



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

February 7, 2018

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Annual meeting to be held on February 11

The session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for this Sunday, February 11, right after a luncheon (\$6.00) following the 10:30 worship service. This is a week later than usual so that all financial reports, including the endowment report, can be up to date and accurate. Annual reports are available at the office this week or on the web site www.fpcbozeman.org under Upcoming Events on the home page. Please plan to attend this important meeting that will review the last year of our church's ministry as well as to look what's in store for the current year.

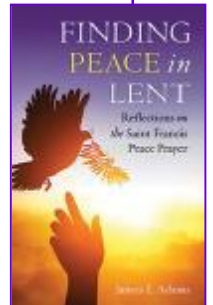
Lent begins February 14

Peace. . . how do we find it? The prayer of St. Francis expresses our longing for inner peace, for peace in relationships, and for peace in the world. This Lent, grow deeper in your search for peace by reflecting on and praying this prayer, guided by a daily devotional booklet available at church now. The prayer calls us to transformation and to living a more gentle, self-giving life.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

From the Co-Pastors



Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me."

Psalms 86: 6-7

Thank you for your generosity!

This year our Souper Bowl of Caring collected \$140 and 104 food items for the Gallatin County Food Bank.

Last year this nationwide effort yielded over \$10 million for 4,849 local charities, thanks to 6,554 groups. If you are interested in learning more, check out www.souperbowl.org.



Presby Cats to nourish and entertain at February 25 fund raiser

On Sunday, February 25, members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry will be serving lunch after the 10:30 service before hosting the annual talent and variety show. You're invited to enjoy the lunch and you're also invited to participate in the talent show if you'd like. To be part of the show, please contact James Schulz at 509-822-0866 or jkschulz2731@gmail.com.



Rent-a-Cat program

Please call us for odd jobs, rides to the airport, or whatever else you need help with. Our students will be happy to help out in any way in exchange for a donation to our spring break mission trip fund. Contact Tanner Robison at tanner.h.robison@gmail.com or call or text him at 406-498-2751. Eight of us will be traveling to Miami, Florida over spring break to work with a number of local agencies serving needy populations.

Cookie dough is here!

If you ordered frozen cookie dough and other products from the Presby Cats, those items are arriving at the church this afternoon (2/7) around 2 p.m. If it is possible for you to stop by after 2:00 to pick up your order, that will minimize the amount of freezer space needed. Otherwise you can pick up your order on Sunday.

Thanks again for your support!



PRESBYTERIAN SKIERS

Greetings to all FPC skiers at Bridger Bowl. If you are on the slopes on a Monday, we would love for you, family, and friends to meet for some fellowship and lunch at 12:00 at Deer Park Lodge. Just stop and say "hello," warm your fingers and toes, and munch your lunch. Hope to see you there.

Birthdays this week

- 2/8 Tricia Thompson
- Algerim Haynes
- 2/10 Joe Kolwycyk
- 2/11 David Driscoll
- 2/13 Richard Reiley



Vern and Alice Bandy

In memoriam of Vern Bandy April 11, 1931 - January 31, 2018. A memorial service for Vern will be Saturday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m. Vern joined in 1975 and was an active member through the years especially with Rockhaven, as a deacon and with Family Promise. Our prayers go out to his wife Alice, daughter Gayle Hickert and family.

Ash Wednesday Taizé Service February 14, 6:30 pm

What is Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent, the season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our human frailty and need for God.

What is a Taizé Service? In 1940, an ecumenical monastic community was founded in Taizé, France. Over the years, they developed a distinctive contemplative worship style using simple music and prayer. The Taizé Community attracts more than 100,000 pilgrims each year who come to engage in worship, prayer, Bible study, sharing, and ecumenical work. Our service will follow this style.

Where and when will it be? We will hold the service in the church library on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 pm. It will begin promptly and conclude in time for choir practice at 7 pm.

Why should I come? The contemplative style of worship is restful and deep, inviting worshipers to dwell in the presence of God. If you long for a time of peace and quiet prayer, you will find it in a Taizé service. If you long for God's will to be known to you, you may experience that in a Taizé service. If you simply long for God, a Taizé service is an opportunity to draw closer to our source.



Adult Sunday School to study the Lord's Prayer during Lent



Do you remember the first time you heard the Lord's Prayer? Most of us not only can't remember when we first heard this prayer, we can't remember when we memorized it--because our memorizing was not a conscious effort; it was simply the process of hearing the words until they were part of our very persons.

Yet most of us don't know much about this prayer, and we're inclined to recite it without thinking. Martin Luther, with his penchant for saying things directly, described the Lord's Prayer as the greatest martyr, "for everybody tor-

tures and abuses it." It is mostly, of course, the abuse of familiarity. Because we say it so often and because its words have the flow of poetry, we are likely to speak it without investment of either mind or heart. Jesus warned, "In your prayers do not go babbling on like the heathen, who imagine that the more they say the more likely they are to be heard" (Matt. 6:7 NEB). It's ironic, isn't it, that the prayer Jesus gave us is probably the most frequent instrument of violation for the warning he gave us.

Beginning on Sunday, February 18, and continuing through March 25, led by pastor Dan Krebill, the adult Sunday school class will undertake a thorough study of the Lord's Prayer. The class meets in the church library from 9:30 to 10:15 on Sunday.

Membership information meeting to be held on Saturday, February 24

Do you have questions about First Presbyterian Church? Are you curious to know more about who we are as part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination? Is membership in our church something you'd like to consider? Please plan to come to an informal membership information meeting on Saturday, February 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church. Our pastors and church leaders will be on hand to share more about our church and its ministries and mission. Also included will be to share what's involved for those who are interested in formalizing their membership in our church. The time will conclude with a light lunch.

To sign up for the meeting, please call the church office at 586-9194 or email Linda at linda@fpcbozeman.org



The Presbytery of Yellowstone Seeks Stated Clerk

- A quarter-time position, with salary + pension starting at \$16,000+
- Some travel required (reimbursed)
- 3-year renewable term
- Geography includes southern and eastern 2/3 of Montana, with the presbytery office in Bozeman
- Desired attributes: servant leader, self-starter, proactive communicator, organized, accountable, technologically literate, mission-focused, and faith-driven
- Must be a PC(USA) Ruling Elder or Minister of the Word and Sacrament
- Responsibilities include record keeping, meeting coordination, election administration, clergy and congregational polity support and interpretation, general communication and administration

Application is available at www.yellowstonepcusa.org

Applications will be received until the position is filled.

For more information contact Jody McDevitt, jody@fpcbozeman.org

Let a quartet from the Chord Rustlers treat your special someone to a Happy Valentine's Day with a Singing Valentine, a card and a rose. Please call 581-1391. The Chord Rustlers are under the direction of Russell Milburn.

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

There are times when I become consumed with regret — when the shoulda, coulda, wouldas overwhelm me. Last week was a for instance.

Long time church member and early service fixture Vern Bandy passed away last Wednesday. His obituary tells the world Vern lost a courageous battle with cancer. It was a battle I did not help him fight, and it is my first regret.

Anyone that has attended the early service and has stuck around for the fellowship time following the service knows where Vern's spot is. He would lean up against the back of the last row of pews in the front section of the sanctuary. It was from this perch he would regale you with stories. He would hold court. Weather? He was as obsessed with it as anyone. Bobcats? He kept track of all the games. Geography? He knew every small town and landmark from Eureka to Alzada, from Plentywood to Wisdom.

Much of Vern's knowledge of the lay of the land came from walking across it with a dowsing rod in his hands. Yep, Vern was a dowser. A celebrated one, too, and that's where his most fascinating stories come from. It's not often you get to talk to someone that has a book written about them, or been featured in a national magazine, but Vern did. And that is my second regret; I didn't stop to listen to him enough.

I'm probably not the only one that gets caught up in their own little world. I race from one self-imposed deadline to the next, rarely taking the time to stop and — smell the roses sounds so cliché — but it does convey the essence of what I often miss.

Vern didn't seem to have that problem. Perhaps it was his infinite patience, no doubt cultivated by his dowsing: spending long, long days in the field, searching. Searching for water, or snake dens, or gravel quarries, or even a buried wallet. But he always seemed to have a sense of what was most important, and to Vern that was his faith and his family.

So I will regret not praying enough for Vern's health, but perhaps I will do a better job the next time I am afforded an opportunity. And I will regret not stopping to listen to more of his stories, but perhaps I will be more attentive to other people God places in my path.

One regret I don't have, though, is having my own signed copy of *Dowser, the Vern Bandy Story* by local writer, Lauri Olsen. I will leave you with a quote from her book. "As the head of his family, Vern is the keeper of collective memories. He is — as many grandfathers are — a repository of stories: the link to the past, handing down his wisdom, values, and insight to subsequent generations."



Church Facebook page a source of up-to-date info!

Even if you're not a Facebook member yourself, you can still access the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman to get in on regular breaking news. If you'd like to interact with the content and others on the page, click the "Like" button at the top of the page if you're a Facebook member. Facebook—just one more way for us to interact with today's world!