



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

The Good News

February 2025

Love one
♥ ANOTHER ♥
as I have
LOVED
you
-JOHN 15:12

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The Bridge

This week, Wednesday, February 5 is the first Wednesday of the month, so The Bridge meal is a potluck.

Please bring a dish to share.

Dinner begins at 5:30 pm.

Family Fellowship Gathering

Come and join the fun on Sunday, February 16 at 3 pm in the fellowship hall for our annual afternoon of BINGO!

There will be popcorn, prizes, and lots of laughter.

The event is sponsored by the Fellowship committee.

Lunch Together

FPC's next time to serve Lunch Together will be Monday, February 24 – Thursday, February 27. Contact Denise Mueller at 828-715-9500 if you can help in any way.

Lent

Looking ahead, we want everyone to be aware that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on March 5th. During Lent, our Wednesday night Bridge meals will be soup and bread.

We are looking for cook teams for those Wednesdays.

M3 & S3

M3 (Monday Morning Meetups) for the high school youth will meet at 6:45 am on Monday, February 17.

S3 (Sunday, Sondag, Sundaes) our Jr. high group will meet on Sunday, February 16 following the 10:30 am worship service.

Both gatherings are a time to discuss faith topics and explore spiritual practices while connecting with friends.



Dear Ones,

We are nearing Lent, and I will probably write about that next month as Ash Wednesday is March 5 and we will have a service that evening at 6:30 PM after a soup and bread dinner at 5:30 PM. But I want to encourage you a month in advance to think about the spiritual disciplines of Lent. Traditionally, Lent was a time to fast, pray, and practice generosity. In fasting, ancient Christians gave something up and the premise of doing so freed up funds that were then given to the poor. Some of our Catholic siblings still give up meat during Lent. The root of doing so is because meat was expensive so by giving it up much could be given to the poor. This was a tangible way that the Christian faith was lived out in the season.

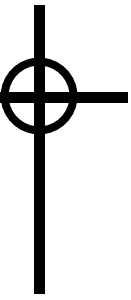
Lent helps to shape the entirety of our lives, not just one season, to be lives of spiritual practice. So often, we can be hung up with this faith as one that is a way of thinking. But faith is more than that. It is not a step on a linear progression of life that is slightly better than the step before it. Christian living is completely different. It withdraws from some things, embraces others, practices generosity, and wraps all of that in the sort of prayer that is more concerned with pouring out our heart before God and opening it so widely with all of our petitions that all we can do afterward is listen and be filled with the transforming words that God gives. The Christian life seeks grace and grounds its hope in mercy rather than wealth, security, well-being, or anything else. It does not tolerate the complacency of life but strives for all to be wrapped in God's peace. A disciple of Jesus Christ is always seeking to be closer to his character.

This all sounds like a lot, but when we read the Gospels, I am surprised how often Jesus lives in a completely different way while engaging in day to day activities. He embodies the love of God not just because he is God, but by feeding people with fish and bread, touching their wounds, holding their aching hands, placing a child on his knee, and picking fruit from a tree. He prays in the garden. He sleeps on a boat. These are activities we can imagine engaging in. They are simple and do not require a lot more than a little chopping and cooking, bending and reaching, holding and comforting. But they are the acts that change lives. An embodied and practiced faith may not change the world all at once, but it will change lives slowly as dripping can change stone.

How might you embody this faith and let grace drip down? How might you change the world?

Peace,

Pastor Karl



I am in a love-hate relationship with the practice of star words. Last year, I had devotion. I thought that was perfect! Devotion is so easy. I mean devotion; they have books devoted just to devotion and showing devotion to God. I'll pull out one of several devotions and call it good. My year of devotion was more intense than just reading one of my devotions. I did get a couple of new ones in the past year. I had to; my star word told me I had to. As the year progressed, there were several situations where devotion became more of a portrayal than just reading words on a page.

What does it mean to be devoted? In "Grease," Sandy sang about being hopelessly devoted. Did my start mean I would become dedicated, and would I have to give up my hope to show that I am devoted? I am, but that just isn't who I am. I am always full of hope, to the point where I am an annoying ray of sunshine. I put my hope in Jesus' love. Through his love and devotion to me, I can walk in the confidence that I am loved, and no matter what, nothing will change that.

Then, my thoughts came to the notion that devotion is watching and waiting, hoping and praying that your actions will bring about growth. Through this devotion, it will inspire others. One of my college professors would share Einstein's definition of stupidity, doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results. What is the difference between stupidity and devotion? To be devoted is to stay around long enough to see the change happening and pray for the change.

My first star word in 2023 was comprehension. That word was a hard one. I had to dig deep to embrace it fully. I was glad we had a whole year to wrestle with it. I still don't fully comprehend things, but I am glad I am in community with you fabulous people to help when I don't understand.

This year's word is complete. If the last two years of star words have taught me anything, I have no idea where this word will lead me or the wrestling that may come from it. I will admit that when I first really thought about my word, the scene from the 1996 movie Jerry McGuire, where Jerry is telling the woman he loves, "you complete me," did play out in my mind. I have a whole eleven more months to figure it out.

I want to thank you for your devotion to the church's children and youth. Your support is fantastic! We had thirteen amazing chilis entered this year. Congratulations to Christian Education on your big win! The money raised at the chili cook-off will help fund the youth heading to Triennium in July. The money raised from the silent auction will be split between funding First Presbyterian Church's camp scholarships and Triennium. Again, thank you for all you do to support the faith formation of FPC!



Blessings for 2025! 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 welcome to visit PW

- Luncheon gatherings are at noon on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. February 5 is the next luncheon with the program being Soul Collage (an interactive activity).
 - Circles are small fellowship gatherings open to all women of the church desiring fellowship and study opportunity. Circles 1,2,3 meet during the day on the third Wednesdays. The newly formed Circle 4 encourages those unavailable for day time meetings to meet in the evening on the first Mondays.
- ⇒ 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 in the evening the first Monday of the month – contact Tori Milne at 673-1999.

A Great Big Thank You to PW outgoing officers; co-moderators, Rhea Cooksey-Dickson and Helen Campbell, Treasurer, Su Rappleye and continuing Secretary, Gloria Dierking. These women have been truly led by the Spirit in their leadership and guidance. They used their energy, wisdom, time and talent to the Glory of God. We are ever grateful for these women of God.

Newly installed PW Leadership

Co-Moderator: Sherry Laughton

Co-Moderator: Nancy Cook

Secretary: Gloria Dierking

Treasurer: Lynn Hahn

Circle 1: Linnet McGoodwin

Circle 2: Gloria Dierking and Nancy Elliott

Circle 3: Marigene Vogt and Cheryl Kelsey

Circle 4: Tori Milne

2024 Local Mission Designation

Sheridan PW is pleased to announce that the local PW mission funds have gone to support two organizations that were brought to our attention through our luncheon programs. Each group has received \$1000:

* Lagniappe Center (definition, a little extra) is a non-profit ministry that co-creates financial futures for families through employment, training, and mentorship of low-income parents located at Grace Anglican in Sheridan.

*Up-Rising is a movement working with individuals, groups and organizations to create more awareness surrounding human trafficking and exploitation and to expand prevention education efforts. Together they are helping to ensure our communities are the safest possible.

2024 Memorial Service

Annually, PW members who have passed on to the Church Triumphant are honored and remembered at a candle lighting service at our January luncheon gathering. Nancy Cook conducted the 2024 service in remembrance of Bethany Hunter and Darlene McNair.



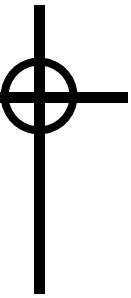
“Legally Blonde Jr.”

Prakash Landis is a member of the high school musical,

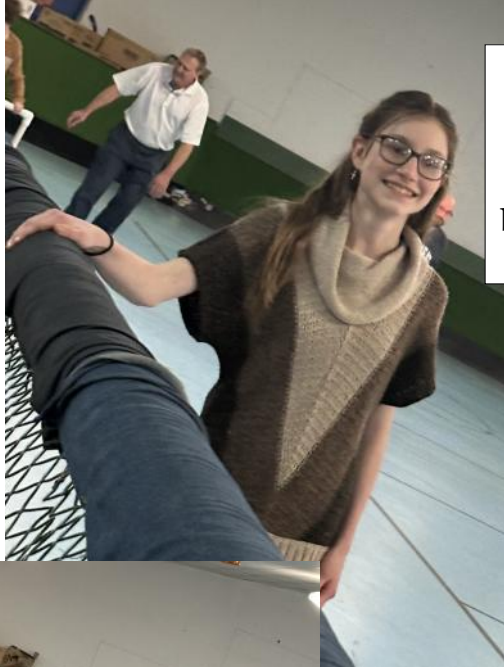
“Legally Blonde Jr.”

Show performances are March 6–8th with performances at 7:15 pm and a matinee at 2 pm on the 8th.

Tickets can be purchased through the WYO.



FPC in Action!



We had our annual fellowship roller skating party at Scotty's Skate Castle. Nobody broke a bone...although it was touch & go for a moment.



FPC enjoyed a beautiful duet from Chantelle & Griffin on Bluegrass Sunday.



Bluegrass Sunday at First Presbyterian!

Good News at FPC !



Congratulations to FPC Maintenance manager, Rod Fuller!
Rod and Eileen were married on Saturday, January 18.

Congratulations to Mandy Baxter on her promotion to
Postmaster with USPS!



Prakash Landis was recently selected for WY
All State choir; Zach Thurow was selected to
perform with the WY All State orchestra; and
Cameron Steidley performed with the All State
Band.

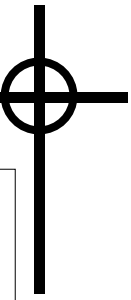
Congratulations to all of these musicians!



Tori Milne's chili won the chili cookoff!

She was representing the CE Committee. The CE
committee will now keep the "golden ladle" trophy
until next year's contest. Tied for second was the
Congregational Care committee's chili made by
Bobbie Spahn and Fellowship committee's chili
made by Becky Motsick.

Congratulations to all our good cooks!



Camp Story Summer Camp 2025!

We are at the time of year when we are all starting to get a little tired of the snow and cold. Our minds drift to when the weather will be warmer and the days longer, and we begin to plan summer adventures. The 2025 Camp Story schedule is available, and registration is open!

There are some new or extended session options. We will be offering TWO week-long day camps. Both sessions will provide two-way transportation from the church to camp. I am excited to announce the return of "LIT, Leader in Training." This session focuses on high school students who desire to be part of something larger than themselves. It will prepare the camper for what life would be like as a counselor at camp. "Night Owl" has changed to "Roots & Wings." High schoolers are at an age where they strive to strengthen their faith roots while preparing to spread their wings. The camp's goal is to enhance the camper in both their roots and wings.

"Hands, Heart, and Soul" is also returning this year. Why should schoolchildren have all the spiritual renewal of camp? This camp caters to campers who do not fit the typical camper category.

If you have any questions about which camp would be perfect for you or another camper, feel free to check out campstory.org for more information about all our camp sessions. You can also call (307)763-0919 or email director@campstory.org.



Address for Arlene Herrboldt

Arlene has given the office her new address. Mail can be sent directly to her at:
*Amie Holt Care Center, Room 207
397 West Lot St.
Buffalo, WY 82834*



Session Members and Committee

Budget & Finance

Karen Burtis, Gary Laughton

Clerk of Session

Gary Joy

Christian Education

Tori Milne

Fellowship

Becky Motsick

Congregational Care

Bobbie Spahn, Jean Morgen

Mission & Outreach

Rachel Mathews-Landis

Personnel

Nancy Cook, Gloria Dierking

Properties

Larry Apple, Rex Arney

Worship

John Jackson, Tracey Burke

Tech

Craig Clem

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, Lucy Brock, Loren Ruttinger, Erica Bainter, Kathy Beagle, Griffin & Chantelle Boostrom

Worship Leaders: Izzi Clem, Ryan Landis, Gwen Roberts, Tori Milne

Ushers: Dave Youngren, Larry Apple, Scott Davis & Mary Ludemann, Jeff & Denise Mueller, Mitzi Knapp, Bobbie & Ron Spahn, Erica & Brian Bainter, Gary Joy, Dave & Catherine Engels, Ron Patterson, Rex & Nickie Arney, Frank Rugh

Scripture Readers: Racheal Milne, Tracey Burke, Rex Arney, Tori Milne, Troy Siddle, Miriam Nance, Becky Motsick

Communion Prep: Denise Mueller

Communion Servers: Pam & Doug Moore, John Jackson & Su Rappleye, Dave & Becky Motsick, Jeff & Denise Mueller

Audio/Visual Systems Operators: Ted Knapp, Craig & CJ Clem, Ryan Landis, Rachel Mathews-Landis

Coffee Sponsors: Mission Committee, Karl & Kendra Heimback, Larry & Mary Apple, Ryan & Rachel Mathews-Landis



Doug, Gary L. and Pastor Karl are having quite a discussion about stove clocks!

Thank you to all who helped with Lunch Together in January. Our next time to serve is February 24–27.

Keep them in your prayers



Ongoing Prayers: Karen Townsend, Kathleen Shafer, Robert & Jeannette Ruttinger, and Carol Davis.

Prayers for Peace & Healing: Howie Fitzpatrick, Jae Satterlee, Diana & Bob Miller, Mary Hutton, Pat Gallagher, Rebecca White (Carla White's daughter-in-law), Jim Wilhelm, Margie Elkins, Arlene Herrboldt, Barb Finch, and Pat Harden's sister, Elizabeth Wilner.

Prayers for those Grieving: Carol Davis and Miriam Nance on the loss of daughter/sister Maureen; Joan and Jon Botten on the loss of brother/uncle Arthur; and family & friends of Brooke Holstedt.

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

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 2—Laurie Graves, Vivian Tarver
- February 3—Todd Browne
- February 8—Jay Bergstrom
- February 10—Christina Araas
- February 12—Gareth Dixon
- February 17—Peter Haile, David Motsick
- February 18—Melony Douglas
- February 19—Rockie Sadler
- 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 Anderson

2024 Financial Summary

Through December

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue	409,500.00	389,145.10	(20,354.90)
Expenses	409,500.00	373,832.82	(35,667.18)
Profit/(Loss)	-	15,312.28	(15,312.28)

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 \$3,530. The 2024 Per Capita assessment is \$12,776.40.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

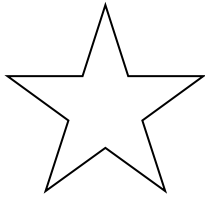
The monthly Session meeting for January was held on Tuesday the 21st at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

News of Interest –

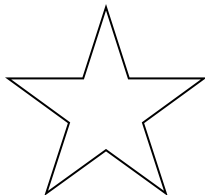
- The funds raised from the silent auction will be split with 2/3 of the money going towards camp scholarships and the other 1/3 going towards Triennium. Thanks to those who participated in the auction.
- There is room for at least three more people to join the mission trip to Omaha. Youth church members who would like to go will receive some financial assistance.

Children of God in the Family of God

Gary Joy, Clerk of Session



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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 Foshier)

Rory Montgomery (Great Nephew of Harvey & Linda Johnson)

Bridger Ammann (Grandson of Joyce and Gary Meling)

Maria Heller (Granddaughter of Carol Maloy)

National Guard

Allen Price (Son-in-law of Karen Foshier)

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 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship Time 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am Tech Committee 6 pm AA	3 5:30 pm Working Women Circle 4	4 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	5 12 pm PW Luncheon 5:30 pm The Bridge 6:30 pm Bells 6 pm AA	6 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	7	8 10 am Blue & Gold Banquet Cub Scouts
9 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School (all ages) 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 6 pm AA	10	11 11 am Properties 12 pm Personnel 4 pm Worship 4:45 pm CE 5:15 pm Fellowship 5:45 pm Mission 6:30 pm Budget/ Finance	12 10:30 am Congregational Care Committee 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	13 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study CJ Out of Office	14 Office Closed Juanita Out of Office	15
16 Scout Sunday 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 11:45 am Choir 11:45 am S3 3 pm Bingo 6 pm AA	17 6:45 am M3 6 pm AA District Mtg.	18 6 pm Session 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Juanita Out of Office	19 10 am Circle 1 & 2 12 pm Circle 3 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	20 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	21  Karl Out of Office	22
23 8 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am—Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 1:45 am Choir 6 pm AA	24 Karl Out of Office	25	26 5:30 pm The Bridge 6 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells	27 7 am Bible Study 10 am Bible Study	28	



First Presbyterian Church

2121 Colonial Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

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