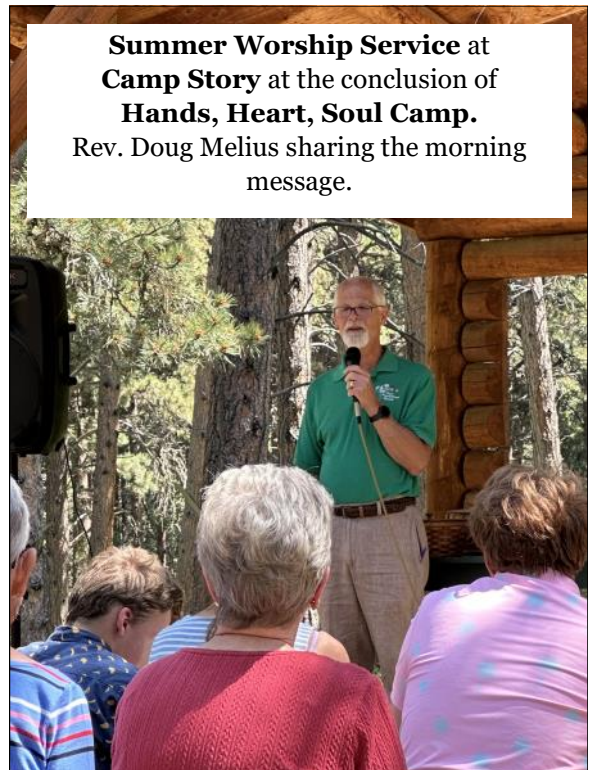
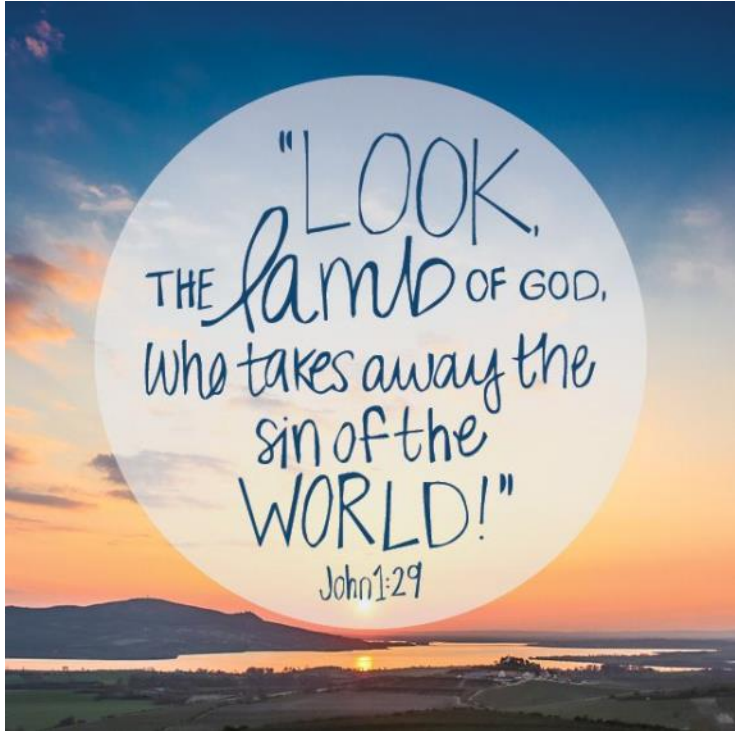




First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

July 2024



Summer Worship Service at Camp Story at the conclusion of **Hands, Heart, Soul Camp**. Rev. Doug Melius sharing the morning message.

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First Presbyterian, I believe, had their first Summertime worship at Camp Story in 1998. I've been at most since, but have never before seen so many people, and particularly younger families than last Sunday. It was a wonderful day for me. Miriam did not have my Sermon before, but her offertory music reinforced the message. Karl and Monte did a wonderful job serving communion and leading worship.

I understood the increased numbers and enthusiasm on Sunday, by reflecting on the Retreat phase of my time at Story. All I did was a bit of teaching. Everything else was on your very talented Pastor. Karl is gifted with musical, organizational and people skills. He put together all the liturgy for the retreat, and I found my soul nourished and my head fed. It is also a rare Pastor who invites the previous one back. Karl is secure in his Calling, not as common as you would think among clergy. I could go on, he has: Biblical grounding, Spiritual maturity. . .

It was great to see the old and new faces. I pray that you were fed by my sermon and earlier teachings. Robin and I both came away with confidence in the future and leadership of the body of Christ in Sheridan Wyoming!

God Bless. Doug Melius your former pastor

Dear Ones,

You might have caught this article in the Sheridan Press this week, but for those who missed it, I wanted to share the reflection here, too.

In the Jewish tradition, the first five books of the Old Testament are known as the Torah. The literal meaning of “torah” is instruction. The books are not just the narratives of creation, enslavement, exodus, settlement; their purpose is to teach.

Within these books, we find the Ten Commandments. This short, instructive list is a hot button issue as the state of Louisiana has passed legislation dictating its posting in public schools. While the new law is under appeals, many states are watching closely to see how this plays out hoping to follow suit.

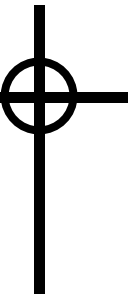
As a pastor, I would like us to heed the good and ancient wisdom of the Ten Commandments. But posting these in the classroom will do nothing to help people live in a moral and upright way when most of us who profess a faith derived from the recipients of these commandments disregard them daily. I’ll explain that remark by running through a summary of these commandments alongside my own commentary.

1. ***Have no other gods before God.*** *We are wonderful at spending our time with the “little g” gods of consumerism, materialism, violence, the pursuit of pleasure. etc.*
2. ***Don’t make idols.*** *Very few of us resist bowing down to the almighty dollar nevermind our idolization of our own interpretations and experiences.*
3. ***Don’t take the Lord’s name in vain.*** *This isn’t about the random cuss word. This is about using God’s name for your personal gain. It is rampant in our discourse.*
4. ***Remember the Sabbath day.*** *We glorify production and demonize rest as laziness. Many are burnt out or breaking and few notice or offer reprieve.*
5. ***Honor your parents.*** *We have watched intergenerational relationships break down and rarely allow people who wish to care for parents the time to do so.*
6. ***Don’t murder.*** *We excuse violence with a myriad of trite defenses.*
7. ***Don’t commit adultery.*** *Fidelity runs thin. We are also bad at talking about or showing the gamut of what successful and lasting relationships look like.*
8. ***Don’t steal.*** *Rather than doing what is right, we do what we can get away with.*
9. ***Don’t lie.*** *There is always someone else to blame.*
10. ***Don’t covet.*** *Back to the “little g” god of materialism. We put value on people and ourselves based on how much we possess.*

The commandments are an important part of the instruction of the Christian faith and give good wisdom for life together. They are a teaching tool, but ultimately, posting them in the public classroom will just cause division not right living, resentment not reconciliation. This is a political stunt, not a faithful one, and the act, oddly enough, breaks the second and third commandments.

Rather, the best way to instruct on the 10 Commandments? Live them. Then, give yourself a little grace and try to live them again when you fail to do so. As hard as that might be. Much harder than legislating them. Much more what God desires.

Pastor Karl



The high school mission trip team had a fantastic week in Benton Harbor, Michigan. There was laughter, tears (mainly from laughing so hard), memories made, and faith experienced. The people we served were amazing! It is amazing to see how they help the community and how thankful the community is.

Each evening after dinner, we had the opportunity to have community partners share about their mission. One evening, we heard the story of Sharon and Emmanuel Brown and the mission of the African American History & Literature Gallery. The gallery's purpose is to preserve the heritage of the cultures and educate others.

Sharon said we must look out a different window during her presentation. This phrase stuck with me. The more I thought about "looking out a different window," the more the phrase stuck with me. I know it is a different take on the phrase, but I look at it differently. A window has more of a personal feel to it.

We have our houses. A house is a home where we feel comfortable and safe. It is a place where we can be ourselves. In Sheridan, you have a spectacular view. Our windows are what we look out to see what is going on outside. I used to tell Ottis to look outside and see what the weather looked like, and this helped him pick out his outfit for the day. We look out our windows and see the world around us.

I can't remember who said it, but they said the eyes are the window to our souls. Looking into our windows, you can see what is on the inside. But there are also ways to look out. Our eyes shape what we see in our lives, work, play, and faith. Our experiences in life interoperate with what we see.

Sharon's message was that we need to open our windows and be willing to see what the view is from someone else's window. Not all windows look out into the same world, even if they are next-door neighbors. You need to visit your neighbor and view the scene from their window. Absorb what you see and help it shape your view. It might not completely change it; it might just expand it a little more so you can see more of the bigger picture.

Benton Harbor, Michigan, is next to St. Joseph, Michigan. The locals call them sister cities. The St. Joseph River separates the two towns. You have a different feeling when you cross over from Benton Harbor to St. Joseph. The cars are newer. The houses have a little more curb appeal. I didn't see too many people out and about in their yards. Granted, we didn't spend too much time in St. Joseph, but the feel was just different than we did. It felt that their window views were completely different.

Sharon shared that she was working on a Martin Luther King Jr. statue for the downtown park. It is something that she was passionate about. She shared that another committee in St. Joseph reached out to her to express a desire to have something similar in St. Joseph. Sharon described the statues. The bronze statues will be the same - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with children playing- the only difference is how they will face each city. The statues will be facing each other in their towns.

The mission behind the Unified Civic Monument Project, the committee formed to bring this project to life, is to create a visual representation of unification. The hope is that it will spark the desire to learn more about the other, to look through someone else's window.

When people hear the phrase mission trip, they often envision this grant trip building/rebuilding a destroyed structure. Sweeping in and making this grand gesture, don't get me wrong, these trips are wonderful and have their place, but the "small" ones, going and helping build community gardens, organizing a thrift shop, doing yard work for a local mission, or whatever is just as impactful. Both of these mission trips help the participants look through a different window.

Thanks Karen, Eli, Mickey, Tyler, and Ryker for going on this adventure with me. We had an adventure!





Happy July 2024! Happy Summer!

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

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. (John 13:14)

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:25)

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 during the school year September through May.

The Women's Retreat was a real blessing! Thanks to Kathy Lundberg for using her musical talents to lead our music. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Beth Kelsey for coming all the way from Bottineau, ND to be our Camp Pastor. Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Dave Pettit for helping us with the retreat. Thanks to Ramona for the wonderful food. Thanks to Griffin and Chantell who sang with Griffin playing the guitar at the campfire. We enjoyed s'mores during that time. Yum and fun! Thanks to Pat for building the fire.

We had a very moving "Community Update" presented by Uprising of Sheridan on Friday night. Stay tuned to hear more from Uprising possibly this fall.

Our Bible Study was by Ann Voskamp. It was called "One Thousand Gifts" A Dare to **Live Fully** Right Where You Are. Ann shared how counting the small things/gifts and writing them down made her change her attitude to an attitude of gratitude for good and bad. A study shows that people who journal thankfulness are 25% happier than those who don't. Ann kept a journal by her kitchen sink, in her purse and on the bedside stand. In these she wrote down things she was thankful for. She changed. She started to live eucharisteo which is living a life of grace, thanksgiving and joy.

At the end of the study she asked us to pray in any of the suggested areas:

Ask God to help you pour out His goodness and gifts as you receive them.

Pray that you will have courage to remove your masks and let God and others see who you really are.

Ask for God to make your church a place where people can be honest and transparent about their struggles and frailties and know they will still be loved.

Invite God to use your hands to wash the feet of the people He places in your life.

Pray that you will be like the Sea of Galilee and not the Dead Sea. May God's gifts and grace flow into and through you.

Thank God for His gifts – and ask Him to show you how you can become the gift.

Ann also wrote, "God calls us to do thanks. To give thanks away. That thanks-giving might literally become thanks-living."

Another statement says, "Thy will be done. This is the way the self dies, falls into the arms of Love. This is why the fight for joy is always so hard."

"Thanksgiving is the one thing God asks to be done in everything and always...He knows what precedes the miracle."

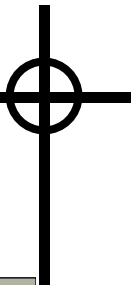
"When we can't see His hand, we can always see His heart."

"All gratitude is ultimately gratitude for Christ, all remembering a remembrance of Him."

"Joy doesn't negate all other emotions – joy transcends all other emotions."

Five Sheridan women are attending Churchwide 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"

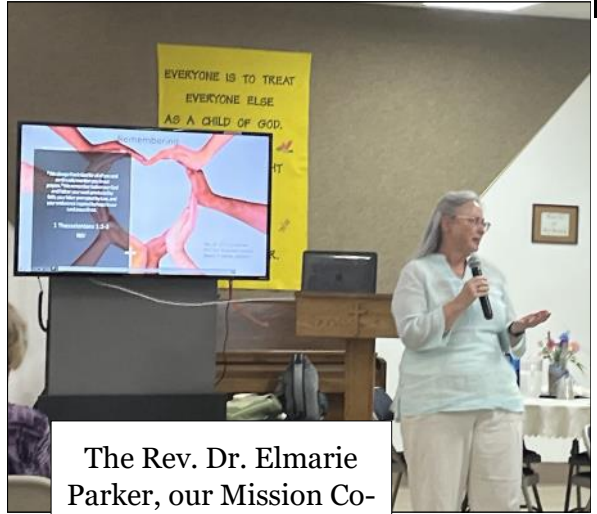
Love and blessings and prayers from your sisters in Christ, Helen 673-1710 and Rhea 683-2362



FPC in Action!



The first Sunday in June, our worship service had a focus on generations. Thanks to Tod W., Dave Y., Kim W., Peter H., Izzi C., and Mia B. for giving us a visual and leading us in the Gathering Words that service.



The Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker, our Mission Co-Worker presented a very informative talk during our dinner time with her!

PW Retreat at Camp Story!
There was a great Bible study, karaoke with Kathy Lundberg, s'mores, campfires, and good food throughout the weekend of the Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Camp Story.
Camp Pastor for the weekend was Rev. Dr. Beth Kelsey.



Rev. Dr. Beth Kelsey

Good News at FPC !



Greg & Beth Thurow welcomed a new grandson, Silas Gregory born to John & Rachelle Thurow. Silas was born June 13th weighing in at 7# 4oz.



Dick Birkholz celebrating his 80th birthday during the Camp Story Commission meeting at Camp Story in June.



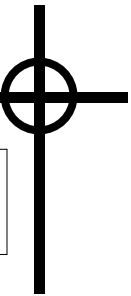
Our traditional outdoor worship at Camp Story was held June 23rd.

This worship service also was the conclusion to our Hands, Heart, Soul Camp held that weekend.

Congratulations to Jennifer Scott and Jaeger Stander on the grand opening of J Home Designs. Jennifer and Jaeger bring 20+ years of design experience to the business.

J Home Design is located at 841 Broadway.

Grand Opening



The youth made a stop at The Dignity of Earth and Sky statue at Chamberlin, SD on their way home.

Youth Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI



The youth broke out in to teams to do their service work. Here are some of the FPC youth with their teammates.



Hands, Heart, Soul Camp

Pastor Karl and former Pastor Doug led the studies and worship during the Hands, Heart, Soul Camp. Adult camp was a success!



...and a treat of Michigan ice cream!

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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, Loren Ruttinger

Worship Leaders: Karen Fosher, Kim Wells, Gary Joy, Jan Leupold

Ushers: Kim Wells, Marigene Vogt, Jason Szwec, John Jackson, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, CJ Clem, Eli Clem, Ryan Landis & Rachel Mathews—Landis

Communion Prep: Denise Mueller, Jean Morgen, Cheryl Kelsey, Judi Palm, Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, Ramona Bean

Communion Servers: Mike Stoll & Tina Anderson, Kim Wells, CJ Clem, Eli Clem, Ryan Landis, & Rachel Mathews—Landis

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Craig Clem, Eli Clem, Ryan Landis, Izzi Clem, Rachael Milne



Vacation Bible School
Tuesday - Friday, August 6-9,
from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at
United Methodist Church

Aug 6-9 **9:30 am - 12 pm**

FOOD TRUCK PARTY
ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

VBS is for anyone age 4 years old to 6th grade. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Please use the QR code to register. If you have questions, contact UMC or one of the churches below.



Sponsored by: United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church, and First Christian Church

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, Greg Thurow, and Pat Gallagher.

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

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 4—Nancy Elliott
July 5—Lucky Cameron
July 6—Rhea Dixon
July 7—Jon Botten
July 8—Phyllis Reasoner
July 8—Troy Siddle
July 11—Jeannette Ruttinger
July 12—Jan Windsor
July 15—Tomomi Browne
July 17—Terry Wagner
July 18—Bobbie Spahn
July 19—Jackie McMahan, Beth Lenz
July 21—Loren Ruttinger, Keith Brandt,
Jennifer Satterlee
July 22—Edie Siddle, Chris Browne, Ottis Clem
July 24—Gary Meling
July 25—Anna Rugh
July 27—Elizabeth Browne



Happy Anniversary! July

July 4—Harvey & Linda Johnson
July 5—Jay & Maggie Bergstrom
July 7—Doug & Pam Moore
July 12—Brett & Becky Burtis
July 13—Pat & Jane Gallagher
July 15—Rex & Nickie Arney
July 16—Dave & Catherine Engels

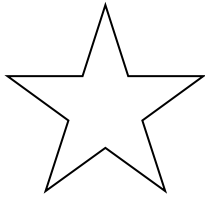


Meet the Youth Adult Advisory Delegate for the Presbytery of Wyoming to the 2024 General Assembly, Izabel Clem. You may know Izzi as she is a member of First Presbyterian Church and graduated from Sheridan High School in 2022. She is attending the University of North Dakota, majoring in Forensic Science with a minor in criminal justice and biology. She is the daughter of Craig and CJ Clem. Izabel will join over 100 fellow YAADs at the 2024 General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah, from June 28 to July 4.

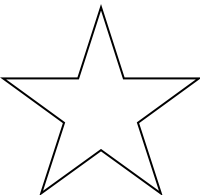
Izabel's time at the General Assembly will be split between her committee commitments and observation and advice during the plenary. She will join fellow Wyoming Commissioner Ruling Elder Jane Iddings and Commissioner Rev. Tammy Mitchell.

Izabel was assigned to the Race Sexuality and Gender Justice Committee. In committee, they discuss the issues and vote more on any amendments they would like added to the motions that can go to the plenary floor. Once the plenary is in session, she will advise our Wyoming commissioners with her views on the topics but will not have an official vote.

Izabel has had several pre-conference meetings and has enjoyed learning more about how the denomination runs nationally. Once she returns, she will love to share her experiences and insights.



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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.

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Office Closed for Holiday 	5 Juanita Out of Office Office Closed	6
7 8 am & 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Tech 6 pm AA	8	9 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:45 pm CE 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission Juanita Out of Office	10 10 am Congregational Care Committee 6 pm AA	11 7 am Bible Study	12	13
14 8 am Outdoor Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 2 pm Bubbles & Dillys	15 11 am M3 at Pine Top Soda Shop	16 Lunch Together 6:30 pm Session	17 6 pm AA	18 7 am Bible Study	19	20
21 8 am Outdoor Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 6 pm AA	22	23 CJ Out of Office	24 6 pm AA	25 7 am Bible Study	26 	27
28 8 am Outdoor Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 6 pm AA	29	30	31 6 pm AA			



First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

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