 for our annual Chili Cook-Off! The cook-off begins at 11:45 am. All proceeds from the event will go to youth faith building opportunities.

If you have a chili you'd like to enter in the contest, please let CJ know by Wednesday, January 17.

## Silent Auction

Sunday, January 21 is also the beginning of the Silent Auction. You may make bids on items that Sunday and throughout the week. The auction ends on Sunday, January 28th.

If you have auction items you would like to donate, please have those to CJ by Wednesday, January 17th.

Money raised through the auction will support youth mission trips and camp scholarships.



### INSIDE:

Pastor Karl.....	2
Notes from CJ.....	3
PW.....	4
FPC in Action.....	5
Good News at FPC.....	6
Session.....	7
Worship.....	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	9
Military.....	10
Calendar.....	11

Dear Ones,

It's been a terrific 2023 at First Presbyterian Church! Let's take a look back: We began the year making a big change. At the annual meeting, you all approved the Session's recommendation to change the by-laws to move the Session from a 21 member council to a 12 member council. This change followed a year of work by a dedicated task force (made up of Beth Thurow, Craig Clem, Shelley Cundiff, and Nancy Cook) who sought to discern what sort of leadership structure would best fit our congregation in the 2020s and going forward.

January gave way to February which paved the way for our first "Bluegrass Sunday." If you all had even half as much fun as I did at that special worship service then you had A LOT of fun! It was a Sunday full of old favorites and even foot stamping and hand clapping. Who says Presbyterians are always the *frozen chosen*? *I'm so grateful to Loren Ruttinger, Erica Bainter, Greg Thurow, and Kathy Beagle for sharing their musical skills with us all on that day. Our next "Bluegrass Sunday" will be on January 28. I hope to see you there!*

As we moved into the spring, we embraced the Lenten season with a *freezing cold Ash Wednesday*. But twenty below didn't deter all of you! *I couldn't believe how many people still came out or joined online to embrace the humility of both the liturgical season and just being human. At the end of the season, you all came out again for one of our favorite services: Maundy Thursday. We circled around the communion table and lived the story of Jesus sitting down with his fickle disciples and sitting down with our fickle selves today. On Easter, we watched the sun come up, ate breakfast through the morning, and proclaimed, "Jesus Christ is risen today!"*

In the summer, you gave your time and skills to Camp Story (which had a banner year). Our youth took a mission trip to Kansas City to serve and grow together. We hosted Mark and Miriam from Frontera de Cristo and growing that partnership even more as a delegation from our church is with them on the border as you read this. We golfed, ate, and hiked together. We enjoyed the beautiful gift of church family.

In the fall, we journeyed through Exodus together in worship. We cleaned the church and the highway (for the 33rd straight year...I think). Our bell choir got back up and going on a weekly basis. Our choir continued to share their gifts with us. We gathered mid-week at The Bridge to eat together and connect between Sundays, and various Bible studies grew in their faith together. Then, in the past month, we celebrated the Advent season and wondered together, "How does a weary world rejoice?" We held the sorrows of the season together in prayer and at the special Longest Night service, and we shared our joys as we enjoyed the choir's leadership in worship and the children's with their pageant (the first of that sort in a number of years).

I am so grateful for all of you and your faithful participation in this faith community and beyond it. You joined your hearts and hands together for another year of service at Lunch Together feeding this town and continued to expand your work of feeding with support of our Little Free Pantry. You gave generously to support our ministry within the church. Your gifts also allowed us to help many people who came to the church looking for help with gas, lodging, food, medical bills, and utility bills. When people have come in, we have done our best to help and to find ways to help. This is what gives me great hope about this congregation for that is directly related to the way in which we have grown to make space for all who come into worship. I firmly believe that this is a place where people can find a home and a family that embraces them as Christ embraces them. Is there yet work to do in our own hearts on that front? Of course, but we are looking to Jesus to guide our way and we are seeking to be faithful and hopeful. Considering all of this, it is a joy to walk with you into 2024.

*Pastor Karl*



We were given a star with a word on it a year ago. We were instructed to use that word to guide, reflect, and grow from. The word I had was comprehension. I wrote it on my whiteboard so I would reflect on the word every day when sitting at my desk. Here we are a year later, and I still need help with my word.

Comprehension means to understand and fully grasp something or a concept. I first thought there was no way I would fully understand my faith. I will always question, ponder, and wonder at the scriptures I study. When I feel I know the passage's meaning, something or someone comes along and has me reexamine what I thought I knew. I love that we share and discuss scripture. Through these experiences, I am continually growing and learning, but what can I get from comprehension?

Reflecting on what I did this year, I find my brain wandering back to July when I took Eli and Prakash on a mission trip to Kansas City. We served in a thrift store, helped with a community garden, and tended a garden that helped finance educational programs to help low-income families grow their produce. We were in an unfamiliar town doing tasks we could do at home, but we were experiencing the people and the stories behind the faces. This experience gave me another perspective on the commandment to go and be the hands and feet of God.

As I write this, I am packing to travel with the delegation to experience Frontera de Cristo and the mission partners. I will witness the impact of the service. I can walk the desert between the United States and Mexico. I will experience a different culture and life from Sheridan, Wyoming. These experiences will expand my comprehension of a different life and how God works in all of it and through us all to experience the love of the Creator.

This past year, comprehension played out as seeing faith in action. Experiences that expanded, grew, shaped, and transformed my faith. Comprehension of what it means to serve others in body, mind, and shared experiences. It took a year to comprehend how comprehension could be embraced in my life entirely. Here is hoping this year's word is more straightforward.

2024 will have two mission opportunities. The high school students will be able to participate in a mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI, in June. The middle school students will have a mission opportunity in July that will stay closer to home. One of the big fundraisers for these opportunities and the camping scholarship will be this month, in the form of the annual chili cook-off and silent auction. The chili cookoff will be held on Sunday, January 21 following the 10:30 service. The chili cook-off starts the silent auction, concluding the following Sunday.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in the chili cook-off by Wednesday, January 17. January 17 is also the last day to drop off donations for the silent auction. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

2024 is shaping up to be a year full of adventure and faith-building opportunities for the youth.

Happy New Year, friends!



## Presbyterian Women Wish You Happy & Healthy New Year 2024!

### 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 PW luncheon is Wednesday, January 10th at noon.

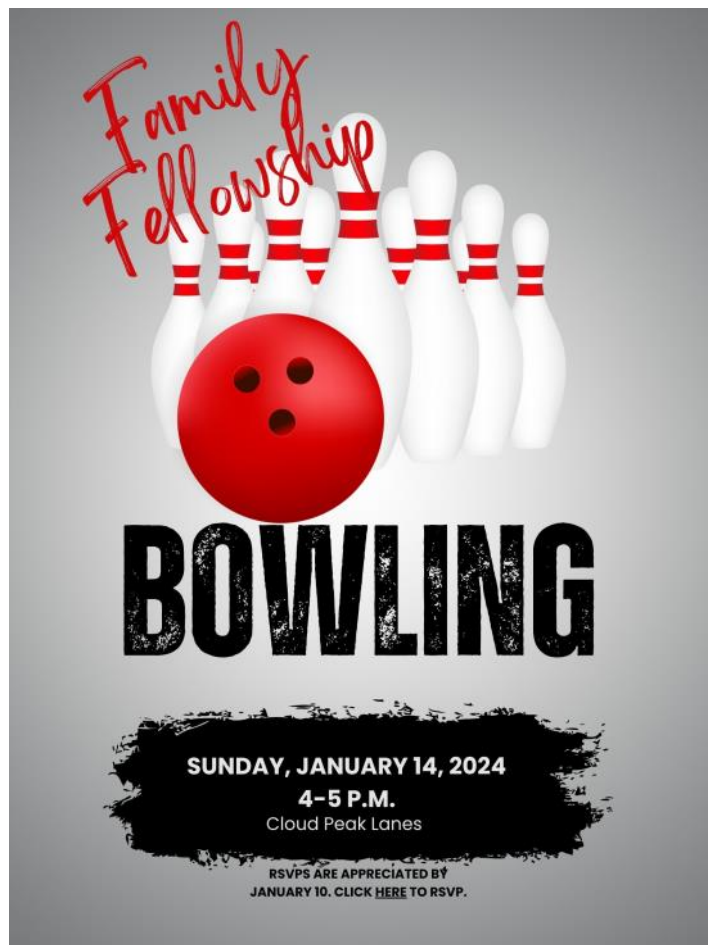
January's luncheon is January 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. This is a change due to New Years Day. The luncheon committee has a request for a little help. They will provide the meat, rolls and dessert. Please bring a side dish if you are able. If you are not able to bring something don't worry. We need to remain nimble and embrace new ways of doing things at times by pitching in and helping out. I have faith that the Lord will move folks to bring just what the Lord puts on their hearts and it will be a wonderful blessing and a feast! In January we remember our sisters in Christ who joined the Church Triumphant in 2023. We also install the officers.

The current slate of officers agreed to another year of service with no new nominations. Helen Campbell and Rhea Cooksey-Dixon are Co-Moderators, Gloria Dierking is Secretary and Su Rappleye is Treasurer. The program for January will be given by Gloria Dierking and the title of her presentation is "My Life as a Manic Depressive."

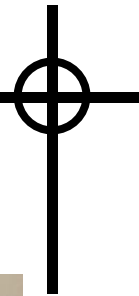
Please send any corrections to the yearbook to Gloria Dierking. Thanks to Gloria for using her computer publishing skills and program for the glory of God. If you would like to be in our directory as an "At Large" member, let Gloria know. This means that you would be in our directory of Presbyterian Women which you are by default. Every woman who is a church member is a Presbyterian Woman. You would be with us in spirit if not in body. We would not pay per capita for you and you would not be expected to do anything unless you wanted.

February's luncheon will be on the first Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

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







# FPC in Action!



The Christmas Story as told through the eyes of children.



And through the gift of music, Ruby shared her talents with her cello.



FPC Color Bells (youth bell choir) shared their gifts and talents during the Sunday School Christmas program playing "Joy to the World".

Thank you to CJ and all the adults who worked with the youth to make this program happen!



## Good News at FPC !



Arlene Herrboldt celebrated her 96th birthday with family and friends just before the holiday!

**Congratulations** to Jack and Nancy Elliott who celebrated their 50th anniversary December 22nd!



Please share your “good news” with us! Pictures are always welcome but not necessary.



Lucy Brock was a member of the SHS “We the People” team that came home as state champions. The team will now travel to Washington, DC for the national competition.



## 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



Join Us Sunday, January 21!

# Chili

## COOK OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Who will have bragging rights to the best chili?

11:45 AM FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP

The Chili Cook-off is a fundraising event for youth faith-building opportunities.

HAVE A CHILI YOU THINK CAN WIN IT ALL? CONTACT CJ.

For more information: [cj@sheridanfpc.church](mailto:cj@sheridanfpc.church)



Thank you to all the FPC Bell Ringing Team Members that rang bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive! Aiden and Alicia had a fun 2-hour shift!

## Keep them in your prayers



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

**Prayers for Peace & Healing:** Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Jae Satterlee, Diana Miller, Mary Hutton, Arlene Herrboldt, and Melony Douglas.

**Prayers for Mission Partners:** United Presbyterian (Laramie) and CASA.

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

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

**Musicians:** Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, FPC Choir, Doug Moore, Handbell Choir, FPC Color Bells, Greg Thurow, Ruby Szwec, Ethan Milne, Tyler Milne, Prakash Landis

**Worship Leaders:** Dave Engels, Rachel Milne, Kim Wells, Karen Fosher, Ryan Landis

**Ushers:** The Milne family, Nickie & Rex Arney, Izzi Clem, Jean Morgen, Nancy Cook, Frank, Lisa & Isaac Rugh

**Communion Prep:** Su Rappleye-Jackson, Cheryl Kelsey, Lorrie Ledgerwood

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:** Erica, Brian & Daren Bainter; Ron & Bobbie Spahn; Doug & Pam Moore; Gary & Sherry Laughton

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

**Coffee Sponsors:** Mission Committee, Harper Jo Heimback, Ryan Landis Family



The Youth Mission Trip and Camp Scholarship Silent Auction is just around the corner. CJ is accepting donations. Please have your donation to the church by Wednesday, January 17. When dropping off donations, please give estimated value and any requested opening bids. If you have any questions, please contact CJ, at the church or [cj@sheridanfpc.church](mailto:cj@sheridanfpc.church)



Some of our bell ringers even shared musical selections while ringing!





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 3—Marilyn Michelena, Doug Hall

January 5—Avery Von Krosigk, Izzi Clem

January 6—Janet Burtis, Jerrod Sadler

January 8—Tori Milne

January 9—Paxton Zuniga

January 11—Rex Arney, Betty Leavitt

January 12—Mavis Williams

January 13—Phyllis Wilhelm

January 14—Bailey Bard

January 15—Alex Cameron, Doug Moore

January 16—Ted Knapp

January 19—Rockie Sadler

January 21—Greta Johnson

January 23—Hazel Ford, Rudy Osborne,  
Bridgett Ruttinger

January 24—Karen Fosher

January 27—Howie Fitzpatrick

January 29—Jerry Saunders, Brenden Clem

January 30—Max Brock, Teresa Williams

January 31—Pam Moore



The FPC Choir sharing Christmas music with their Christmas Cantata.



## Happy Anniversary! January

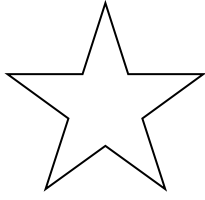
January 7—Frank & Lisa Rugh

January 19—Brian & Jean Morgen

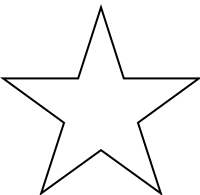
January 25—Dennis & Cheryl Heizer



FPC Bell Choir



**P  
r  
a  
y  
  
f  
o  
r  
  
o  
u  
r  
  
M  
i  
l  
i  
t  
a  
r  
y**



### **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)

### **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.

# January 2024

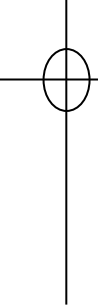
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  <b>Happy New Year!</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>3</b>  <div>Karl &amp; CJ Out of Office</div>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8 am Worship w/ Communion 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech 4 pm Confirmation	<b>8</b>  <div>CJ Out of Office</div>	<b>9</b> 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget  5:45 pm Mission	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Congregational Care 12 pm PW Luncheon  5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>11</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Family Gathering Bowling	<b>15</b> 6:45 am M3	<b>16</b>  5:45 pm Session 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>17</b> 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3  5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>18</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>19</b>  <div>DEADLINE</div> Turn in reports for the Annual report	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Chili Cook-Off 4 pm Confirmation	<b>22</b> 12 pm High School Lunch  <div>DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles</div>	<b>23</b>  10 am Homebound Communion Trng.	<b>24</b>  <div>Silent Auction</div> 5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>25</b>  7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Annual Mtg & Potluck 4 pm Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells			

Bluegrass  
Sunday  
January 28th



Bluegrass  
Sunday  
January 28th





*First Presbyterian Church*

2121 Colonial Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

