

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

News of the First Presbyterian Church ~ Cheyenne, WY

April 2017

Rev. Bob Thomson
fpcpastor@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.firstprescheyenne.org
Email: firstpresbyteri5@qwestoffice.net

Rev. Diana Hartman
firstpresap@qwestoffice.net

Table of Contents

Rev. Thomson	1
Irmgard Meyer Grants News	2
Congratulations	2
One Great Hour of Sharing	2
Notes and Church News	2
Deacon's News	3
Our Church Library	3
Women of FPC	3
Hysterical Archives	4
Christian Education	4-5
Deacon's Beacon	5
April 2017 Calendar	7-8



In April we will celebrate Easter, the most important day on the Christian calendar. We celebrate many important events of Jesus life including Christmas, Epiphany, Baptism, and Palm Sunday to name a few. The birth of Jesus, his baptism, and his triumphal entry into Jerusalem are important but without Easter they are meaningless. It is the resurrection of our Lord that gives meaning to all the other events in his life. Our celebration of his birth is only meaningful because thirty-three years later the baby born in Bethlehem rose from the dead in Jerusalem. The resurrection is the foundation of our faith. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain." (1 Cor. 15:13-14) So I invite each of us to celebrate Easter by examining our faith and by participating in the worship services in Holy Week.

Let us celebrate Easter first by remembering what the resurrection has done for each of us. Jesus came proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was at hand inviting us to follow him. He healed diseases and forgave people of their sins. He demonstrated God's love for us and promised that in him the light of the world dispels the darkness and that we have

received new and eternal life. Through Christ's death and resurrection God defeated death and gave us a new life. Romans 6:3 says "...all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." As we celebrate Easter I invite you to renew your baptismal vows and walk in the new life Christ gave us. At our baptism these questions were affirmed: Do you acknowledge the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end? Will you be a faithful member of this congregation?

I also invite you to celebrate Easter through the worship services in Holy Week. On Palm Sunday we will celebrate Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem as a King. The week between Palm Sunday and Easter, also called the Passion of Christ, is filled with the events that led Jesus to the cross and the tomb. I encourage you to celebrate Easter by celebrating each step that Jesus took during that week. Remembering the events of that week is important because we can't truly celebrate the resurrection without recalling Christ's death. We have two services during Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to remind us of the passion story and to recall what Jesus did on his way to the cross. Then we will celebrate the resurrection, the foundation of our faith, on Easter.

I invite you to celebrate the Resurrection by remembering that you have been given a new life through faith in Jesus Christ and by remembering each step that Jesus took on his way to the Cross. Plan to attend the worship services during Holy Week and plan to join us on Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Christ has risen, he is risen indeed.

In Christ's Name, Rev. Bob Thomson

Irmgard Meyer Grants News

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY - During one of our early rounds of the Irmgard Meyer Grants, we learned that Laramie Community College had matching grant funds from the State of Wyoming. We took the opportunity to create The Irmgard Meyer First Presbyterian Church Scholarship. They had \$10,000.00 available and we gave them \$10,000.00 making the scholarship \$20,000.00.

Those attending LCCC can apply through the Finance Aid Office of LCCC. The scholarship is designed for those from First Presbyterian Church first. If no one from First Presbyterian Church applies it then is opened up to other students for that year, and, the following year reverts back to the original setup.

We want our young people to be aware of this opportunity to assist in their education funding. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to LCCC Financial Aid Office. We're anxious to see our young people take advantage of this opportunity and celebrate it in our church.

Once again we see the growth of the Irmgard Meyer Grant Program. As I stated at the Congregational meeting this gift is far reaching with grants going as far away as Syria and Bagdad, Iraq and as close as Laramie County Community College. Celebrate our gift.

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Davis, Chairperson



Congratulations to . . .

Barb Lutz on her retirement from Federal Civil Service after 43 years on March 31, 2017.

Amy Leavitt on her retirement from the United States Air Force after 20 years of service on April 13, 2017.

Can You Help?

The church is in need of new or gently used highchairs. Please let Diana know if you are able to help with this request. Thank you!



Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People programs. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

♪♪ Notes & Church News ♪♪

Church Photo Directory The new church photo directory is available. If you have not received your copy, please stop by the church office or contact Phyllis O'Connor at 307-630-3997.

Church Book Club The next Church Book Club discussion will be held on Thursday, March 30, at 7:15pm in the church library. We will be discussing "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Questions? Please call Phyllis O'Connor (630-3997).



Cribbage Is the game of cribbage your interest? Never played but want to learn? Join us on April 7th at Karl and Judi Krieger's for a fun evening! We meet at 7pm and end around 9pm. If you have a cribbage board and cards, please bring them. If you don't, come anyway! Hungry? Bring your own snacks and drinks. Easy, simple and fun! Questions, contact Ernie or Melinda Brazzale, mlbrazzale@gmail.com, 256-0506.

DEACON'S NEWS

Once again you have all gone above and beyond the request for underwear for Undie Sunday! It will be stored, and given to Day of Giving. As of this writing, we do not have a total count as we have one more week to donate, but can you say "BUNCHES"??.. The total count will be announced later. Thank you for your generosity!

1st Sunday Communion Extended Table Donation Schedule:

April - All non-perishable food items will go to Day of Giving

May - All non-perishable food items will go to Day of Giving

June - All donated items will go to Family Promise (Once again they are in need of disposable diapers, any size, and baby wipes).

Your continued support of this Local Mission outreach program is appreciated.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In May, date to be announced later, Deacons will be sponsoring a meal at Comea Shelter. All are welcome to sign up to cook or to serve the meal. If you are interested, please contact Belinda Smith.

Please remember to contact Rob Shank about ordering your First Presbyterian Church T-Shirt.

Together we have a positive impact on our community!

Our Church Library Library Committee

When you are doing Bible study you might find helpful two versions of the Hebrew Greek Keyword Study Bible. We have the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible version. These include the scriptures with keywords underlined and numbered. Those numbers are used in the Concordance and the Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries to give meanings or similar uses of those same words. There are also special study aids with a scripture index, references to other parts of the Bible where scripture is quoted and a large section of maps. Both books are on the bookshelf on the east wall with the newest book display. [200/ZON.HEB]

Women of First Presbyterian Church

Upcoming Events

Presbyterian Women will be your fellowship hour servers in April.



Spring Gathering ~ With April and its “spring showers” (in either solid or liquid form) the women of First Church will be focused on hosting the annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women from across the Presbytery of Wyoming on April 20 -22. Our ‘turn’ in this role recurs about every 10 years, so this is a much-anticipated opportunity to learn, worship, and fellowship with women we may not have met for several years, and you can do this by traveling no farther than 22nd and Carey!

This event is focused on “Wyoming PW Connected to the World” and will include reports from several Presbyterian women about the mission experiences in which they have participated in on behalf of all PW’s. Registration fees are nominal, so **send your registration form and check (available in the Parlor) by April 12.**

Next PW brunch for all women of the church, is scheduled for May 20. Watch for further details.

Stitch by Stitch workshop for April will meet on April 8th and May’s workshop will be on May 6th due to Easter and PW Brunch. Time: 10am - Noon.

Orange Day Did you know that the 25th of each month is Orange Day? Those who observe this by wearing an orange shirt are announcing that they stand in solidarity with women all over the world to focus international attention on violence against women and girls.

Urge to travel? PW’s Women of the Reformation Tour (observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation) will be in Geneva, Switzerland, on Reformation Sunday. The tour, open to 5 – 10 participants, runs October 28- November 5. Cost: \$ 1850/person plus travel to and from Geneva. Application deadline July 1—contact Katharine.reeves@pcusa.org.





HYSTERICAL
HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES

Submitted by Peggy Williams

This information was printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin of March 25, 1951.

The Power of Resurrection

There is a line in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians in which he says: "That I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection." That power of Christ which swept like a flood over the ancient world, and conquered it, still is an effective force in the lives of men and women, transforming them, as it did the disciples and turning sunset into sunrise.

We have all known valiant souls who have looked straight into the eyes of death without the slightest trace of fear, thinking in their last hours, not of themselves, but of their families, their friends, their God. Such nobility has not been put into the souls of men, only in the end to be extinguished as though it were of no consequence. The courage with which countless men faced danger and death during the war, and the strength with which bereaved families met their sorrow, proves that what St. Paul called "the power of the Resurrection" is still a potent force in the world, steadying people as nothing else under heaven can do. The condition that burned like a fire in the early Church, changing a little group of bewildered and heartbroken men into a united and confident group prepared to face death for their living Lord, still brings victory out of defeat.

There is a God who has made the world and man. That man is not a body possessing a soul, but a soul possessing a body. That God is a Father who cares for all of his children—that love abides and lasts beyond all earthly change—"the grave itself is but a covered bridge leading from light to light through a brief darkness."

Don't forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't able to empty the Penny Jar very often but when we do, we usually find \$100.00 or so. We need to continue saving our pennies as this fund goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or just helping with some of our projects, please contact Peggy Williams, 634-0147.



Children's Ministry

Happy Easter

As I recently strolled down the grocery aisle, I was taken aback by the shelves piled high with jelly beans, plastic-wrapped gift baskets, pink and yellow marshmallow chicks, and giant chocolate bunnies! No wonder kids get confused about Easter! For believing moms and dads, explaining Christmas to our kids is a cinch. This is because the birth of Jesus is relatively simple to grasp. Nativity scenes, carols and pageants all reinforce the biblical story, making it easier to keep Santa Claus in perspective.

But are we keeping Christ in Easter? How do we keep Christ the focus of our Easter celebrations? How do we begin to explain to our kids something as profound, powerful and mysterious as the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is, after all, at the very heart of our Christian faith?

"How do we help our kids understand that when it comes to Easter, Jesus (not the Easter Bunny!) is the reason for the season?" The good news is that our children come into the world hard-wired to grasp deep spiritual truths – even something so amazing and miraculous as the Resurrection. This is because for children, believing in God is instinctive. It is as natural as breathing. Jesus recognized this when He said:

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16).

Bottom line: Our children are hungry for the truths of God. So don't be shy. Don't hold back. I encourage you to use my free gift to you, the Easter Season Family Devotional, to boldly explore what God has to say about Easter, the most important event in human history, and to grow in faith together. I encourage you to go online and look for free Easter family devotionals. There are a million to pick from. I suggest that you select a regular time (perhaps after dinner, or before bedtime) to read and discuss the first question and answer. You might want to begin and close each devotional time with a short prayer. You might want to have a Bible handy, in case you want to look up scripture references. If in your conversations, your child poses a question for which you don't have an answer, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," or, "Let's look in the Bible," or, "Let's ask our pastor about that." And don't be surprised when your child teaches you!

Of course there are an infinite number of questions about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – more than can ever be answered in one week. What's important, is

that in these days leading up to Easter, you and your child will have a powerful opportunity to grow together in the knowledge and love of our Lord. You and your child will gain a clearer understanding of not only what you believe, but why.

Remember, God loves a seeking heart! (Matthew 7:7-12)

Have a wonderful Easter with your family!

Bless you,
Ashley Braisted
Children's Ministry Director



Greetings all, from the FPC Youth Group! March was a blast, with lots of studying, games and growth as a group! We have been going strong with our Lenten Bible study, as well as our take-home devotionals. I know we are getting excited for all that April is bringing, which includes Holy Week, a half-day from school, and the completion of Confirmation. However, I am here to ask a request of anyone and everyone reading this newsletter!

HELP WANTED!

- **Who:** Anyone from our congregation who is over 18 years old, wanting to be involved with the youth!
 - **Requirements:** Must have a fun, positive personality and be willing to engage with some amazing teenagers.
- **What:** We need volunteers to be acting chaperones at the church while the teens attend youth group. This would mean being at the church for part or all of group time. There is no preparation on your part, other than attending group with a positive spirit. You are welcome to join in with any of our activities, but are never required to do so.
- **When:** Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There are also special events we will plan that you can sign up for! You would only need to sign up for one week, but we would love to see you more!
- **Where:** First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne, Wyoming! We meet in the parlor to begin, but do use most of the church, so there is a lot of moving around.
- **Why:** We have some amazing volunteers that have been working overtime to make sure these teens are cared for. However, as you know with any group facilitated by volunteers, it becomes difficult to ask the same few people to always be in attendance. So, this is an opportunity for you to meet some of the youth in your congregation, and

is a wonderful chance for the youth to get to know the loving members of our church who consistently support them.

Ultimately, I pray that for those of you who have ever felt called to help with the youth, call or text or even pull me aside after church and inquire about how you can help. As I mentioned before, I would not ask for anyone to commit to multiple weeks of attendance. I completely understand that you all have busy lives, and so signing up for a one-time session would be amazing!

We are blessed to have so many wonderful and supportive members in our congregation, and I look forward to writing next month's newsletter to inform you of all the new volunteers we've had participate. As always, thank you and I look forward to hearing for you all!

With blessings, Matthew Woodard

DEACON'S BEACON ~ *Be In Prayer For:*

Bill Dubois – Loss of Sister

Unspoken Request
Meryl Adams
Joe Arnold
Christy Arthur
LaVonne Beardsley
Avis Blaylock
Loretta Boucher
Ike Bowling
Briggs Family
Judy Brink
Dr. Richard Brown
Lavonne Burrows
Chris Christensen
Karen Christensen
Barbara Clark
Karen Denniston
Carrol DeWyke
Robert Drummond
Tim Francis
Wendy Francis
David Gay
Adam George
Fern Gullett
Ruth Hale
Tamiaka Hamm
Edna Harris
Safia Hauswirth
Robert Hawk
Beth Hoobler
Kelly Jensen



Charlie Johnson
Jim Kibitschek
Lauri Lamm
Lamm Family
Mary Jane Larson
Bonnie Legerski
William Loftus
Ray Martin
Ray Martin
Sophie Meese
Pat Milam
Mary Kay Montgomery
Dick Moody
Joe Norris
Paula Norton
Doreen Oakley
Eric Payne
Karen Toft Pope
Linda Pratt
Carol Rieser
Curt Scribner
Jeff Symmonds
Carisa Thomas
Mary Tolle
John Townsend
Jane Uchner
Javen Westby
Deborah White
Beau Williams
Brenda Wilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – April 2017

Date	Day	Time	Event
April 1	Saturday	10:00am	Hearts and Hands (Parlor)
April 2	Sunday		Communion Sunday
		8:15am	Sunday School for All Ages
		9:30am	Worship and Communion
		10:30am	Fellowship
		10:45am	Joyful Ringers rehearsal
		5:00pm	Lenten Prayer Service
April 3	Monday	5:30pm	Christian Education Ministry (Library)
		6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
		7:00pm	Worship and Music Ministry (Parlor)
April 4	Tuesday	6:30pm	Ephesians (Library)
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts (OA)
April 5	Wednesday	5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:00pm	High School Bible Study
		6:15pm	Friendship Mariners Service Auction (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
April 6	Thursday	9:30am	Just Faith (Parlor)
		5:30pm	Lenten Prayer Service (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00pm	Sarah Circle (Library)
April 7	Friday	1:00pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
		7:00pm	Cribbage (Krieger's)
April 8	Saturday	10:00am	Stitch by Stitch (LCE)
April 9	Sunday		Palm Sunday / OGHs Offering
		8:15am	Sunday School for All Ages
		9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
		10:45am	Joyful Ringers rehearsal
		5:00pm	Lenten Prayer Service
		6:00pm	Youth Group
April 10	Monday	12:00pm	Investment Committee (Library)
		1:00pm	New Life (Stage Room)
		6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
April 11	Tuesday	4:00pm	Personnel Ministry (Library)
		5:15pm	Building and Grounds Ministry (LCE2)
		7:00pm	Missions Ministry (Library)
April 12	Wednesday	2:00pm	Finance Ministry (Library)
		5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
April 13	Thursday	9:30am	Just Faith (Parlor)
		7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 14	Friday	7:00pm	Good Friday Service
April 16	Sunday		Easter Sunday
		9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship

Date	Day	Time	Event
April 17	Monday	6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
		7:00pm	Session (LCE)
April 18	Tuesday		Newsletter Deadline
		5:30pm	MOPS (CEW)
		6:30pm	Ephesians (Library)
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts (OA)
April 19	Wednesday	12:30pm	Children / Youth Half-Day Program
		5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:00pm	High School Bible Study
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
April 20 - 22	Thurs - Sat		Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering First Presbyterian Church, Cheyenne
April 20	Thursday	9:30am	Just Faith (Parlor)
		10:00am	SE Clergy (Library)
		6:00pm	High School Bible Study
April 23	Sunday		FPC – Family Promise week
		8:15am	Sunday School for All Ages
		9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
		10:45am	Joyful Ringers rehearsal
		6:00pm	Youth Group
April 24	Monday	1:00pm	Rebecca Circle
		6:30pm	Local Missions (LCE)
		6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
		7:00pm	Deacons (LCE)
April 25	Tuesday	12:00pm	Genealogy (Family History Center)
April 26	Wednesday	9:00am	Walk, Pray, Love (O'Connor's)
		5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:00pm	High School Bible Study
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
April 27	Thursday	9:30pm	Just Faith (Parlor)
		6:00pm	High School Bible Study
April 28	Friday	12:00pm	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (Library)
April 30	Sunday		Confirmation Sunday
		8:15am	Sunday School for All Ages
		9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
		10:45am	Joyful Ringers rehearsal
		6:00pm	Youth Group