



First Presbyterian  
Church of Sheridan

# The Good News

February 2024

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



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## The Bridge & Lenten Study Combined

Pastor Karl will be leading a Lenten study each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent.

This begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday services starting at 6:30 pm. The Bridge dinner will become a simple Lenten meal of soup and bread continuing to meet at 5:30 with the study to follow.

We are requesting that those attending would share a pot of soup or bread with others. Two large crock pots of soup and 4 loaves of bread each Wednesday should be sufficient. There will be a sign-up sheet starting February 4th in the narthex for this.

We look forward to a time of fellowship and learning as we enter the Easter season.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 pm with imposition of ashes.

### Super Bowl Watch Party

Sunday, February 11 at 4 pm you are invited to watch the Super Bowl and cheer on your favorite team. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring your favorite tailgate dish.

Drinks will be provided.

All ages welcome!



## Ordination of New Elders

First Presbyterian Church • 2121 Colonial Drive • Sheridan, WY 82801

• 307-672-1717 • [office@sheridanfpc.church](mailto:office@sheridanfpc.church)

Dear Ones,

Here comes Lent. Again. There is a rhythm of fasting and feasting within the church calendar. This mirrors the Christian life of sacrifice and joy. We live in humility and live selflessly so that all might be cared for and loved and we rejoice and feast on God's bountiful mercy and provision. Life is good. And life lived sacrificially helps it be good for others, too.

Traditionally, Lent is one of the seasons of fasting. In this lies the origin of the practice of giving something up for the season. This practice is more common in the Catholic tradition than the Protestant, but it is not foreign to us. I think we can see the benefit of altering our life at times so that we can lean more deeply into the story of Jesus Christ. Because Lent culminates in the giving up of Jesus's own life, the practice of giving something up ourselves represents our own desire and attempt to embrace and embody Jesus's story in ways that we can for the benefit of the world. Can we give of ourselves and benefit the world to the extent of Jesus? Of course not. Divine love is divine and is, therefore, beyond us. But we still emulate Jesus's love as we are able because whatever love we are able to sow by emptying ourselves is glorifying to God and good for God's world.

This Lent, I want to encourage you to participate in the season in two ways. First, give something up. There truly is something powerful about doing this. It is a tradition in the Christian faith for a real reason. It helps you embrace your reality that you rely upon God and allows you to seek God's guidance and provision as you fast from something. To give something up embodies your trust in the Lord. Even giving up things like sugar, caffeine, alcohol, or video games - these things that can seem silly or trivial - can be a deep practice of orienting yourself to God in all things and at all times.

Second, participate in the Wednesday evening Lenten soup and study. We are going to embrace the simplicity of Lent with a soup and bread meal and then we will read the book "Freeing Jesus" by Diana Butler Bass. This book discusses six different ways Jesus is made known in the New Testament: friend, teacher, savior, Lord, way, and presence. The sermons for each week of Lent will focus on these same titles so there will be an interweaving of the study and worship to help gain a fuller sense of the Lenten season, to have multiple points of entry to the discussion, and to rediscover Jesus anew. But this experience will be best undertaken together!

When the practice of giving something up began, it was done so that the money one saved by not purchasing what was given up could be offered as alms for the poor. Even though the practice of giving something up was individual, the result was to knit the community closer together and to share an experience. Our study will help us do the same. You can get a book by calling the office, emailing me, or signing up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FAEA923A0FE3-47392093-lenten#/>. Please sign up by Monday the 5th so that we can order enough books. If you miss that date, however, we'll have some extras on hand.

Looking forward to sharing this season with you,

*Pastor Karl*



Confirmation has been going on for five months now. We have about three and a half months left. Getting to know the next generation of church members has been incredible. We have covered topics from the Nicene Creed, what a heretic is, church history, and different variations of the Lord's Prayer. Now, we are transitioning into traditions of our faith, exploration of their faith, and their statement of faith. It is always a refreshing time working with you. You get to see things through new eyes and different perspectives.

Working with the confirmands makes me more aware of the vocabulary we use as church members. For example, we discussed communion in one lesson, using the word eucharist. One brave participant asked what the eucharist is, which led to a great discussion. When we hear the same thing in different ways, it can help us rethink.

In a lesson, we read and discussed different variations of the Lord's Prayer. We then talked about how sometimes, when we do things repeatedly, we pay less attention when we hear them in a new way. It takes on a new meaning, or our understanding expands. The youth determined they liked the "old way" (the one we do in worship) better. For the youth, it is a comfort thing. It is something that they know and can be a part of.

The following variation of The Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book was one the class looked at. I enjoyed this one, and I am sharing it with you.

Eternal Spirit,  
 Earther-maker, Pain-bear, Life-giver,  
 Source of all that is and that shall be,  
 Father and mother of us all,  
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
 The way of your justice is followed by the peoples of the world!  
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
 now and for ever. Amen.



## Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Leap Year 2024!

**Theme for 2024:** Store 24 Bible verses in your heart in 2024.

Love one another as I have loved you. John 13:34

### 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, February 7th at noon. We plan to 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. We also plan to have a short Memorial for Presbyterian Women who joined the Church Triumphant in 2023. The rest of the time will be spent in fellowship.

March's luncheon will be on the first Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup>.

We are including the thank you letter from The Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lame Deer.

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

### A letter from the Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association:

*Greetings in the name of Christ! We trust that your New Year has begun well!*

*I'm writing to thank you for the Christmas gifts which you sent to the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store and which were shared with our community. There were a tremendous boost and deeply appreciated. We continue to believe in our philosophy that a "Hand up is better than a handout." Your gifts helped us work toward that end.*

*When these toys were delivered you mentioned a desire to do this on an annual basis. We appreciate that possibility and hope for the future. You also asked us to let you know what sells well. I talked with several of our employees (who are also mothers) and their evaluation is as follows:*

*-Balls, any kind (basketballs, footballs, volleyballs, soccer balls)*

*-Remote control toys*

*-Crafts (kids love to paint and draw)*

*-Dolls (especially Indian dolls, but also Barbie)*

*-Small cars*

*-Action figures*

*-Board games*

*-Puzzles do not sell well*

*Thank you again for your generosity! Wishing you God's continued blessing in 2024!*

*Sincerely,*

*Willis Busenitz, president*

*Email: wnbusenitz@gmail.com*

*406-679-1790 (cell)*





# FPC in Action!



Tracey Burke

I moved west in 1978, from Maryland and never looked back. The mountains called my name. I was a math teacher at the time before becoming a rancher and a ski instructor in the winters. My husband, Renny, and I owned and operated a cattle and guest ranch for decades. We downsized and moved to Sheridan in 2010 i.e., no more guests. It was then I came back to my Presbyterian roots and joined FPC.



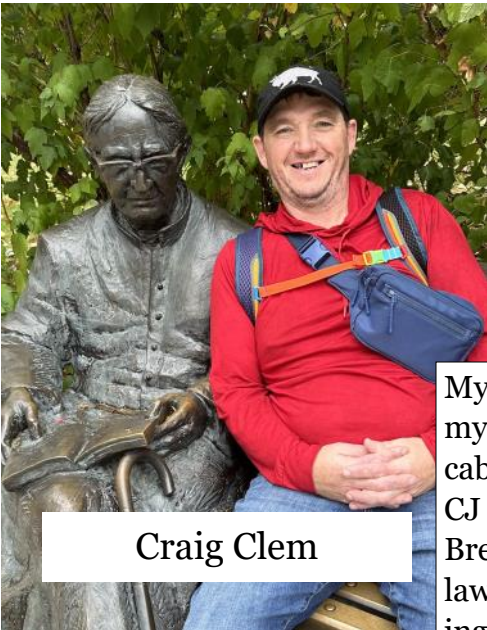
Gary Laughton

My family moved to Dayton when I was 5 months old and lived there until I was 6. I moved to Sheridan with my father when he was hired to teach school at Taylor.

I graduated from Sheridan High School in 1965 and enlisted in the Air Force a month later. After military service I returned to Sheridan where I worked and attended Sheridan college and took flying lessons. I met Sherry during this time and we were married in the 1st Presbyterian Church on South Main.

After a 50 year career of flying we retired back to Sheridan. We have 2 sons who are married and a granddaughter who was recently married and 3 grandsons. Sherry and I have been involved with Presbyterian church's life in each of the cities we have lived in.

I finished an open term on the budget committee and session at the end of 2023 and have accepted another term on session serving on the budget committee.



Craig Clem

My family and I moved to Sheridan in 2014, to start my employment with Spectrum. I have been in the cable industry for 24 years. I have been married to CJ for 25 years and we have four children together; Brenden, Izabel, Eli and Ottis and one daughter-in-law, Emily. In my free time I enjoy camping, fishing, spending time with my family and watching wrestling .

# Good News at FPC !



## Sheridan High School Marching Band!

Sheridan's band had the opportunity of marching in the San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade as well as performing in the Holiday Bowl Halftime show.

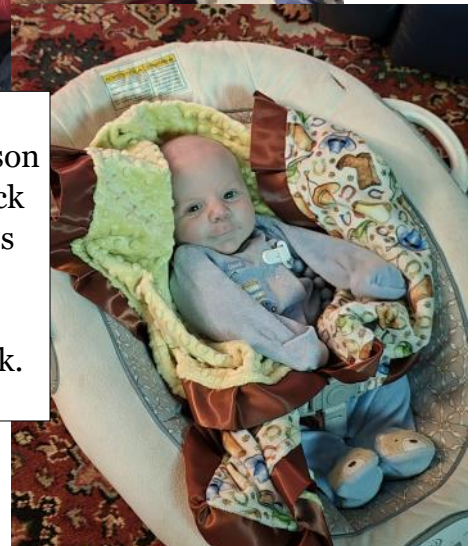
Prakash Landis & Ethan Milne (French horn) and Tyler Milne (marching baritone) were members of the band.



A good time was had by all the musicians!



Louann Hamstreet welcomed great grandson Augustus Randall Glick on 11/9/23. Augustus weighed 5lbs 5oz. Proud parents are Teri and William Glick.





## Session Members and Committees

### Budget & Finance

Karen Burtis, Gary Laughton

### Clerk of Session

Gary Joy

### Christian Education

Rex Arney, Tori Milne

### Fellowship

Becky Motsick, Kim Wells

### Congregational Care

Bobbie Spahn, Jean Morgen

### Mission & Outreach

Rachel Mathews-Landis, Tina Anderson

### Personnel

Shelley Cundiff, Nancy Cook

### Properties

Dave Youngren, Larry Apple

### Worship

John Jackson, Tracey Burke

### Tech

Craig Clem



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting for January was held on Tuesday the 16th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest --

- Fellowship Committee is looking for cook teams for The Bridge meals on Wednesday evenings.
- Mission Committee is giving \$250 to a fund in conjunction with Lunch Together to pay for lunches at Sheridan Jr. High for those students who cannot afford to pay for lunch themselves.
- A committee will be formed to work with an architect to determine the feasibility of creating a music rehearsal space, a room for adult Sunday school (not in the Fellowship Hall), expanding the Fellowship Hall, making the rest rooms more accessible, etc. More on this later.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

## Keep them in your prayers



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

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

**Prayers for Mission Partners:** Union Presbyterian (Powell) and The Hub

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 January, the Worship Committee would like to thank these faithful servants...*

**Musicians:** Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, FPC Choir, Doug Moore, Rachael Milne, Anna Rugh

**Worship Leaders:** John Jackson, Gary Joy, Mitzi Knapp, Jason Szwec

**Ushers:** Ottis Clem, Isaac Rugh, Shelley Cundiff & Roger Barrett, Brian Bainter, Ron & Bobbie Spahn, Dave & Becky Motsick, Rex & Nickie Arney, Frank Rugh, Dave Youngren, Kim Wells, Scott Davis, Gary Laughton, Jean Morgan, and Nancy Elliott

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

**Communion Servers:** Ron & Bobbie Spahn, Ron Patterson, Brian Bainter

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

**Coffee Sponsors:** Mission Committee, Karl & Kendra Heimbuck



**REGISTER TODAY  
FOR  
SUMMER CAMP 2024**

Registration for summer camp at Camp Story is all ONLINE now. Please go to [www.CampStory.org](http://www.CampStory.org) to register and find out more information on camps. Contact CJ before registration for a discount code!

**REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 15TH  
TO SAVE \$\$\$**

Contact Alicia Ford at 307-763-0919  
or at [Alicia.campstory@gmail.com](mailto:Alicia.campstory@gmail.com)  
for more information, questions or for a scholarship form.



**Chili Cookoff Winner!**

**Alicia Ford**

Accepting the award for the winning chili was Graeme Ford!





## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2—Laurie Graves, Vivian Tarver  
February 3—Todd Browne  
February 6—Jacek Aksamit  
February 8—Karen Townsend, Jay Bergstrom  
February 9—Christina Araas  
February 12—Gareth Dixon  
February 17—Dave Motsick  
February 18—Melony Douglas  
February 19—Rockie Sadler  
February 20—Maxine DeTavernier  
February 22—Brad Steidley  
February 23—Erin Osborne  
February 26—Wyoma Sampson,  
Jane Gallagher, Carter Wells  
February 27—Bob Koester, Heidi Smith  
February 28—Scott Davis



## Happy Anniversary! February

February 12— Mike Stoll & Tina

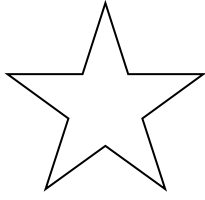
## Roller Skating Fun!

Family Gathering in  
January!

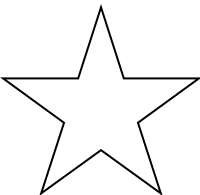


## Potluck Band

Thank you to our musicians  
who shared their talents for  
Bluegrass Sunday!



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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)


### **Army & Army Reserves**

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

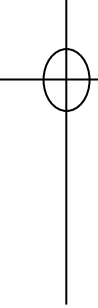
**Jacek Aksamit** (Grandson of Mary & Larry Apple)

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.

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8 am Worship w/ Communion 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Middle School Lunch 4 pm Confirmation	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>7</b> 12 pm PW Luncheon  5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells	<b>8</b> 10 am Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Super Bowl Watch Party	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:45 pm CE 5 pm Pancake Feed 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Cong. Care 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3 5:30 pm Soup & Bread <b>6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship</b>	<b>15</b> 10 am Bible Study <div> <div>Juanita Out of Office</div> <div></div> </div>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Confirmation	<b>19</b> 6:45 am M3  <b>Office Closed</b> <div> <div>Juanita Out of Office</div> <div></div> </div>	<b>20</b>  6 pm Session 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>21</b>  5:30 pm Soup & Bread 6:15 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm Bells	<b>22</b> 9 am—5 pm Tax Prep  10 am Bible Study	<b>23</b> <div> <div>  <b>DEADLINE:</b>            Newsletter Articles         </div> <b>Office Closed</b> </div>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Choir 4 pm Confirmation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  4 pm Swim Team Banquet	<b>28</b>  5:30 pm Soup & Bread 6:15 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm Bells	<b>29</b>		





*First Presbyterian Church*

2121 Colonial Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

