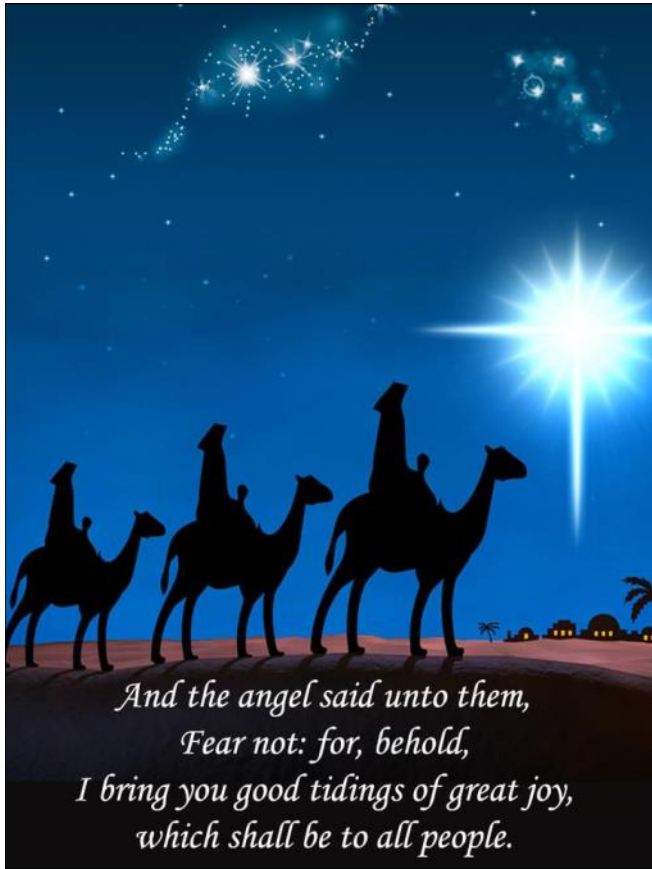




First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

December 2024



Lunch Together

First Presbyterian's next time to serve Lunch Together is Monday, December 30—Friday, January 3rd.
Please contact Denise Mueller at 828-712-9500 if you can help in any way.
Thank You!

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

We will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army's kettle drive on Saturday, December 7th with 2-hour time slots beginning at 1 pm.
Contact Dave Engels at 307-751-2009 or d_t_engels at yahoo.com if you can fill a time slot.

FPC Choir Cantata

Join us for *The Promise Fulfilled: Christ Is Born*, an Advent service in song that weaves together Scripture readings and beautiful music to tell the story of Christ's birth. This meaningful presentation reflects on the hope of Advent, the wonder of the Nativity, and the joy of God's promise fulfilled. Featuring beloved carols and new arrangements, it invites all to celebrate the light of Christ shining in the world. Come and experience the beauty of the season through word and song.

Sunday, December 1st at the 10:30 am service.

Children's Sunday School Program

'Tis the season for the Christmas program! The children will start practicing for their Christmas program this Sunday, December 1. If your child would like to participate please make arrangements to attend the Sunday school hour December 1, 8, 15, and 22. The program will be at the 10:30 am service on December 22. High school students will have an additional opportunity to bring the Christmas message at the 8 am service that day. If your high school student is interested in participating on Dec 22, please contact CJ by December 4.

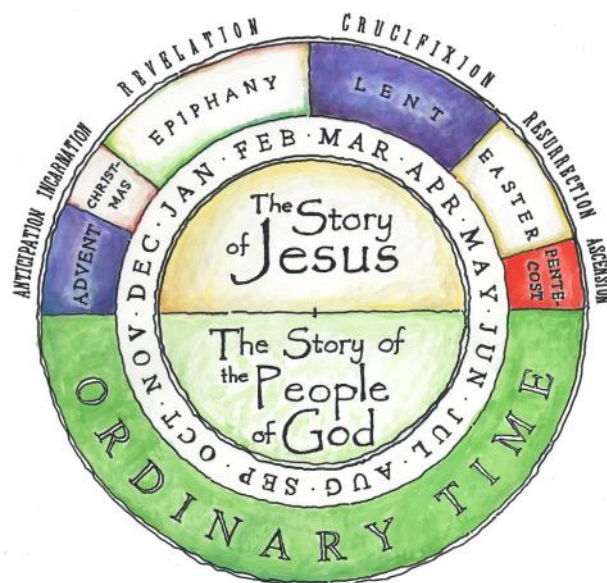
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Dear Ones,

This week begins our new church year. It was a real joy to move through the whole of one church year and all of its season in a single worship service this past week. I especially enjoyed the open conversation after the sermon at both services so we could ask questions, share our insights, and better understand together why we move each year through Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. The graphic on this page showing the year might be familiar to you because it was also on the cover of the bulletin. Here you can see the color(s) for each season (if viewing online), and I want to encourage you to print it off (or come to the office and have us print it) so that you can hang it somewhere in your house and see each Sunday as part of a whole season that guides us toward an encounter with Jesus rather than just individual Sundays that compose a year or make up one day of the week.

I hope that one takeaway for those who could attend worship this past week was that we return to the same parts of Jesus's story each year because they provide a grounding for us. The church is cyclical because life is rarely linear. We like to believe that we are progressing and constantly moving toward something, but the reality that Paul names for us in his epistle to the Romans is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:38-39). We do not achieve this love. We do not journey toward it. We are safe found within it in all seasons of our life.

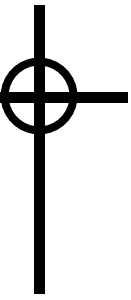


But the grounding in love is not always the same. The liturgical calendar helps us to understand this. Jesus's love is known in many different ways because life is multi-faceted. We need that love in many different ways. Moving through the church year and the story of Jesus each year reminds us that God is with us and loves us when we are waiting (Advent) and in dire need of good news. God is with us and loves us when we are seeking to understand who Christ is (Epiphany). God is with us and loves us in those seasons of death (Lent), and God grounds us in resurrection and possibility (Easter). God is with us as the Holy Spirit and gifting us with ways to show love even when we are lost as to what to do next (Pentecost), and God places us within the love of Christ so that we might grow as his followers and live our faith within Christ's (Ordinary Time).

Don't just come to Sunday worship this year. Experience the seasons. Wait, watch, listen, lament, and rejoice. Do all of these in their due seasons so that when life hits you over the head with the need for one of those outside of its liturgical season, you will know how to ground your story in the story of Jesus Christ.

Grateful for you and grateful for God's story,

Pastor Karl



Welcome to the season of Advent, a time of waiting and reflection as we anticipate the coming of our Lord. However, is it a time of waiting? Many of us find ourselves rushing from one commitment to another—band concerts, choir performances, school Christmas programs, lessons, baking for the office, Christmas shopping, and preparing for travel. The list goes on and on. Amid all this busyness, where do we find time to truly embrace the meaning of Advent? I admit I am just as guilty as anyone else.

In our family, it has been a tradition to wait until the weekend of Thanksgiving to set up our Christmas tree and decorations. Craig brings down the totes of Christmas items, and I pull everything out, reminiscing about past Christmases and sharing stories about each ornament or craft I've saved over the years. My kids often roll their eyes at my nostalgia, capturing that classic look of teenage exasperation. Amid the chaos of "organizing," I pull out our Advent calendars and the "Donkey in the Living Room" set. The kids pause for a moment and ask where we will place them.

Our Advent calendars aren't fancy; my aunt sent them to the kids when the older ones were in elementary school and before Ottis was born. Yet the time we take to find the flap and read the scripture or short story offers us a moment of reflection. It's during this time that we engage in faith discussions that we might not usually have. Over the years, these conversations have become more thought-provoking and meaningful.

I also mentioned the "Donkey in the Living Room" advent countdown. I discovered it about nine years ago, although I can't recall where I found it. I love it! It's a nativity set accompanied by a storybook that narrates the perspectives of various nativity figures: the Donkey, Cow, Sheep, Shepherd, Angel, Camel, Wise Men, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Starting nine days before Christmas, we read one perspective each day, following the details specified in the book. This tradition truly brings the nativity to life. Since the figures are wooden, they are quite durable. I also enjoy the fact that baby Jesus appears in the nativity on Christmas. I'm the type who places baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve, making it feel complete. I have another nativity set where baby Jesus is fixed in the manger, and I'll set that out on Christmas Eve.

The Advent calendars and the "Donkey in the Living Room" set were excellent introductions to family devotions. Eventually, a family devotion book made its way under our Christmas tree. I'll be honest: sometimes we only manage to do our devotions a few times a week because the book gets put in a "safe" place while cleaning or for other reasons. However, when we do engage in the devotions, they serve as great conversation starters about our faith and beliefs. Any opportunity to share your faith with your family is a win!

So, friends, if you find your schedule filling up and waiting feels more like running, take a deep breath, pull out a simple Advent calendar, and spend a moment to breathe and live in the moment.

Merry Christmas!



Get your chili recipe ready and mark your calendars for Sunday, January 19, for FPC's annual fundraiser chili cook-off! The proceeds from this event will support Triennium. If you believe your chili has what it takes to win, please contact CJ to reserve your table.

Don't forget about the Silent Auction! CJ is also accepting donations for the auction, which will begin on the same day as the chili cook-off and continue through the following Sunday.



Have a very Merry Christmas 2024! Let's keep Christ in Christmas. Thank you, Jesus!

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, who did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2:5-9 NIV

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!

PW Luncheons are a wonderful time of fellowship on the 1st Wednesday of the month during the school year September through May.

The Circles (small groups) gather on the 3rd Wednesday of the month during the school year September through May.

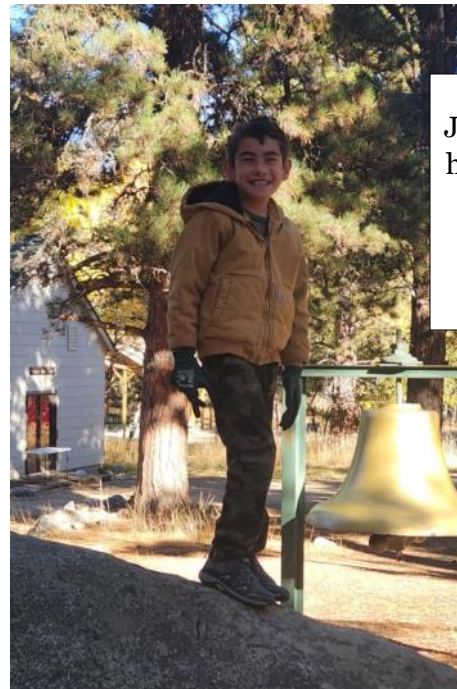
- Circle 1 gathers at 10:00 am in the Parlor
- Circle 2 gathers at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Circle 3 gathers at noon in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own lunch)

Another thank you to all who participated in the pie sale. We had two guys who made pies! Thanks guys for sharing your culinary skills! We had folks show up with pies that were not expected. Praise God! So thankful for you all! We had about 40 pies! Thanks to the Milne's for the ice cream and for buying the leftovers to spread the pie around!

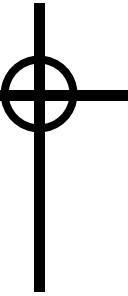
We have the honor of serving the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lane Deer again this year with the Missions Committee and the Angel Tree. Unwrapped presents will be collected throughout the month of November with the goal of delivering them around the first of December. People can then shop at the thrift store and buy new presents for their families at thrift store prices. This gives them a gift that they can say they bought. It helps the store with their mission of giving people a hand up instead of a handout to help them preserve the individual's integrity. Thanks to all who have been moved to give. We will deliver the presents on Dec. 2nd if the weather allows.

Our next luncheon is at noon on December 4th. Our program will be a performance by the Sheridan High School singing and dancing group Spectrum. We will be singing Christmas Carols and there is rumor of a drawing or two. We are taking reservations this year to make sure all have a seat. Call Rhea at 682-2362 or text her at 752-4673. Hope to see you there for a great time of food and fellowship! (Wear Christmas attire if you so desire!)

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



James was a good helper during our time with fire mitigation at Camp Story.



FPC in Action!



Frank & Lisa Rugh marked and did all the parking lot striping during our building cleanup day.



Camp Story cleanup consisted of some cabin cleaning; some construction; and some yard work as we readied the camp for winter!
Thank you to all of you who helped get all of these tasks completed!

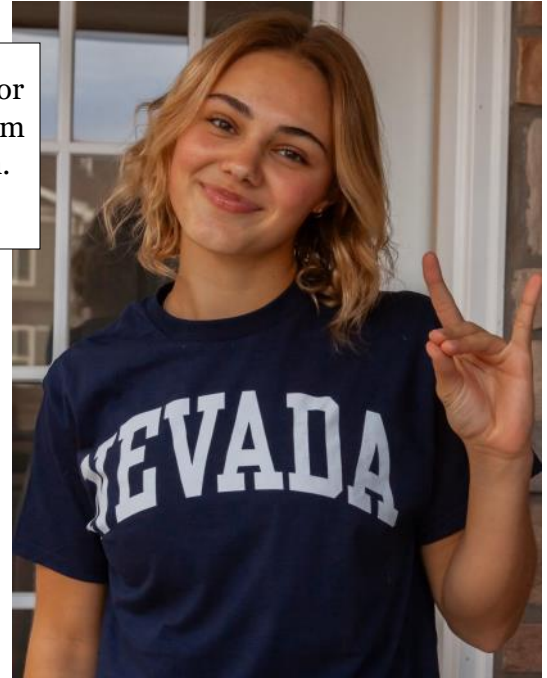


Lisa and Frank Rugh built a ramp to the game room at Camp Story!

CAMP STORY CLEANUP

Good News at FPC !

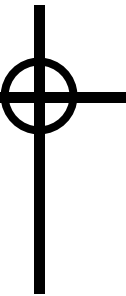
Maggie Turpin signed her Letter of Intent to dive for the University of Nevada's Swimming/Dive program in Reno. She is looking to major in graphic design. Congratulations Maggie!



The Thursday morning 10 am Bible Study group made cookie plates for our members who are home bound and unable to join us on Sunday mornings.



These are some of the instruments you'll hear during the Sunday school Christmas program. Pictured are the youth working with boomwhackers which we secured through the Wonder of Worship grant. You'll also hear the youth play bells! Sunday, December 22nd during 10:30 am worship.



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 November was held on Tuesday the 19th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest –

- Mission Committee is sending \$500 each to four local volunteer Fire Departments in Sheridan County to help each Fire Department rebuild their equipment inventory after the Elk Fire.
- Please welcome new members Judy Marriott and Pat Harden.
- The Per Capita fee that the church is required to pay is \$45. Have you paid yours?
- Properties Committee reported that the hot water heater went out. A new one should be installed by the 22nd.
- The budget for 2025 is being worked on. As it stands now, it will be a deficit budget with estimated income of \$377,500 and estimated expenses of \$412,092.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

Adult Mission Trip

March 15 - 22 we will be taking a crew to Omaha to help rebuild homes that were destroyed by tornadoes in the spring of 2023. The work is through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their partnership with Presbyterian Church of the Cross and Omaha Rapid Response. We will be doing interior work on homes and will have work available for all skill levels. The trip is for ages 14+ and offers a great opportunity for intergenerational connection with others in our church. Final cost TBD but not to exceed \$400. Sign up by January 12 with an initial deposit of \$100.



2024 Financial Summary Through November 19, 2024

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue	\$362,862.50	333,743.05	(29,119.45)
Expenses	\$362,862.50	318,149.13	(44,713.37)
Profit/(Loss)	-	15,593.92	(15,593.92)

The revenue amounts reflect a few large donations received early in the year that are divided evenly amongst the remaining months and added to those month's actual Tithes and Offerings.

Your contributions to the Church's Per Capita obligation, paid to the General Assembly, total \$3,330. The 2024 Per Capita assessment is \$12,776.40

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

Musicians: Miriam Nance, Ryan Landis, Mary Apple, Doug Moore, FPC Choir

Worship Leaders: Dave Youngren, Griffin Boostrom, Gloria Dierking, Kendra Heimback

Ushers: Rex Arney, Dave Engels, Shelley Cundiff, Kim Wells, Karen Fosher, Becky Motsick, Steve Kitto, Tina Anderson, Dave Motsick, Mary Ludemann, Scott Davis

Communion Prep: Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Jackie McMahan, Gary & Jeri Joy, Tracey Burke, Kim Wells, Karen Fosher, Steve Kitto, Becky Motsick

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, CJ Clem, Craig Clem, Ottis Clem, Rachael Milne, Doug Moore, Eli Clem, Ethan Milne



James, Edie and CJ rakes lots of leaves during fire mitigation at Camp Story.

Keep them in your prayers



Ongoing Prayers: Margie Elkins, Karen Townsend, Kathleen Shafer, Robert & Jeannette Ruttiger, Carol Davis, and Brooke Holstedt.

Prayers for Peace & Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Julie Bugher, Jae Satterlee, Diana Miller, Mary Hutton, Pat Gallagher, Louann Hamstreet, Rebecca White (Carla White's daughter-in-law), and Jim Wilhelm.

Prayers for Mission Partners: Presbyterian Church of Encampment and the Food Group.

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

Thank You

Our hearts are full of gratitude for the love and care you have shown us in the passing of Roy Davis. A difficult transition for us, but a glorious one for him.

Thank you for your kindness.

Carol Davis, Miriam & Tom Nance, and family



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- December 1—Mary Hutton
- December 4—Laurie Paronto
- December 7—Roger Porter
- December 8—Judy Garber
- December 8—Shelley Cundiff
- December 9—Ron Spahn, Myrna Saunders
- December 10—Kim Wells
- December 12—Karen Schreffler
- December 13—Sharon Basse, Arlene Herrboldt
- December 15—Ryan Landis
- December 17—Brian Morgen, Nathan Motsick
- December 18—Carla White, Chad Rieger
- December 19—Marilyn Koester
- December 20—Cindy Hamel
- December 21—David Hackert
- December 22—Rick Semino, Dorothy Johnson
- December 23—Lois Trujillo
- December 28—Sherry Laughton, Nancy Cook
- December 31—Zachary Fitzpatrick



Happy Anniversary! December

- December 3—John Jackson & Su Rappleye-Jackson
- December 4—Dave & Becki Youngren
- December 16—Rob & Tori Milne
- December 22—Jack & Nancy Elliott
- December 27—Bob & Marilyn Koester
- December 30—Mike & Cheryl Madden

Military/Service Board

We are making an effort to update the Military/Service board in the narthex. We wish to include family of FPC members which includes currently serving military personnel, law enforcement, professional firefighters, volunteer firefighters, wild land firefighters, aerial firefighters, all first responders wherever they serve.

Please leave following info in the church office:

- a photo
- how/where serving

-full name and relationship to congregation member.

If you have questions contact Sherry Laughton.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who shared your blessings by bringing gifts for the Angel Tree.

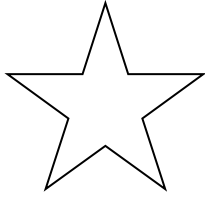
Thank you also to the youth who shopped at both Walmart and Kid Curious on behalf of the Mission committee to round out the gifts for the tree.

This year, those gifts will be going to the Everything Beautiful thrift store in Lame Deer.

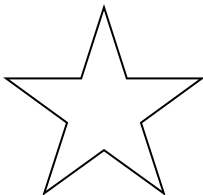
The mission of the thrift store is to allow parents to buy “new gifts” at thrift store prices, giving them a hand up instead of a handout preserving their integrity.



Christmas Eve Services at First Presbyterian will be at 5 pm and 8 pm.



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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)

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)


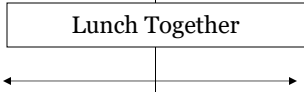
Army & Army Reserves

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.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Communion/Choir Cantata 9 am Sunday School (all ages) 10 am Fellowship Time 11:45 am Tech Committee 6 pm AA	2	3 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4 12 pm PW Luncheon 6 pm AA	5 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	6	7 1 pm Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive
8 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School (all ages) 10 am Fellowship Time 6 pm AA	9	10 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:30 pm Budget 5:45 pm Mission	11 10:30 am Congregational Care Committee 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	12 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	13	14
15 8 & 10:30 am Worship - Youth Christmas Program 9 am Sunday School (all ages) 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am S3 6 pm AA	16 6:45 am M3 6 pm AA District Mtg.	17 6 pm Session	18 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3 6 pm AA	19 7 am Bible Study	20 	21
22 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/SS Christmas Program 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 6 pm AA	23	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas! 	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Office Closed</div> 	27	28
29 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Festive Sunday Worship 6 pm AA	30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Lunch Together</div> 	31				



First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

Mailing label goes here

Merry
CHRISTMAS 