



First Presbyterian  
Church of Sheridan

# The Good News

May 2024



*Congratulations to our  
confirmands and graduates!*

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## First Presbyterian's Fifth Annual Talent Show

Friday, May 10th  
6 pm

Please sign up your entry (whatever talent you wish to share) on the signup sheet in the narthex or click on this [link](#) and sign up on our SignUp Genius site.

Last year we had some surprising acts; some laughter; and we learned all of our members have some amazing talent.

Join us for a fun evening!

## Camp Story Sunday

On Sunday, May 26 we're inviting everyone to wear your Camp Story swag to morning worship!

We will be having a blessing for camp as we begin our camp season.

## Camp Story Cleanup Weekend

It is time for our annual Camp Story Cleanup Weekend Friday, May 17th to Sunday, May 19th. We will have a variety of projects available for all skill levels.

RSVPS are appreciated but not required. RSVP to [campstorywyoming@gmail.com](mailto:campstorywyoming@gmail.com). If you have questions, contact Pastor Karl, Dick Birkholz, or CJ.

Join us as we prepare Camp Story for an exciting summer of camp!

## Hands, Heart, Soul Camp

Hands, Heart, Soul Camp is a weekend event at Camp Story focusing on adults coming together to strengthen their faith. Participants use their hands in service, hearts in worship and study with Pastor Karl and Rev. Doug Melius, and renew their souls in fellowship together around the fire, on the porch, and in sharing of meals.

Thursday, June 20th evening meal through Sunday morning worship.  
Register at [www.campstory.org](http://www.campstory.org)!

Dear Ones,

Harper Jo and I like to play hide and seek. She is not exactly a strong hider. Her hiding spots are obvious. If she does manage to fully conceal herself then she begins to giggle and gives herself away. Yet, no matter how easy she is to find, I love playing this game. There is a thrill in being the seeker, getting to whatever number it is you are counting to, and shouting, "Ready or not! Here I come!" Then, there is the tingle of excitement as you reach for a closet door and throw it open hoping to see who you are seeking (assuming they can stay quiet). The chase is so much fun that it almost feels like a let down to me when I find Harper Jo and we switch.

The work of our spiritual development in the Christian faith is much like a game of hide and go seek. God is not hidden from us, but we are not able to know God fully. We are always seeking after God. As Henri Nouwen puts it, "Theological formation is the gradual and often painful discovery of God's incomprehensibility. You can be competent in many things, but you cannot be competent in God."

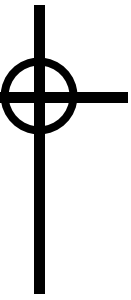
Yet, we still seek. It is a gift to look for God with one another, to share our insights, our gleanings, and the ways in which the Spirit is working as we study. I love it when we are at the tables in Sunday school sharing varying opinions, coming to different conclusions, noticing different things in the Bible, and holding one another lightly and in love as we do all of that.

With summer approaching, Sunday school is winding down for a few months, but there will be other study opportunities for you. I would encourage you to keep your eyes on the calendar and announcements to see what is available. Even though we will never fully know God, we grow so much when we realize that and then turn ourselves into lifelong seekers and learners.

So, never be satisfied with what you believe to know about God. Do not avoid conversation or the spaces that might challenge you. Because as soon as you quit learning to love God with all of your mind (Matthew 22:37), there is a real danger of using that same mind to instead justify the ways in which you are failing to love your neighbors or to even begin debating who your neighbors are.

Glad to be seeking after God with you,

Pastor Karl



My family will tell you that I am a sappy person, and I will cry at anything. I have been known to cry at the ends of movies, Beaches, and songs; Taylor Swift's Never Grow Up, which gets me every time, and television shows, you name it, would make me cry. I am a crier and proud of it. Just because I am crying doesn't mean that I am sad. I will cry because I am happy, proud, angry, or frustrated. I am an equal opportunity crier.

This time of year always gets me—all the graduations, preschool, kindergarten, middle school, high school, and college. I should walk around with a pack of Kleenex because I will surely see something that will tear me up. I think about all the beautiful things these humans have done and the exciting futures in front of them, and I am proud of their accomplishments. I also think about the support system that they have in place. Life is hard, but we are doing it together. In my heart, their successes are mine.

Later in this newsletter, you will discover the remarkable achievements of our high school graduates. These young individuals have encountered unique challenges in their education due to COVID, yet they have shown extraordinary resilience and growth.

We are also thrilled to celebrate the newest class of confirmands. We will confirm five vibrant, compassionate, and reflective individuals. We have been meeting three times a month since October to delve into and scrutinize their beliefs. We delved into the essence of the reformed faith and the significance of Jesus as Lord, explored the concept of God as the creator of all things, and attempted to grasp the nature of the Holy Spirit. This group has flourished in their faith, connections, and friendships.

These two groups—one from high school and one from confirmation class—will embark on different graduate roles. One group will become adults in the eyes of society and the other in the eyes of the church. However, they have something in common: They will go boldly into the world with the foundation that they are beloved children of God. They go with this knowledge because of the love that this congregation has shown them. I am excited to see the great things that God has planned.

During confirmation class, we discussed being created in God's image. This has led to debates about whether it means an actual physical image, such as eyes, nose, mouth, etc., or a loving, caring, and spiritual image. At this moment, I feel I am channeling God's loving and caring aspect. I am so proud of each and every one of these beautiful children of God. I am sure I will cry when we celebrate each group. They will be tears of joy, love, and pride. Maybe I will start saying I am leaking God's love from my eyes.

Congratulations to all graduates of all kinds and to their support system! You all are rockstars!!



## Happy May 2024!

Happy Mother's Day! Happy Graduation!

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

All things are possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23b

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who *Hope* in his steadfast love. Psalm 33:18

### 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)

Pray about attending the Camp Story Women's Retreat May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be doing the "One Thousand Gifts" study by Ann Voskamp. A dare to LIVE FULLY right where you are. The cost is \$175.00 and the deadline for registrations is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We also have Uprising giving a Community Update on Friday night. Uprising is a group based in Sheridan to educate people about human trafficking. Beth Kelsey will be our guest pastor. I have heard that some people will be driving back and forth to Sheridan each day so you don't have to sleep at camp if you don't want to. Kathy Lundberg will be heading up our music. She will bring her Karaoke machine and she is going to have a choir from the attendees.

We are so fortunate to have the retreat at Camp Story. Some women drive several hours to get to Camp Story and it is so close for those who live in Sheridan. Of course the food is part of the fun and fellowship! We have a wonderful menu in store for the retreat.

Look for registration forms online at the PW Facebook page and in the information center at church. This is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Wyoming. Call Rhea or Helen for more details.

Five Sheridan women are attending Church-wide Gathering in St. Louis, August 9 – 11. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this trip. The theme of the gathering is "Do Everything in Love. 1 Cor. 16:14"

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





# FPC in Action!



Middle/high school youth gathered at Powder River Pizza for their time together.



CJ and the confirmands are wrapping up their year-long studies as they prepare for Confirmation Sunday, May 12th.



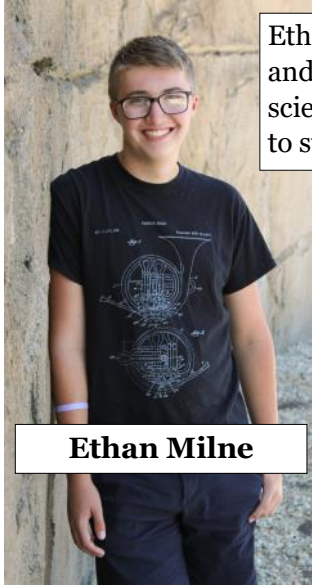
Team "Mental Instabilities" aka the Milne family was the winning team at Trivia Night!



These are the artists from First Presbyterian that had a fun Paint Post Party in April!

# Good News at FPC !

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



**Ethan Milne**

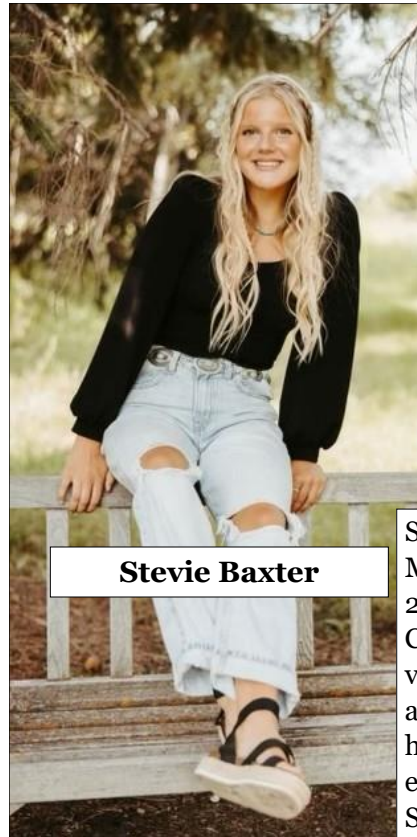
Ethan's parents are Rob & Tori Milne. Ethan is a 2 year French horn all-stater and 4 year French horn all-district nominee. Ethan likes reading, computer science, and learning new things in school. He plans to go to Sheridan College to study computer science and be a counselor at Camp Story this summer.

Axel's parents are Barry & Anna Malmberg. Axel is an all "A" honor roll from The Logos Online School, a classical Christian academy. He will be graduating two years early from high school. Axel's hobbies and interests are American Legion Baseball and piano. He will be attending Sheridan Community College until he is eighteen. Axel is considering either being an attorney like his mom or an orthopedic surgeon.



**Axel Malmberg**

Vivian is the daughter of Jenn & Tony Tarver. She has attended Girls State which is a government learning camp. Vivian has had an academic lettering all 4 years and has been selected for district choir. Vivian likes baking, reading, and singing. She bakes with her family at her grandma's and it creates a time for bonding. You can always find Vivian with a book in her hands at 3 am and always reading when given the chance! She is going to attend University of Wyoming to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

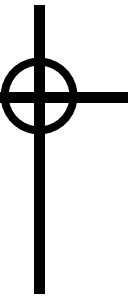


**Stevie Baxter**

Stevie is the daughter of Dave & Mandy Baxter. She has been the 2021 class president, 2018 World Changer Award recipient, varsity volleyball for 3 years, honor roll all 4 years, 2 Poet Laureate, peer helper, CHAPS volunteer, and employed at Canyon Ranch. Stevie likes volleyball, golf, hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. She plans to attend Sheridan's Dental Hygiene program.



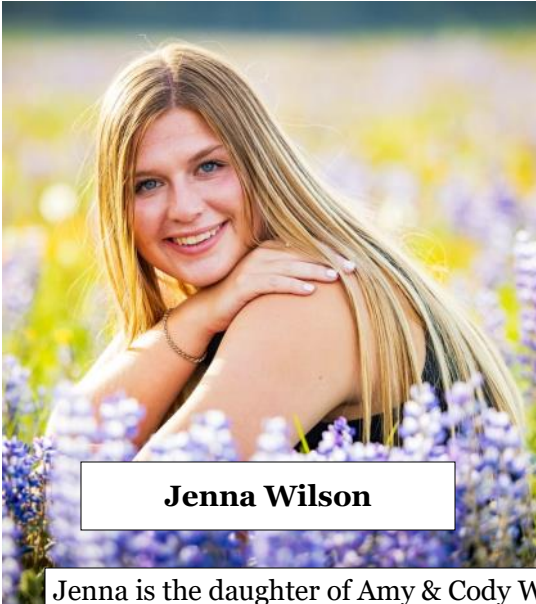
**Vivian Tarver**



Jesse is the son of Cody & Amy Wilson. Jesse has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school, been captain of both his hockey and soccer teams. Another accomplishment is becoming a confident young man ready for the future. Jesse loves fly fishing, mountain biking, and being outdoors in the mountains. He also enjoys dirt biking and being with friends and family. Jesse plans to attend the University of Wyoming and get a degree in Environmental Sciences.



**Jesse Wilson**



**Jenna Wilson**

Jenna is the daughter of Amy & Cody Wilson. She has been an honor roll student, 4.0 GPA, National Honor Society member, and captain of the girls soccer team. In her free time she enjoys spending time with friends and family as well as staying active and being outdoors. Jenna enjoys hiking, spending time in the mountains and playing basketball and soccer. Jenna plans to attend Central Washington University to pursue a bachelors in Paramedicine (become a paramedic/work in EMS).

Colton graduates from the University of Nebraska Law School on May 3rd. He will spend the summer in Sheridan studying for the South Dakota Bar Exam on July 31st. In August, he will be preparing for his move to Rapid City to work for Costello, Porter, Hill, Heisterkamp, Bushnell & Carpenter LLP.



**Colton Williams**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!**

*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, Mandy Baxter, FPC Bell Choir

**Worship Leaders:** Rachel Mathews Landis, Becky Motsick, Tracey Burke, Kim Wells

**Ushers:** Dave & Catherine Engels, Frank Rugh, Doug Moore, Gary Laughton, Gary & Jeri Joy, The Milne Family

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

**Communion Servers:** Gary & Jeri Joy, Doug Moore, Gary Laughton

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

**Coffee Sponsors:** Mission Committee, Janet Burtis, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

News of Interest --

- Session approved the following couple as new members of FPC: Peter and Sarah Haile.
- Dave Youngren reported that the new dish washer has been installed!
- Trivia Night is on April 28 and the Talent Show is May 10.
- Important Sunday dates: Compassion Sunday is April 28; Confirmation Sunday/Music Appreciation Sunday is May 12.
- Confirmands are Rachael Milne, Parker Reiger, Harrison Scott, Henry Szewc, and Anna Tarver. Anna will also be baptized that day.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session



## Lunch Together

Our next time to serve is May 20—23.  
See you then!



Denise Mueller  
828-712-9500

**Keep them in  
your prayers**



**Ongoing Prayers:** Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, 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, and Georgia Mueller.

**Prayers for those Grieving:** Cheryl Madden and family on the loss of Cheryl's sister, Janet.

**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.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2—Maiya Browne, Brooklyn Glock,  
Linnet McGoodwin

May 3—Elizabeth Windsor

May 5—Jeri Joy, Anna Tarver

May 6—Mandy Baxter

May 7—Mary Otteson

May 8—Lorrie Ledgerwood

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— 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



## 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

*Annual Camp Story*

*worship will be*

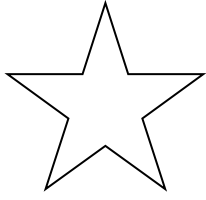
*Sunday, June 23 @*

*11 am.*

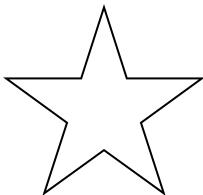
*Potluck will follow.*

*Please watch  
announcements and  
Weekly Update for  
more information.*





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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.

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 pm PW Luncheon	2 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	3	4
5 8 am & 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir 10 am Bells 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Tech Comm. 4 pm Confirmation	6	7  6:30 pm Cub Scouts	8 10:00 am Cong. Care Committee	9 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	10  6 pm FPC Talent Show	11
12 8 am & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship  <b>Confirmation, Music Appreciation Sunday</b>	13	14 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:15 pm CE 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission	15 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3	16 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	17 Juanita Out of Office  Camp Story Cleanup Weekend	18
19 8 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship  <b>Senior Sunday</b>	20 6:45 am M3  Juanita Out of Office	21  6 pm Session 6:30 pm Cub	22 Lunch Together	23 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	24  	25
26 8 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	27 <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>  	28	29	30	31	



*First Presbyterian Church*

2121 Colonial Drive  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

