

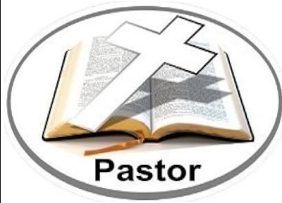
# NEWS from the PEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Rev. Bob Thomson  
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February 2025

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## God's Redeeming Love

February is the month for Valentines and love. Valentine's Day is also big business. According to reports, 53% of consumers celebrate Valentine's Day and are projected to spend \$26 billion on the holiday. That averages out to \$185 per household. That is one really big box of chocolates.

Out of curiosity, I searched what the name "February" means. It comes from Latin 'februarius' or 'februa' meaning "to clean" or "to expiate". The Romans had an annual festival of purification on February 15 where people would wash themselves to begin the new year fresh.

The meaning of February, to clean or expiate, reminds us, as Christians, that Jesus Christ, our Savior, cleanses us from our sins. 1 John 2:1-2, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He **is the atoning sacrifice for our sins** and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." Another version of the Bible translates this verse, "**he is the expiation of our sins.**"

The good news of Jesus Christ is that God loves the world so much that he sent his Son to give us new life and to cleanse us from our sins. The ministry of Jesus is filled with examples that demonstrate God's love for his children. Jesus helped those experiencing the pains of this world, he fed the hungry and healed those who were sick or injured. Jesus reached out to the outcasts and the lonely and welcomed them into a relationship with God.

He touched a leper. He rebuked an unclean spirit from a man. He befriended a Samaritan woman ostracized by her community and he healed the servant of a Roman soldier. Jesus' ministry demonstrated in tangible ways that everyone is loved by God. The ultimate proof of God's love for us was Jesus' Passion story: his entrance into Jerusalem and his suffering and death on the cross. Jesus said in John 15, "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." On the cross Jesus became the expiation, the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

If February is the month when we show our love for our family members, then let us give glory to God for the greatest example of love ever, the love that God shows us through Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord and Savior. God demonstrates the greatness of God's love for us through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for us.

In the month of February, we are encouraged to express the love we have for each other. In John 15 Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." We are commanded to copy his examples of love, of sacrificial love.

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ, God loves you. God loves you and through Christ, the gate has been opened for us to experience and know God's love. May February bring you many reminders of God's love for you.

*Pastor Bob*



**Annual Reports Are Available on the Greeter's Table and at the West Entrance**  
*Please bring your copy with you on the 9th!*



## Sunday ~ February 9 ~ 11 AM

*In the Sanctuary following the 10 am service.*

Session has called an Annual Congregational Meeting for the following items.

- ◆ To receive the annual report and the financial report
- ◆ To receive the 2025 budget
- ◆ To consider changes to the ordained pastor's compensation
- ◆ To elect a congregational nominating committee

*There will be a Zoom link for those who livestream our service.*

# New Members

W · E · L · C · O · M · E

## Church Welcomes Eight New Members!

We finished 2024 with the very welcome addition of Mark and Kimberlie Herron, Kenneth and Carolyne Merchant, Timothy Goetter, Cal Botten, Sofia Olesen, and Wendy Dryden.

The Herrons have lived in Cheyenne for seven years, having moved here from Tennessee following Mark's retirement from the Navy. They have five adult children and enjoy traveling to visit them and their several grandchildren, in addition to traveling and following outdoor pursuits. When at home, they attend adult Sunday school. They look forward to participating in other church activities.

The Merchents moved to Cheyenne from Colorado Springs several months ago. Carolyne was raised in our church and remembers Dr. Pattison well. Kenneth is retired after finishing a long career in the Air Force and she is a retired EMT. Both enjoy outdoor activities and list our friendly congregation as a reason for deciding to join our church.

Tim Goetter is also retired and comes to us from Highlands Presbyterian. He and his wife, Mary Kay, moved here from Milwaukee, WI, about three years ago, and he has since become an active community volunteer in Cheyenne.

Cal Botten, a Sheridan native, moved to Cheyenne to work in the Attorney General's office about a year and a half ago. He and Sofia Olesen, a traveling nurse who hails from Minnesota, met in Cheyenne in 2023. She now works at CRMC. Both enjoy outdoor pursuits.

Wendy (Gilbert) Dryden has lived in Cheyenne for many years and taught music at LCSD1 until her retirement in 2023. She now works as our choir and handbell director and joins us by transfer from First United Methodist, Cheyenne. In addition to her many musical pursuits, Wendy enjoys golf and reading.

The church warmly welcomes all our new members!

## The Coffee Shop



The Coffee Shop has a good selection of coffee —check us out! Fair Trade coffee supports coffee farmers in Mexico and helps keep them on their land. If you want to share fair-trade coffee with even more people, think about a \$10 gift to support the coffee used for church fellowship. You can put your sponsorship in the yellow envelope on the white bulletin board and sign a date that shows you are helping all of us enjoy the free-trade coffee being served. *Thank you!*

## God's Love

Valentine's Day is all about love, of course. But before we can pour out love on others, we must first fill up with the only source of TRUE love...God. Most of us struggle daily to really grasp how deep and how wide the love of God really is. Why not count down to Valentine's Day by filling up on God's love?

This is what I want for my kids, to focus first and foremost on God's love and even extend this kind of love to others. It's a simple activity. It has to be simple because we all are very busy families. You will want to cut out hearts. These hearts can be all different shapes and sizes. I even have a pattern if you would like to use it. Each day, write something on a heart (for example a bible verse, what you love about your child, or simply thanking them for something) and tape it to their bedroom door. Each morning the kids will be in search of the new heart. This is a great way to start the day off with a positive message. Soon their doors will be covered in hearts! This is a great activity for all ages...even Jr. High and High schoolers. Who knows, maybe your kids will start a door full of hearts for you! Start your day with a positive message from God and share God's love. Happy Valentine's Day!

*With God's Grace,  
Ashley Braisted*

*Children's and Youth Ministry Director*



## Tea Party Extravaganza

You're invited to come and bring a friend to the Presbyterian Women Tea Party on Friday, February 14, 1:00 pm, in the church Fellowship Hall. Cost is just \$5 at the door. You're encouraged to wear a hat if you want to and bring your favorite teacup. We'll share stories about your items. Phyllis O'Connor will give our program, "Heart Health – What's New?" Please sign-up on the sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall.





## Moorcroft Food Pantry Needs Our Continued Help!

-Mission Ministry

As we have discussed before, 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 has led the effort to establish the Moorcroft Food Pantry. We have helped in the past with a \$25,000 Irmgard Meyer grant that helped them remain open for two months. This past year, we followed up with an additional \$8,113 from Mission Ministry and our members.

Several months ago, we decided to amp up the grocery card program that helped fund our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration back in 2019. We have two sources of income for this program that doesn’t cost you any extra.

The first is for those with a King Soopers card that takes advantage of digital deals. By using this card, you can help the people of Moorcroft. Just log on to your King Soopers account, click on “Community Rewards,” and designate our church to receive a small percentage of every purchase you make.

The second is for Albertsons or Safeway. Help the Moorcroft Food Pantry by loading money on the Community Giving card you received from church and paying for your groceries by using that card, just as you would any gift card, then reloading as needed. The church receives credit any time you reload your card. Reloading is as easy as handing the card to a checker and loading money like you would load a gift card. Once you use the card, you will see how easy it is to help without spending a cent!

Of course, if you would like to write a check, that would be a godsend; just 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.

Please join us in bringing the blessing of financial support to Moorcroft, our “food desert” up north!



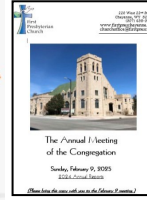
## Extended Table Donations

Thank you for your continued support. We collect and distribute the first Sunday of every month. On February 2, these items will go to Comea Shelter. Suggested items are large containers of coffee and powdered drink mixes.

Contact me at [belajejan2@gmail.com](mailto:belajejan2@gmail.com) or 307-421-4896 if you have any questions about our mission projects.

*Belinda Smith, Deacons Local Mission Chairperson*

# On February 9



“Be sure to pick up an Annual Report before the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 9”

## Per Capita Sunday 2025

Please bring your Per Capita offering on Sunday, February 9, to our Annual Congregational Meeting. Thank you for your contributions.

**Individuals \$48 / Couples \$96**



## Souper Bowl Day of Giving is February 9

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national event that takes place around Super Bowl Sunday. It’s a day of giving where people collect food and money to donate to local charities.



First Presbyterian Church continues to screen and financially assist people from Cheyenne who are behind in their utility bills and challenged to pay their bills. Many face having their utilities disconnected.

We limit the assistance to \$250 per utility account once each year. If you want to assist with this much-needed mission work, you may donate to the Utilities Assistance Fund. Bless you and thank you!



*Christmas Eve Service*



## Our Church Has A BIG Heart!

Thanks to your generous Christmas spirit and for your assistance during the past year. The Deacons could not serve our communities' needs without your help.

**Angel Tree** - 109 children received gifts. There were 92 names through schools, 12 from Afflerbach, and the remainder from Family Promise. Heartfelt thanks to Deb Child for creating the name tags; and to Marion, Joe and Becky Dougherty, Timi Saville, Walt and Margie George, and Jim Woodard for delivering to schools.

**Warmth Tree** - a plethora of items were delivered to the nonprofits the Deacons decided on (Salvation Army, COMEA, and the Welcome Mat). Additional children's items were delivered to Safehouse.

**Friday Food Bags** - all deliveries to Pioneer Park have been spoken for from January-June.

## A Big Thank You For...

Your continued support of the **Little Free Food Pantry** that supports those in our community who need the items you donate.

Volunteering to cook and serve a meal at the **Comea Shelter**. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 11, for our next Comea dinner. We will be doing this every other month on the second Tuesday of the month in 2025.

Your continued support of our **Extended Table** donations, which we collect and distribute the first Sunday of every month. On 2 February these items will go to Comea Shelter, suggested items are large containers of coffee and powdered drink mixes.

Please contact me at 307-421-4896 or by email at [belajean2@gmail.com](mailto:belajean2@gmail.com) if you have any questions about our mission projects.

*Belinda Smith, Deacons Local Mission Chairperson*



Many times a day we may interact with people, make choices, or have the need to defend our rights or beliefs. We react with three possible types of responses: passively, aggressively, or assertively. In "Speaking the Truth in Love", Ruth Koch and Kenneth Haugk talk about what assertiveness is, the assertiveness we see in the Bible through Jesus' actions and words, and the reasons we should act assertively. They use every day and Biblical examples to show what we should say and do to be assertive in various situations and even how to determine when we actually should be passive or aggressive. This is not a new book, but its content is still valuable for helping us in our relationships and choices today.



**Christmas  
Joy Offering**  
*Thank you for your donations!*

*-Mission Ministry*

Mission Ministry is grateful to everyone who donated to this year's Christmas Joy Offering. As of the deadline for this newsletter, we had received \$2,309 dollars, so with our match from Irmgard Meyer funds, we now have \$4,309 to send to PC(USA).

Half your donations will be helping current and past church workers, and the other half will be dedicated to helping students at Presbyterian-related schools and universities develop leadership skills.

Thanks for helping us celebrate Christmas by sending such a generous check to help PC(USA)!



*My heartfelt thank you to my wonderful church family for all the kind "get well expressions" for my knee replacement surgery and recovery! I have done so well, and I know God's healing grace and your prayers made all the difference. Thanks, again, so very much!*

*Blessings,  
Barb Lutz*



Hello, my name is Audrey Apodaca. I am a board member with Habitat for Humanity and I am reaching out to thank you for your donation to Habitat in 2024. I serve on the board to give back as I am a habitat homeowner myself. I feel it is important to be involved, help others navigate through the process of becoming a homeowner, and understanding the importance of remaining involved in their community.

I appreciate your donation as I know the value it holds in being able to build homes for families in need. If it weren't for the donors in 2018 that were willing to support myself, as well as three other homeowners, we would most likely still be renting our homes. Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your donation and support to Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County.

*Blessings,*

*Audrey Apodaca*

*Habitat for Humanity Board Member*



Date	Day	Time	Event
<b>Weekly Meetings:</b>			
	<b>Mondays</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Boy Scouts 116</b>
	<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Staff Meeting (Library)</b>
	<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>5:15 pm</b>	<b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>
		<b>6:15 pm</b>	<b>Bells Rehearsals</b>
	<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>APNC (Library)</b>
	<b>Fridays</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Church Office Closes</b>
<i>See specific date for any weekly updates:</i>			
<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Worship – Chapel / Fellowship</b>
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School (Library)</b>
		<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Nursery (Upstairs)</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship – Sanctuary and Live Stream</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School (Upstairs)</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>
		<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>-11:45 Children’s Choir &amp; Chimes (Upstairs)</b>
		<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>-4 Youth Group (2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)</b>
February 1	Saturday	10:00 am	Hearts & Hands (Fellowship Hall)
February 2	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
February 3	Monday	12:00 pm	Investment (Fellowship Hall)
February 4	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Mission (Library)
		7:00 pm	Bible Study – Gospel of John (Fellowship Hall)
February 5	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Mariners (Dining Out)
		7:30 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
February 8	Saturday	8:00 am	Men on a Mission (Fellowship Hall)
February 9	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
			<b><i>Per Capita Sunday / Annual Congregational Meeting</i></b>
			<b><i>Souper Bowl Day of Giving – Special Music: Bell Choir</i></b>
February 10	Monday	1:30 pm	Building & Grounds (Library)
		5:15 pm	Worship & Music (Fellowship Hall)
		5:30 pm	New Life (Library)
		5:30 pm	Christian Ed (Christian Ed)
February 11	Tuesday	3:45 pm	Personnel (Library)
		7:00 pm	Bible Study – Gospel of John (Fellowship Hall)
February 12	Wednesday	4:00 pm	Finance (Library)
February 13	Thursday	5:30 pm	Sarah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
February 14	Friday	1:00 pm	Presbyterian Women Tea (Fellowship Hall)
February 15	Saturday	10:00 am	Stitch by Stitch (Fellowship Hall)
February 16	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning - Special Music: 1<sup>st</sup> Five</i>
February 17	Monday		<b><i>Office Closed for Presidents’ Day / Newsletter Deadline</i></b>
		10:00 am	Genealogy (Family History Center)
February 18	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Gospel of John Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
February 19	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
February 20	Thursday	1:00 pm	Coloring and Caring (Library)
February 21	Friday	1:00 pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
February 23	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Beginning</i>
			<b><i>Scout Sunday – Special Music: Joan Swim</i></b>
			<b><i>Family Promise Week</i></b>



### February 2025 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
February 24	Monday	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)
		6:30 pm	Local Missions (Library)
		7:00 pm	Deacons (Parlor)
		7:00 pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
February 25	Tuesday	1:30 pm	PW Coordinating Team (Library)
February 26	Wednesday	9:30 am	Walk, Pray, Love (Library)
February 28	Friday	6:00 pm	District Scout Recognition (Fellowship Hall)

# Willie Banks Retirement Party





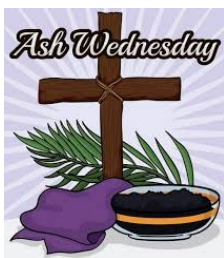
### Choir Stoles and Bell Tables



We are appreciative of several member's memorial funds that were used to purchase the choir stoles and bell tables.

## Newsletter

The March Newsletter Deadline is February 17



March 5

The Church will be Closed on February 17 for President's Day

The Session Meeting is moved from February 17. They will meet on February 24.

Frank Puente has taken Willie Banks position as our Sunday custodian. Please introduce yourself and welcome him to our church family!

### March Communion Extended Table

will benefit the Salvation Army. They accept both the large and small cans. Remember that a monthly list of Communion Extended Table items, and who benefits from them, is on the website.



### 📍 Walk † Pray ❤️ Love

Join us for a short walk, in or outdoors, depending on the weather, and enjoy nature, exercise, and conversation. A time for devotions and fellowship will be held. Light snacks follow the walk. We meet at the church Library at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday each month, except during July and December. For additional information please contact Phyllis O'Connor at 630-3997.

### Little Free Food Pantry

The Deacons are grateful for your commitment and support for the generosity shown to the mission of the Little Free Food Pantry. Please continue your gracious giving of small items, which can be placed in the collection baskets at both main entrances. Or you may make a financial donation and put "Little Food Pantry" on the memo line. This list (below) is also on our website.

#### Little Free Food Pantry Items

Located at the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> St. & Capitol

Travel Size:	Food:	Other Items:
Toothpaste/toothbrush/ mouthwash	Snack packs of tuna/ chicken crackers, peanut butter crackers	Toilet paper Small notebooks
Deodorant	Individual power bars/ candy bars/snack bars	Feminine hygiene products
Shampoo/conditioner	Individual bags of chips	Chap stick
Band aids	Water bottles, juice boxes/ small juice cans	Flashlight pens
Hand-wipes	Peanut butter in small packets	Batteries – AAA or AA
Disposable razors		Ink pens
Lotion/hand cream		Envelopes
Soap/body wash		
Hand sanitizer		



- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Meryl Adams        | Matt Lovato        |
| Max Arrowsmith     | Linda McGuire      |
| Jackie Aube        | Carol Moench       |
| Paula Baldeshwiler | Dave Moench        |
| Guy Beardsley      | Carol Montgomery   |
| Peggy Bjerke       | Tom Muhlback       |
| Clarice Brown      | William Norton III |
| Rose Burrows       | Kim Olson          |
| Olivia Campbell    | Susan Payne        |
| Austin Cassel      | Judy Phillips      |
| Donna Jo Epler     | Loren Pully        |
| Adam George        | Priscilla...       |
| Donna Goss         | Paula Qualls       |
| Mary Guthrie       | Jeannie Smith      |
| Charles Ham        | Dr. Gary Stiehl    |
| Gail Heimback      | Paula Stevens      |
| Ray Hernandez      | Dorothy Tyrrell    |
| Rhonda Higgins     | Sarah Wacker       |
| Mary Jensen        | Wendy Walkley      |
| Judith Krieger     | Javen Westby       |
| Tina Lemmons       |                    |



# First Presbyterian Church

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Permit No. 62

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



2/2025



### WORSHIP MATERIALS

are accessed on the first page of our website:  
[firstprescheyenne.org](http://firstprescheyenne.org)

### LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

are accessed on the first page of our website:  
[firstprescheyenne.org](http://firstprescheyenne.org) and on our YouTube channel.

