

NEWS from the PEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Rev. Bob Thomson
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April 2024

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What's Next?

On the last day of March, we celebrated Easter and now move on to what's next. In the Bible, the disciples had the same reaction. Experiencing the first Easter was an event difficult to comprehend. A person had come back to life! Christ had risen from the dead! The disciples had seen Christ's torturous crucifixion. They were as certain as you and I would have been, that Jesus' life was over and their devotion to him as their Master had come to a tragic end. Then in Acts 1:3 scriptures describe Jesus "presenting himself alive to the disciples by many convincing proofs and appearing to them during the next forty days and speaking to them about the Kingdom of God." The disciples would have been shocked at this new reality, 'In the Kingdom of God new life follows death.' They ask him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" The disciples are wondering "what's next?"

Now that we have celebrated Easter, we too ask "What's next?" The resurrection at Easter should be just as shocking to us. When we talk about the resurrection and Jesus rising from the dead, we are not talking about a person being resuscitated as medical staff do in emergencies now-a-days. The Resurrection is about a person coming back to life after having been dead for 3 days. In our modern tracking of time, we can safely assume Jesus' body had been lifeless for at least 39 hours, from Friday at 3 pm to Sunday at 6 am. Any misguided argument to say it wasn't really 3 days fails in the light of truth that his lifeless body laid in a tomb. We should be just as surprised as the disciples that a person came back to life after having been dead and buried. With a sense of surprise and wonder, we ask ourselves, "What's next?"

What was next for the disciples was to tell the world about the resurrection. To proclaim they had been with Jesus for forty days. C.S. Lewis wrote, "The first fact in the history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection. To preach Christianity meant primarily to preach the Resurrection and its consequences." Lewis went on to say, "The 'Resurrection' to which they bore witness was not the action of rising from the dead but the state of having risen; a state attested by intermittent meetings during a limited time." The disciples shared their experiences of

Jesus, the LORD, and the new life they were living through their faith in him.

The main purpose of our faith as disciples and our ministry is to tell the world the good news about Jesus rising from the dead and giving us new life. To proclaim to the world that in the Kingdom of God new life follows death.

What's next? May we now live our new lives in Christ and share the power of the resurrection with the world.

Happy Easter!!!

Pastor Bob

First Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament Calling All Golfers and Duffers!



We are planning a golf "tournament" this summer in, most likely, the last half of June on a weekday morning. For anyone who enjoys the game - no matter your game. A **fun** time together to enjoy a round at Little America golf course, shot-gun start, followed by lunch. No requirement to be a member or attend First Pres., friends are welcome. Planning nine holes including lunch for \$40 or \$55 with a cart. Still in planning stages so all we want to know now is if you and your friends **would** be interested in playing.

The final date is still to be decided and will obviously affect our final numbers. If you are interested, please give us your name when we're in the Fellowship Hall. Have questions? Talk to Steve Carver (307-631-7172) or Pastor Bob (307-631-2901).



To Access the Church Directory

Go to:

members.InstantChurchDirectory.com

Or download the app, available on
Apple's App Store, or on Google Play



📍 Walk + Pray ❤️ Love

April 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library

*To the Congregation***UPDATE****Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)**

Note: The Session approved the APNC to simultaneously search for an Ordained Minister or Commissioned Ruling Elder to fill our Associate Pastor position. We are seeking authorization from the Presbytery of Wyoming.

What are Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE)?

- They are Ruling Elders commissioned to provide limited pastoral service in a church.
- They are not an Ordained Pastor.
- As specified in their commission, they may moderate the Session, administer the Sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and officiate at marriages, where permitted by state law.
- Their duties are specified in the commission and contract with our church. The commission cannot exceed three years and is renewable.
- CREs are currently serving in Shell/Greybull, Encampment, Mountain View/Lyman.

Training and Educational Requirements for a CRE

- Formal classes—The Bible (Old and New Testaments), reformed theology and sacraments, Presbyterian polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, teaching, church administration.
- To be commissioned, they provide a statement of faith, undergo a psychological evaluation, and receive mentorship during the training program.
- New CREs could come from within our congregation. However, they should serve a different church. APNC does not recommend this process for filling our vacancy.

Our Current Challenges to Finding an Ordained Associate Pastor

- The updated Church Leadership Connection (CLC) software has created difficulty in reaching candidates.
- Housing costs have increased, and interest rates are unfavorable, so candidates are hesitant to risk moving.
- The number of seminary graduates seeking to serve churches has dropped considerably.
- APNC has advertised in PC (USA) and other publications and has yet to receive a response from potential candidates.
- By the end of February 2024, we had reviewed 15 candidate resumes. Three were interviewed, and two were not pursued. We offered the position to one, but he declined.
- Two new candidates are being interviewed.

What's next? A Two-Prong Approach

- APNC will continue to search for an Ordained Associate Pastor.
- With Session concurrence and Presbytery review, the APNC will develop recruitment materials for a CRE.
 - APNC interviews CRE candidates and, if favorable, invites them for site visits and a neutral pulpit sermon.
 - If selected, the APNC recommends calling a CRE to the Session.
 - The candidate preaches a "candidating sermon" to the congregation.
 - Following the sermon, the congregation holds a question-and-answer discussion.
 - Session could elect to hold a congregational vote, though it is not required.
 - The session votes to approve the candidate, and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry concurs.
 - The Personnel and Finance Ministries develop a contract. The Session approves the hiring.

Information Meeting ~ Sunday, April 21 ~ After Fellowship Time

In the Fellowship Hall ~ Hosted by your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

We will review our efforts to recruit a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE). More information about a CRE is included above. Don't hesitate to contact an APNC member if you have questions before the meeting. Lena Arntzen, Larry Barttelbort, Jeanne Bellamy, Walt George, Phyllis Salzburg, Belinda Smith, and Ken Vines.



Little Free Food Pantry

The dedication of the Little Free Food Pantry took place Sunday, March 10 and is ready to receive your gifts of food and personal care items. Thanks to the Men on a Mission group, the pantry has been installed at the corner of 22nd Street and Capitol Ave. for easy access. It has been emptied and refilled several times in the past week, which demonstrates the need for a pantry at this location. This is yet another great opportunity to share with others the blessings our gracious God has provided to us. Please take a moment to drop off an item or two if you are able.

Travel Size:

Toothpaste/toothbrush/mouthwash
Deodorant
Shampoo/conditioner
Band aids
Hand-wipes
Disposable razors
Lotion/hand cream
Soap/body wash
Hand sanitizer

Food:

Snack packs of tuna/chicken crackers,
peanut butter crackers
Individual power bars/candy bars/snack bars
Individual bags of chips
Water bottles, juice boxes/small juice cans
Peanut butter in small packets

Other Items:

Toilet paper
Small notebooks
Feminine hygiene products
Chap stick
Flashlight pens
Batteries – AAA or AA
Ink pens
Envelopes

Friday Food Bags

A huge thank you to all our members who have delivered food bags to our area schools. We are nearing the final quarter and have delivered approximately 1,080 bags to students attending Pioneer Park School. Because this ministry has been so popular, the Deacons plan to expand this service opportunity to include delivery to Poder Elementary and Secondary Schools beginning in September.



A big shoutout to our members who helped prepare and serve the enchilada dinner on March 12. The diners enjoyed the hearty meal and were so very grateful. Watch for our next serving date which will be Tuesday, May 14.



Mark your calendars! Beginning April 21-May 5 we will start collecting new prepackaged underwear of all sizes and kinds. Items will be collected at the church and then delivered by the Youth Group to the annual Day of Giving event.

Volunteers will distribute items to the appropriate agencies in the community: *The Boys and Girls Club*, serving children and teens, will receive underwear, the *Welcome Mat* and *Recover Wyoming* will receive adult size socks and underwear, *Family Promise* and *Safehouse* will receive diapers.



Richard LeMieux had a good upper middle-class life until a business failure and other problems left him living in his car – homeless, poor, no job, and alone except for his faithful dog Willow. Trying to keep himself and the dog alive required a lot of acquired knowledge for survival and to face how people treated him.

As he continued to be challenged with the obstructions that the poor and homeless face, he began writing a journal of what was happening each day. This journal is called “Breakfast at Sally’s” because that is where he ate many of his meals. Sally’s was a room at the local Salvation Army where people without resources could eat whatever was available.

During Richard’s journey, he found the poor and homeless share their resources; some with apartments allowed others to shower, wash clothes, and sleep on the floor. Eventually he gets a caretaker job at a local church, his pay allowing him to sleep in the building.

This book will give the reader a completely different perspective on homelessness and poverty and the difficulties of trying to survive without money. Perhaps it can also give us ideas about how to better help such folks. The book includes suggestions for helping and for a book club discussion. It was recently studied by our church book club.



Northeast Corner of Wyoming is a Food Desert

And you can help without spending a penny!

-Mission Ministry

Did you know that Crook and Weston Counties in northeast Wyoming are ranked first and second for food insecurity in the State of Wyoming? The Moorcroft Presbyterian Church, right in the middle of this area, has taken to heart the directive that they are to help 'the least of these,' and, with other congregations in the area, they have established a food pantry to help relieve the suffering. Mission Ministry believes God has called us to be a blessing to this gigantic effort.

In 2023, we approved an Irmgard Meyer grant for \$25,000 to help the pantry. When the pantry received the check, they were out of food and out of money. Our donation allowed them to continue operating for two more months. That one sentence in their thank-you letter drove home the point that the food pantry is desperate for help. Mission Ministry basically took the stance that we cannot know about the dire straits of our neighbors in that area and not find a way to help.

So...we adopted the grocery card fundraising program from our 150th anniversary celebration; it has continued to receive money since 2019. Remember this was a way to help the church without asking congregation members to spend any extra money. The same system applies today. If you shop at King Soopers or Albertson's and have either designated First Presbyterian Church to receive your Community Rewards from King Soopers purchases or have loaded your Albertsons Community Giving Card with money for groceries, a percentage of each of your purchases will go to Mission Ministry, and we will send those funds to Moorcroft Food Pantry.

Of course, if you would like to write a check to help the Moorcroft Food Pantry now, that would be a godsend; just make it out to the church and write "Moorcroft Food Pantry" in the memo line. Betty Jo will add it to other checks for the pantry and get the funds sent off in short order!

Our official kick-off of this program will be after the 10 o'clock service on April 28 with a table in Fellowship Hall and friendly Mission Ministry members who will explain the program and have on hand a supply of Albertson's Community Giving cards and a handout about how to go into your King Soopers card, click on "Community Rewards," and designate our church to receive money from your purchase. Together, we can



make a huge difference to the grandma raising two grandkids, the single mom on Social Security disability, the drywall hanger who broke his leg in a fall and can't work for several months, and the retired couple with major medical issues who have little money for food.

Thanks to our amazing congregation for helping!

Thank you!

Thank you Pastor Bob for visits and members for cards, flowers, and calls as I recuperate.

I begin outpatient physical therapy for ambulation and I am hoping to be able to walk in for Easter services.

May the Lord bless all of you. Thanks.

Jan & Les Schippers

A Celebration

Emily Brande, grand-daughter of Bill Loyer, was awarded a prestigious Air Force Dental Scholarship. She is one of 51 nationally to receive this award worth over \$300,000. She was recommended for the scholarship by Senator John Barrasso. She attends the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry and is a graduate of the University of Wyoming.



Christmas Joy Offering

Thank You For Your Generosity!

-Mission Ministry

Mission Ministry is grateful for the generosity of our congregation in donating to the Christmas Joy Offering. Betty Jo recently sent a check for \$3,846 to PC(USA);



\$1,923 from congregation donations and the rest from Irmgard Meyer funds. As you may remember, this offering goes to assist church workers in need as well as to Presbyterian-supported schools and colleges

serving communities of color.

It is exciting to think about the huge amount of help these target populations receive when our offering is added to that of thousands of other PC(USA) churches. We are helping our church do God's work and send thanks to each of you who donated!



**We Are Grateful
for the Ministries of Our Church!**

The 19th Annual Day of Giving:

Three New Agencies to Help This Year!

-Greta Morrow, Day of Giving Board



The Day of Giving Board appreciates all the ways First Presbyterian Church has helped us grow over the last 18 years. Together we have helped thousands of area residents!

This year, we have ‘adopted’ the 3 agencies listed below, so we will be helping a grand total of 16 agencies that serve clients who are in dire need or are dealing with illness and disability. When you drop off donations on Friday, May 10, we will sort items according to the wish-lists of each agency and have all donations delivered by the end of the day. Also, you are welcome to drop off food, personal care items, and craft items at the Youth Event, which runs from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on May 9, with youth doing the work the adults will do the next day.

-Habitat for Humanity, is asking for gently used furniture and housewares, including anything that ‘lives’ in the kitchen (dishes, silverware, pots and pans, etc.) HFH will provide vouchers for families in need who finally can rent an unfurnished apartment but have only sleeping bags to furnish it. With the vouchers, they can go to ReStore to buy things like a table and chairs, a bed, and maybe a sofa and living room chair.

-Life Choice Pregnancy Care Center, is asking for donations of baby diapers. Last year, Life Choice provided over 12,000 diapers to new moms and they need our help to continue providing diapers. During the year, Day of Giving plans to use financial donations to buy diapers as needed, “Discipline with Love and Logic” parenting materials, and pack-and-plays when the new moms who cannot afford a crib need a safe place for their baby.

-Recover Wyoming, which reaches out to the homeless and those dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues. They have asked us to collect donations of new packages of underwear and socks as well as hygiene items (shampoo, razors, soap, toothpaste including hotel size items).

Most of you are familiar with all the ways to give, and they are also listed on our posters and flyers. Go to our website www.cheyennedayofgiving.org for more information, or give me a call at 421-3436. I will be delighted to talk to you about Day of Giving!

Agencies Day of Giving is Helping in 2024

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Boys & Girls Club | Life Choice Pregnancy Care Cntr. |
| Comea House | Magic City |
| Family Promise | Needs, Inc. |
| Frontier Lions Club | Recover Wyoming |
| Good Health Will | Safehouse |
| Habitat for Humanity | St. Joseph’s Food Pantry |

Salvation Army
Unaccompanied Students
Initiative

Wyoming Coalition
for the Homeless

Gifts of Women Sunday

April 21

Rev. Karen Ohlson, Guest Pastor

Stained Glass Penny Jar

Don’t forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. These pennies go into a fund that goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.



Prayers for Phyllis Salzburg and family for the loss of her sister-in-law, Gail Salzburg, and for the family of Lois Moody.

List as of 3/24/24

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Meryl Adams | Mary Lou McMIndes |
| Nadine Amen | Benny Medina |
| Max Arrowsmith | Cindy Miller |
| Guy Beardsley | Tom Muhlback |
| Gail Blackwell | Kari Murdoch |
| Chuck Burke | William Norton III |
| Rose Burrows | Susan Payne |
| Olivia Campbell | Carson Pittman |
| Glenis Child | Loren Pully |
| Donna DiNino | Priscilla... |
| Cooper Dulany | Paula Qualls |
| Donna Jo Epler | Mary Rapp |
| Heather Franks | Misty Saxon |
| Adam George | Jan Schippers |
| Patricia Goss | Diana Stevens |
| Charles Ham | Paula Stevens |
| Gail Heimback | **Gary Thompson |
| Mary Jensen | Dorothy Tyrell |
| Gina John | Sarah Wacker |
| Jim Keen | Ann Wensky |
| Karl Krieger | Javen Westby |
| Virginia Leach | **New Additions |
| Tina Lemmons | |
| Roger Magnuson | |
| Linda McGuire | |



April 2024 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
Weekly Meetings:			
	Mondays	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts 116 (Activity Cntr. / 3rd Mon.-Stage Rm.)
	Tuesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting (Library)
		5:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (April 16, 23, & 30)
	Wednesdays	5:30 pm	-7 Bell Choirs (Rehearsals)
	Thursdays	5:30 pm	APNC (Library)
	Fridays	Noon	Church Office Closes
<i>See specific date for any weekly updates:</i>			
WORSHIP	Sundays	8:00 am	Worship – Chapel / Fellowship
		9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
		9:30 am	Nursery
		10:00 am	Worship – Sanctuary and Live Stream
		10:00 am	Children’s Sunday School
		11:00 am	Fellowship
		11:15 am	-11:45 Children’s Choir & Chimes
		2:00 pm	-4 Youth Group (1st & 3rd Sundays)
April 1	Monday	1:00 pm	-3:30 Staff Training
		5:15 pm	Worship & Music (Library)
April 2	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Mission Ministry (Library)
		7:00 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
April 3	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Mariner’s (Fellowship Hall)
April 6	Saturday	10:00 am	Hearts & Hands (Fellowship Hall)
April 7	Sunday		<i>Polity Class at 11:20 am</i>
			<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
April 8	Monday	1:30 pm	Building & Grounds (Library)
		5:30 pm	New Life (Library)
		5:30 pm	Christian Ed (CE)
April 9	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Personnel (Library)
		1:00 pm	Coloring & Caring (Fellowship Hall)
April 10	Wednesday	2:00 pm	Finance (Library)
April 11	Thursday	5:30 pm	Sarah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
April 13	Saturday	8:00 am	Men on a Mission (Fellowship Hall)
April 14	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
			<i>Guest Pastor / Special Music: 1st Five</i>
April 15	Monday		<i>April Newsletter Deadline</i>
		10:00 am	Genealogy (Family History Center)
		7:00 pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
April 16	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
April 18	Thursday	10:30 am	Coloring and Caring (Fellowship Hall)
April 19	Friday		<i>Presbytery</i>
		1:00 pm	Ruth Circle (Library)

April 2024 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
April 20	Saturday		Presbytery
		10:00 am	Stitch by Stitch (Fellowship Hall)
April 21	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
			Gifts of Women / Guest Pastor Rev. Karen Ohlson
			Begin Undies Sunday / Special Music: Bell Ensemble
		11:20 am	APNC Question & Answer
April 22	Monday	12:00 pm	Investment (Fellowship Hall)
		1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)
		6:30 pm	Local Missions (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Deacons (Fellowship Hall)
April 23	Tuesday	1:30 pm	PW Coordinating Team (Library)
April 24	Wednesday	9:30 am	Walk, Pray, Love (Library)
April 28	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
			Confirmation Joining
			<i>Special Music: Bell Quartet</i>



Church Officers by Class - 2024

Session Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026

Class of 2024

Renee Dilly, Christian Education
 Jen Hayes, Christian Education**
 Pete Kendrick, Building & Grounds**
 Tami Mason, Worship & Music**
 Larry Meuli, Personnel**
 Greta Morrow, Mission**
 Brenda Wilson, Finance**

Class of 2025

Kevin Boyce, Building & Grounds
 Julie Cook, New Life**
 Marilyn Ham, Christian Ed
 Al Hunter, Worship & Music
 Meg Kylander, Finance
 Dana Skoumal, Mission
 Bert Trimble

Class of 2026

Steve Carver, Finance
 Bill Loyer, Mission
 Betty Jo Mainwaring, Building & Grounds
 Cherol Ohde, New Life
 Kathleen Petersen, Worship & Music
 Joyce Swanson, New Life
 Ken Vines, Personnel

Clerk of Session – Bert Trimble

**Chairperson

Deacons Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026

Class of 2024

Walt George, Compassion, Treasurer
 Lisa Herbel, Fellowship
 Sharon Novick, Compassion, Secretary
 Charlene Randolph, Fellowship**
 Timi Saville, Local Mission
 Marion Yoder, Compassion**

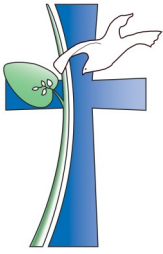
Class of 2025

Julie Anthony, Moderator
 Joe Dougherty, Local Mission, Vice-Moderator
 Barb Lutz, Fellowship**
 Ed Markus, Fellowship
 Tom McKee, Local Mission
 Rosemary Novario, Local Mission
 Carol Russell, Fellowship
 Linda Woodard, Local Mission**

Class of 2026

Becky Logsdon-Dougherty
 Margie George
 Becky Tish

All Deacons serve on Visitation



First Presbyterian Church

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



4/24



WORSHIP MATERIALS

are accessed on the first page of our website:
firstprescheyenne.org

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

are accessed on the first page of our website:
firstprescheyenne.org and on our YouTube channel.

Upcoming Events:

- April 7 Confirmation Polity Class*
- April 14 Guest Pastor:
Rev. Cynthia Reyes-Fillmore*
- April 21 Gifts of Women Sunday
Guest Pastor: Rev. Karen Ohlson*
- April 28 Confirmation Joining*

SPRING
is coming

