




The Good News

January 2025

Holy child of Bethlehem,

You are the hope of the world, the song of the angels, the treasure of our hearts and the glory of God among us. Call us to worship you in the places where your love is born anew: wherever kindness prevails, justice flourishes and peace reigns. Send us out to serve you, sharing good news of great joy, and praising God through you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.



Amen

A prayer from the Worship Committee,
“Holy Child of Bethlehem”
See more Christmas pictures and a thank you on
pages 6-7.

Lunch Together

We wrap up this week serving Lunch Together as we serve through Friday, January 3rd. Thank you to all volunteers who helped during this busy holiday season!

Our Schedule for January Resumes Many of our Weekly Gatherings

Sunday School

Our Sunday School schedule will resume on Sunday, January 12 at 9 am, all ages.

The Bridge

On Wednesday, January 15 we will come back together for our mid-week gathering of The Bridge. We share a meal together at 5:30 pm with study to follow at 6:15 pm.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Both Thursday morning Bible study groups will come back together for their first January meeting on the 9th at their regular times of 7 am and 10 am. The 7 am group will continue with their study of Genesis.

The 10 am group will begin a new book, “2 Corinthians” by N.T. Wright. Those books are \$9 and available in the church office.

Chili Cookoff & Silent Auction

January is also the month for our Annual Chili Cookoff and Silent Auction fundraiser for youth activities and camp scholarships. CJ is now accepting entries for the chili cookoff and silent auction items. Sunday, January 19 is the cookoff. The auction runs from Sunday the 19th through the week and ends on Sunday, January 26 at the start of the Congregational meeting.

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Dear Ones,

I want to thank you for a great 2024 at First Presbyterian Church! The list is long as I think back on what we have done together in our unity in Christ. First and foremost, we have lifted our voices together in meaningful worship. In a time where we are intentionally divided, worship is a powerful witness to our community and world that God's intention is for us to be joined together in the love of Jesus Christ.

Our worship was also full of the terrific music our church has come to be known for. The bells rang, the choir sang, and various instrumentalists and soloists shared their gifts. I think my favorite moment was anytime we sang, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" I remember, in particular, closing our Easter services with it and holding my hymnal to my chest while closing my eyes and listening to all of you carry that melody while a few of you soared above it all with the descant. It was a "thin moment" for me when the veil between heaven and earth was blurred if not completely removed and God's nearness to us and power and victory over death was as apparent as ever.

In our service and mission, we grew in our presence beyond Sheridan. We took a trip to Frontera de Cristo to learn about migration, borders, and the work of the gospel as it is understood and undertaken in the border towns Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora. Our senior high youth group took a trip of their own to Benton Harbor, Michigan to serve the people of that city. Finally, we are already planning to take another mission group to Omaha over spring break (March 15 - 22) to join efforts rebuilding homes that were lost in tornadoes in 2023.

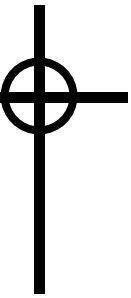
We also grew our witness and mission within Sheridan. We served faithfully at Lunch Together and the Food Group. We supported the thrift store in Lame Deer with our Angel Tree offerings. We moved hundreds if not thousands of pounds of food through our Little Free Pantry to those in need, and we did our best to help all who came in with need of support concerning utility, medical, phone, and other bills. We also supported a number of local nonprofits in their work including Habitat for Humanity, Volunteers of America, the Hub, and CASA (to name a few).

These are just some of the ways we had a great year! Thank you all once again for the offerings of your hearts, hands, time, and talents that make this gospel work possible.

Moving into 2025, we have a chance to both do it all again and continue to further grow our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ. But I also want to remind you that in the church, we recognize that the turning of the calendar is not the only new beginning we have. EVERY day is a new beginning in Jesus Christ. This is the power of grace: to recreate, to renew, and to make possible all things. Let's find ourselves grounded in that grace as a congregation together and as disciples of the Savior today, this year ahead, and forever.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl



It is that time of year when everything is a look back or wrap of 2024. I love getting and looking at the recaps. Many times, there are things that I forgot about or didn't realize. My year in pictures from my photo storage is always entertaining. It reminds me of the moments that I captured throughout the year. There were pictures of my kids, me, and my friend when I went and visited. There was a picture of my dog that we recently put to sleep that brought tears to my eyes.

The year in review got me thinking about my year here. We have had many adventures and memories together over the past year. 2024 started in Mexico with fabulous people on the mission delegation to Frontera de Cristo. We met people from both sides of the border with stories to share. Then, I came home to travel to Dallas for an excellent conference. But between the trips was a Sunday afternoon of roller skating with the FPC family. I am happy to report no one was broken during the festivities. After that, there was the annual chili cook-off, which is always fun and delicious. (This year, on January 19, mark your calendar!) February saw Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day, meaning we got dinner and a service. March had BINGO and Easter. I have decided that BINGO is overrated and that the game is hard on my self-esteem. AKA, I always get close and never win. Next came April with the Paint Post family fellowship event. Who knew we had so many hidden artists in our midst?

To finish, April was trivia night hosted by the fabulous Fellowship committee, with Team Confirmands bringing the laughs. May saw a new group of confirmands standing up and sharing their statements of faith and celebrating high school graduates ready to take that next big step. June was the adventure of the high school mission trip, the amazement of what the ancient church van can do, the strengthening of old friendships, and the joy of newfound friends while serving those in Benton Harbor, Michigan. July was filled with smoke, so we had to cancel our annual Bubbles and Dillys. August saw the pool party and the dillys. Who could forget September with all the Bible Sundays, Sunday school, and The Bridge starting? But don't forget Homecoming Sunday with the good food, wonderful fellowship, and the fantastic bouncy house!

In October was World Communion Sunday, and the children sang "All the Children of the World". Thank you, Pam Moore, for sharing your musical talents! November was a blur and was gone in a blink, and before I knew it was December! The outstanding Christmas pageant with all the smiling bright faces. Thank you to Chantelle Boostrom for your magical musical touch leading the bell and boomwhacker choir. Also, a big shout out to all the children and youth Christian Education teachers, Rachel Mathews-Landis, Prakash Landis, Tracey Burke, Lorrie Ledgerwood, Nancy Cook, Cheryl Kelsey, and Cindy Hamel! Without you, I would be crazier than I already am.

Looking back on the past year brings a smile to my face. There are many opportunities for us to grow together as a family. The memories we made together and the laughs that we shared. This is what Jesus taught us to be, a family. A family that comes together to share in Christ's love. Through these relationships, we can ask the hard questions and have difficult conversations. I hope that we have learned to listen with our ears and hearts, and in 2025, because we have our church family and relationships with one another, our hearing will improve, and our hearts will grow.

Here is to the adventures of 2025! Happy New Year!



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.



Blessings for 2025! May we all grow in our faith and let our lights shine with Your light!

Everyone is a body part of the church body. God made us all with gifts to use in the church body.

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. We have a new **evening Circle** that has begun meeting. If you are interested contact Tori Milne. Praising God for this group of women!

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)
Circle 4 gathers the first Monday of the month – contact Tori Milne at 673-1999

We had the honor of serving the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lame Deer again this year with the Missions Committee and the Angel Tree. Jeri Joy, Frank Rugh and Rhea Cooksey-Dixon delivered the gifts to the Store on December 2nd. What a blessing! 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 for their child or whomever. That person can then say someone bought it for me for Christmas last year and make a memory that might mean more to them. It helps the store with their philosophy that **“a hand up is better than a handout.”** Their mission statement/motto is “Reflecting God's love for all, in Christ Jesus, we seek to serve our people's needs, protecting each one's dignity.”

Thank you all for your support this past year with your time, talents and treasures! We had a very nice Little House on the Prairie Mission Luncheon in the Spring. Many took part in the Bakeless Bakesale this summer and we really appreciate your generosity. God blesses us with bountiful provision and uses us to bless others. This fall, the pie and ice cream sale was lots of fun and also very well supported. The Angel Tree was another time of giving. Thank you all for sharing your blessings!

Our next luncheon is at noon on January 8th. Our program will be a time to remember the women who joined the church triumphant last year. We will also have an installation of the new officers. Hope to see you there for a great time of food and fellowship!

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

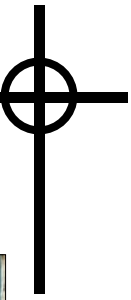
HEY, HOT STUFF!

Do you have a chili you think is good enough to win the FPC chili cook-off?

Let's see what you got. Contact CJ by Wednesday, January 15 to enter.

Competition will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19 following the 10:30 service.

See you there!



FPC in Action!



Paint Post Party
A fun time was had by everyone at the middle school & high school Faith, Fellowship, Fun gathering!



Children's Christmas Pageant



Bells, boomwhackers, costumes tell the wonderful story of Jesus's birth.



Good News at FPC !



Col. Ryan Laughton

U.S. Space Forces Japan was activated at Yokota Air Base on December 4, 2024, with the goal of space superiority in the region. USSFJ will serve as a focal point for deepening collaboration between the U.S. and Japan in the area of national security. This new command focuses on communications, space resilience, navigation, and missile defense. Col. Ryan Laughton is the first commanding officer of USSFJ.

Ryan is a Wyoming native, a 1994 Sheridan High School graduate and Aerospace Engineering graduate of Wichita State University, Kansas. After graduation Ryan taught English with the JET program in Akabori, Gunma prefecture, Japan, before joining the U.S. Air Force and subsequently U.S. Space Force. He has experience in space launch, operations and acquisitions and worked as an engineer, instructor, executive officer, flight commander, satellite manager, operations analyst, branch chief and materiel leader.

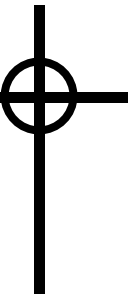
His parents, Gary and Sherry Laughton, were present at the activation ceremony. Ryan's spouse is Amber Laughton. Their sons are Taye and Westley who reside in Ohio.



**Filling the
Luminaries**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Caroling



Changing Banners



Christmas lives on.....

All those who help decorate the sanctuary, the tree, fellowship hall, narthex, and luminaries, thank you.

The holidays are special times, different from our normal routines and to do's, in a way that brings our inner and outer world closer together. Our intentions shift as do our prayers and caring for one another within our church and the world- wide church.

There are numerous holidays within the church calendar where you can participate. Various committees support different functions of the church. The worship committee spends time with sanctuary responsibilities, decorating being one of them. Or maybe you are called to be a liturgist, a flower arranger, a communion server, an usher, or musician.

Participating in church functions becomes a sacred space for me whether decorating, listening to the amazing music at the church, singing, seeing the face of God in those around me during worship, seeing others enjoy their time in what they are beholding at the church is special.

And its fun. If you are interested in participating in worship responsibilities or joining the Worship Committee, contact Tracey Burke, John Jackson or Pam Moore.

—Tracey Burke

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.

Contact Pastor Karl for more information.



OMAHA

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, Doug Moore, FPC Choir, Bell Choir, Lucy Brock, Ethan Milne, Erin Osborne, Brass Quintet (Doug Moore, Pastor Karl, Prakash Landis and Tyler & Ethan Milne), FPC Children & Youth, Griffin Boostrom

Worship Leaders: Eli Clem, Rachel Matthews-Landis, Denise Mueller, Kim Wells, Tina Anderson, Tracey Burke

Ushers: Brian, Erica & Daren Bainter, the Milne family, Frank Rugh, Craig Clem, Tina Anderson, Dave Engels, Eli Clem, Mickey Willson, CJ Clem, Karen Burtis

Advent Candlelighters & Readers: Mickey Willson, Eli Clem, Griffin, Chantelle, Mia, Manny Boostrom, Ethan, Rachael & Tyler Milne, Carter & Tyler Wells, Ottis Clem, Isaac Rugh, Prakash Landis, Anna Rugh, James, Melony, & Zooey Douglas

Communion Prep: Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Eli Clem, Karen Burtis, CJ Clem, Aiden Milne

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, Craig, CJ, Eli, & Izzi Clem, Doug Moore, Mickey Willson, Ryan Landis

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Karl & Kendra Heimback



Undecorate the Christmas Trimmings

Sunday, January 5 we will be taking down the Christmas tree following the 10:30 am worship service. On Tuesday, January 7 we will be taking down all the remaining Christmas decorations.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Session meeting for December was held on Tuesday the 17th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest –

- Five elders who have been serving as members of Session have completed their terms. They are Tina Anderson, Shelley Cundiff, Gary Joy, Kim Wells, and Dave Youngren. They were thanked by Pastor Karl and the rest of the Session members for their service.
- The Per Capita fee that the church is required to pay to the Presbytery is \$45 for each member of the church. It would be helpful if each member would pay that fee, otherwise it would come out of the budget. Make a notation on your payment that it is for Per Capita.

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session

Keep them in your prayers



Ongoing Prayers: Karen Townsend, Kathleen Shafer, Robert & Jeannette Ruttinger, 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), Jim Wilhelm, Margie Elkins, Arlene Herrboldt, Barb Finch, and Dick Birkholz.

Prayers for Mission Partners: First Presbyterian Church (Greybull) and CASA.

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

Address for Arlene Herrboldt

For those wishing to send Arlene a note, please send to Arlene in care of her daughter
Tammy Kramer
44 Reservoir Lane
Buffalo, WY 82834

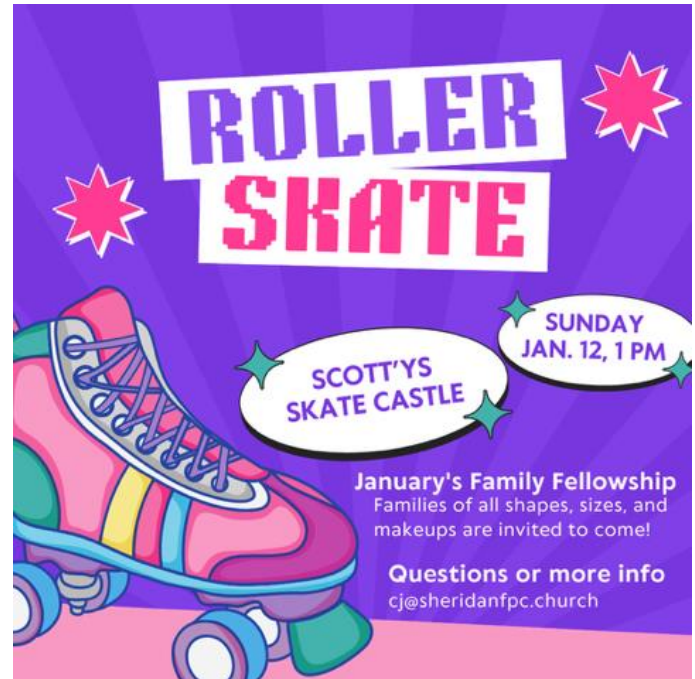
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1—Steve Kitto, Janice Wagner
 January 3—Agnes Hall, Marily Michelena
 January 5—Izzi Clem
 January 6—Jerrod Sadler, Janet Burtis
 January 8—Tori Milne
 January 9—Paxton Zuniga
 January 11—Rex Arney, Betty Leavitt
 January 12—Mavis Williams
 January 13—Phyllis Wilhelm
 January 15—Doug Moore
 January 16—Ted Knapp
 January 21—Greta Johnson
 January 23—Bridgett Ruttinger, Rudy Osborne
 January 24—Karen Fosher
 January 25—Ken Mottram
 January 27—Howie Fitzpatrick
 January 29—Brenden Clem
 January 30—Max Brock, Teresa Williams
 January 31—Pam Moore



Happy Anniversary! January

January 7—Frank & Lisa Rugh
 January 19—Brian & Jean Morgen
 January 21—Peter & Sarah Haile



2024 Financial Summary

Through November

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue	\$375,374.89	348,190.01	(27,184.88)
Expenses	\$375,649.97	338,654.73	(36,995.69)
Profit/(Loss)	(275.08)	9,535.73	(9,810.81)

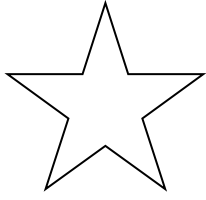
The revenue amounts reflect a few large donations received early in the year that are divided evenly amongst the remaining months and added to those month's actual Tithes and Offerings.

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

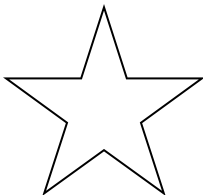
Silent Auction

The annual silent auction will start January 19 and run until the end at the start of the congregational meeting.

CJ will be accepting donations until January 15 for the silent auctions. Please drop off your donations in the office.



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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.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Lunch Together</div> 	3	4
5 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 10 am Fellowship Time 6 pm AA	6 6 pm Working Women Circle	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	8 12 pm PW Luncheon 6 pm AA	9 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	10	11
12 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School (all ages) 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 1 pm Family Fellowship Roller Skating 6 pm AA	13	14 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	15 10:30 am Congregational Care Committee 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	16 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	17	18
19 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 11:30 am Chili Cookoff	20 11 am M3 & S3 6 pm AA District Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;">Silent Auction</div>	21 6 pm Session 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	22 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	23 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	24 	25 10 am—4 pm Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
26 9 am—Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Bluegrass Sunday 11:45 am Potluck 12 pm Annual Meeting 6 pm AA	27	28	29 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	30 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	31	

First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Return Service Requested

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