

NEWS from the PEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Rev. Bob Thomson
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February 2024

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The Universal Gospel

In February we enter Lent, that church season that leads up to Holy Week and Easter. We just celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus, and we are already beginning to talk about the end of his ministry. Talk about a big jump in the story. To fill in the gap, my sermon series, that I began in January, will use the Gospel of Luke through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

The Gospel of Luke is known as the universal Gospel. As William Barclay noted in his commentary, "All the barriers are down; Jesus Christ is for all people without distinction." As we read Luke, we see several examples where he describes our Lord's inclusion of people who feel excluded and outcast from God's love.

Luke tells the story of the Good Samaritan when at the time Samaritans were considered excluded from the kingdom of God. Also, in the story of the 10 lepers who are healed, only one of them, noted to be a Samaritan, is affirmed for returning to offer thanks and praise to God.

Luke also cites many examples of Jesus' inclusion of gentiles. Like the Samaritans, gentiles were outside of the covenant with God. In one instance, a Roman Centurion is praised for his great faith and lifted up as an example of faith. It is highly likely that Luke, the author of the gospel, is a gentile, the only gentile writer of a book in the New Testament.

Luke is also the primary gospel that shows compassion and interest for the poor. Barclay describes Luke as "the gospel for the underdog." When Mary, the mother of Jesus, brings her offering of purification in chapter 2, it is the offering of the poor. When John the Baptist raises the question if Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus' answer highlights that in his ministry, "the poor have good news brought to them." Luke tells the parable of the rich man and poor man.

Finally, not only does Luke show Jesus' compassion for the poor, but he also highlights Jesus' love for the outcast in society. Only Luke describes the woman who anoints Jesus' feet with her tears and then dries them with her hair. In Luke, Jesus invites himself to dine with Zacchaeus, the un-popular and vertically challenged tax collector. And when the crowd criticized Jesus for

dining with sinners, he reminds them that he came "to seek out and to save the lost." And only in Luke do we have three memorable stories about God's love for the lost: The shepherd seeks out the lost sheep, the woman searches diligently for the lost coin, and the story of the lost prodigal son describes the power and greatness of God's love. In the prodigal son parable, we can truly understand how much God loves us.

The power of the prodigal Son story, and all of Luke, is that we can place ourselves in the story. Every person has felt being on the outside looking in and that feeling of not being loved. We know what it means to be excluded and experience other peoples' scorn or ridicule. We know what loneliness feels like. But when we read the gospel of Luke we can experience and feel the love of God for us.

It is appropriate that this year Lent begins on February 14th, when the world celebrates Valentines Day. What a day to be reminded of God's love for us. Lent is a time to examine ourselves and identify those areas of our life where we have fallen short of God's call in our lives. In private confession, we admit to God those parts of our lives that we are ashamed of and want forgiveness for. We ask God for help in improving our faithful walk as disciples. But the most important thing we can hear in Lent is that God loves us. As we come to him, just as we are, we can be assured of God's love for us, because God loves us so much that he sent Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to give us grace and forgiveness.

I pray that you have a blessed Lent and experience the wonderful love of God.

Pastor Bob





Church Welcomes New Members

2024 has already been blessed with the addition of five new members to First Presbyterian Church, Cheyenne.

They include Karla (Kay) Light, who was raised in Torrington and moved with her husband, Jim, from Lexington Park, MD, last year. She is a retired X-ray technician and relaxes by reading and doing cross-stitch and other crafts. She is also an active member of Eastern Star, and she has a brother who lives in Cheyenne. Jim Light was born in Akron, OH, but raised in Virginia. He is retired from the Navy and has been an active member of their Presbyterian church in Maryland. He enjoys golfing. Both Lights list our friendly congregation, among other reasons, for choosing to transfer their church membership to our church. They are also interested in becoming active members of our church.

Vicki Stoeckley moved to Cheyenne last year from Aurora, CO, and began attending our church. A former pilot, she's now a retired pharmacist and grandmother of six who enjoys painting, reading, and hiking. She was previously a member of a Presbyterian church in Colorado Springs and is interested in becoming involved in Mariners and small group ministries.

Anthony (Tony) Custis Ouradnik moved to Cheyenne from Fort Collins in August 2022. Members will have heard and seen Tony playing the organ and singing in the choir; he works as a high school choir accompanist. He says, "Music is my main line of business and I have always found enjoyment in serving the church with my music." He also enjoys driving, camping, hiking, skiing, and joins us by reaffirmation of faith.

Rosalind "Roz" Schliske has lived in Cheyenne for many years and is now retired from LCCC. She earned her BA from Texas Christian University and her MA from the University of Wyoming and served in the Wyoming National Guard. She is the daughter of a minister who taught theology for more than 50 years. She is very active in the community and enjoys gardening and writing, among other pursuits. She lists our friendly congregation, minister, church activities, and music program as reasons for her electing to become a member of First Presbyterian Church Cheyenne.

The Church is happy to receive all these new members and looks forward to getting to know each one better as time goes by.

A Great Success!

The Angel Tree project was a great success due to your generosity. We provided Christmas gifts to 113 school students and 7 children in the Family Promise program. Deacons also provided 50 \$50 grocery gift cards to student families in School District 1 and 10 to School District 2. The school councilors will distribute them as the needs arise.

Without your generous support, the Deacons would not be able to help those in need in our community.

Belinda Smith

Deacons Local Mission Chairperson 2023



Dear 1st Presbyterian Church Members,



I would like to thank each and every one of you for your kindness for all of the children that you so graciously helped during this Christmas season.

You will never know how much your kindness and generosity is appreciated.

I have enjoyed working with you and helping coordinate the many schools involved in our community.

Personally, the parents were excited that their children were able to have something under their tree on Christmas Day.

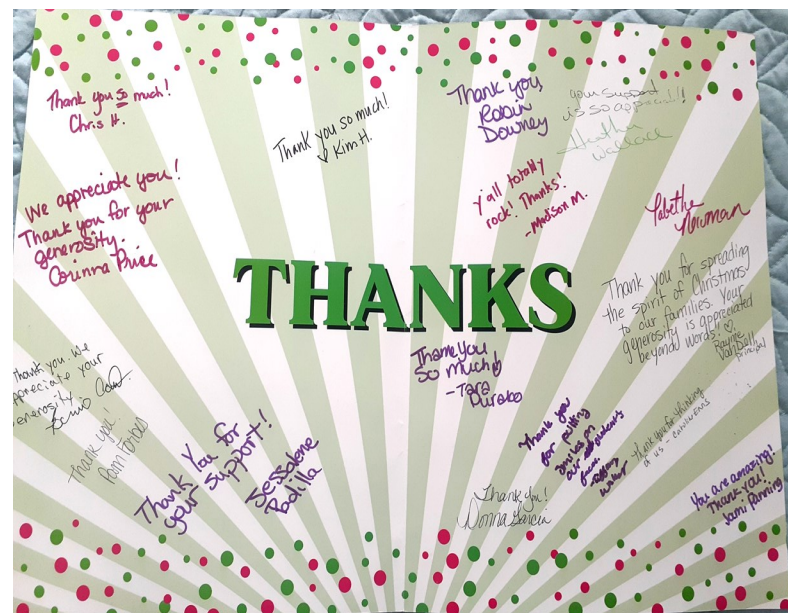
Christmas season is near and dear to my heart, especially due to the children being so excited.

Thank You All from the bottom of my heart, and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas, because without all of you this would never be possible to accomplish.

God Bless

Ellen Gashler

Saddle Ridge School Social Worker



A Page of Thank You's

CAROLERS BRING JOY TO ALL

*Our bells rang late in December 2023
We looked at each other-what could it be?
Well, 'twas Bob bearing cheer and cookies a-many,
And a band of musicians--carolers three.*

*Their Christmas songs, both secular and holy,
Changed both our homes and not at all slowly
From everyday places where people like we
Mostly do things the same way--so ordinary.*

*Thanks to our carolers all bright and merry.
We sang along with them even if we
Weren't in tune or knew words only barely,
Song was our gift. Our Christmas came early.*

The above doggerel depicts the Church caroling that took place on the afternoon of Sunday, December 10 at the homes of Naomi Allen and Marion Yoder and Terry Roker. Apologies to Ogden Nash, and sincere thanks to Pastor Bob, Dana, Karla, and Tony, who caroled us with good cheer, and brought adorably decorated cookies and great Christmas joy to us all that day.

Dear Congregation:

I would like to thank the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church for the kindness they expressed when my husband, Thom Garris, died.

The flowers, food, and the words of sympathy helped me get through this period of sadness. You all awakened my faith that had been inscribed in me when I was a child. God bless all of you.

Sincerely, Naomi Allen

Dear Church Family:

Jeanne Bellamy delivered a colorful Christmas stocking to me from the church. It was filled with home-made cookies and other delights. All so good. I enjoy the book. The Light of Grace.

Bob sent the Advent news.

I appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness from the Deacons and the congregation.

Pam Mason

To the Christmas Carolers:

In the afternoon on December 10th, I was greeted by the sharing of the Christmas spirit with singing and cookies.

Thank you so much.

May God Bless You
Lola Brown

Dear Friends:

February, with its theme of love, seems to be the perfect time to thank you for the kindness you have shown me since my cancer diagnosis. The prayers, cards, calls, gifts, and food that have come to me have been overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Church congregations have always been a part of my life, but this congregation is one of the most caring.

With gratitude,
Mary Rapp



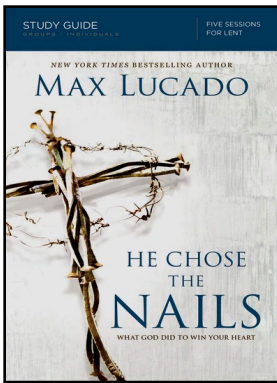
Christmas Joy Offering: Thanks for donating!

-Mission Ministry

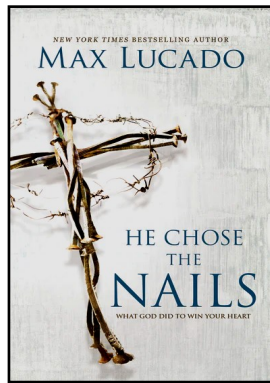
As of the deadline for this newsletter, the total for this year's Christmas Joy Offering was \$1,548 dollars. When we double that with the match from Irmgard Meyer funds, we will be sending \$3,096 to PC(USA). Half will go to help church leaders, both active and retired, who experience great financial need, and half will go to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to help students of color.

Our donation will be added to those of other PC(USA) churches across the country, and together we will be helping to make a big difference in the lives of numerous church workers and future leaders of our church. Here is an example of how we 'walk our talk' that we are to help our neighbors in need, even if we have never met them in person. Thank you for your generosity!





Study Guide:
(Required)
\$7



Study Book:
(Not required)
\$10

Lent Bible Study He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado

Tuesdays - 7 PM

Feb. 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19

Optional Week: March 26 Holy Week

Registration in Fellowship Hall

College/Vocational School Scholarships

Christian Education Ministry announces that the college/vocational school scholarship applications are available for the 2024-2025 academic year. All students interested in obtaining application forms, whether graduating high school seniors, non-traditional students, or current scholarship holders wishing to renew, may find forms online. Go to www.firstprescheyenne.org; select the Ministries tab at the top, click Christian Education, scroll to the bottom. Application deadline is March 1.

Two scholarships are available. The General College/Vocational School Scholarship is open to any student who is a member of Frist Presbyterian Church Cheyenne. The Keith Weigner Memorial Healthcare Scholarship is open to students who are members of any PC(USA) church in Laramie County and planning to enter a field of healthcare. For further information, please contact Margie George, chair of the Scholarship Committee at wgeorge09@msn.com or call 638-8577.



D ACONS
Following to Lead | Leading to Serve

Thanks to all who cooked and served at Comea in January. We will do this again on 12 March. (Second Tuesday every other month.)

Our Extended Table donations for February will go to Comea Shelter, they need coffee, large containers of drink mix, and large cans of non-perishable foods. Toilet paper is always needed.



In The Library

The subtitle for the book Blessed Beyond Measure, by Gloria Copeland is "Experience the Extraordinary Goodness of God". Copeland says that learning of and understanding the goodness of God helps us to trust him completely. This allows us to be open to receive all the blessings he wants to bestow on us including the salvation he has provided through the death and resurrection of his beloved son, Jesus. These blessings have already been prepared for us – to receive them we must accept God's word and will for our lives.

Copeland discusses what God's goodness involves, obstacles that keep us from fully trusting him, and ways we can turn such obstacles into positives to make it possible to receive the blessings God has in mind for each of us. We can then receive healing and direction for our actions and lives and for interactions with others.





Donated items from the Deacons, Elders, and two Circles for the Little Free Food Pantries.



Warmth Tree Donations - Above and Below



Our

Fellowship Hall Christmas Tree



Meryl Adams
Nadine Amen
Max Arrowsmith
Guy Beardsley
Chuck Burke
Rose Burrows
Sonya Caldwell
Olivia Campbell
Ibby Davis
Donna DiNino
Donna Jo Epler
Adam George
Patricia Goss

Gail Heimback
Mary Jensen
Jim Keen
Karl Krieger
Virginia Leach
Tina Lemmons
Karen Ludeke
Roger Magnuson
Paul Mann
Linda McGuire
Mary Lou McMinder
Tom Muhlbach
Kari Murdoch
William Norton III
Susan Payne

Loren Pully
Priscilla...
Paula Qualls
Mary Rapp
Nick Rockerfeller
Gail Salzburg
Jan Schippers
Marlene Sidwell
Diana Stevens
Paula Stevens
Hazen Stone
Dorothy Tyrell
Sarah Wacker
Ann Wensky
Javen Westby
Bill Westerfield

We are restarting our Prayer list. Please look over the names above. If we accidentally removed a name you would like to remain on the list, we apologize and will gladly return it to the list. Please send an email to:

churchoffice@firstprescheyenne.org

or slip a piece of paper under the office door with the name(s) you would like back on the list.



**Scout Sunday
February 25**



Sue makes us laugh as Bruce wonders how things got so out of control.



Happy Birthday Mariners!



Seven people "tie-on" at Mariners.

New Members

Church Welcomes Two More

The church is very happy to receive Georgena Worden and her mother, Phyllis Worden. Both moved to Cheyenne from Loveland about 13 years ago. Georgena is a retired nurse who enjoys reading, handicrafts, and has recently kept herself busy working on a newly purchased home in Cheyenne. Phyllis is retired from a Colorado school district. She lives with her daughter, Georgena, and enjoys reading. Both list our friendly congregation and sanctuary among their reasons for deciding to join First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne. We warmly welcome both mother and daughter!

Two Events February 11



Meeting directly follows worship in the sanctuary.

Session has called an Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 11, immediately following the 10 am worship service for the following items.

- To receive the annual report including the financial report
- To receive the 2024 budget
- To consider changes to the ordained pastor's compensation
- To elect a congregational nominating committee.
- To elect new church officers.

Per Capita Sunday

is also February 11

\$45.63 per Member \$91.26 per Couple

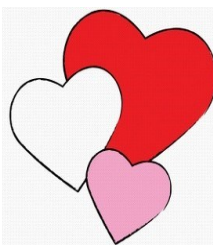
We encourage members to bring their Per Capita offering on Sunday, February 11, when we are having our Annual Congregational Meeting. Thank you for your contributions.



Imposition of Ashes

**February 14
7 PM**

The worship service will be held in-person and via livestream.
Childcare will be available at 6:30 p.m.



Presbyterian Women invites you to a

Valentine's

Dessert Party

Friday, February 9, 1 pm
\$2 at the door

The program will be given by Gail Heimbuck and Melinda Brazzale on "Gratitude and Random Acts of Kindness." You are asked to sign-up on the sheet in the church Fellowship Hall so we can prepare for enough dessert and to bring one or more of the items listed there for Hygiene Kits.

For more info contact Kay Barnes, 307-630-0875.

All women are invited!

2nd Call for History Buffs

Our church has a long history in the city of Cheyenne, and we continue to be an important part of the city and well-recognized for our contributions.

It's important to acknowledge our accomplishments and keep records of the celebratory and the important achievements. Pointing out acknowledgements to our members can be as simple as providing a short article for the bulletin, newsletter, or by making an announcement about at an event. The recording of our history involves organizing, categorizing, and filing various documents.

You can help us safeguard what has gone before, capture where we are today, and organize it in such a way to show future generations the growth and integrity of our wonderful church and congregation!

We are currently looking for a several people who are interested in preserving our history for future generations in our archives.

What can you bring to the table? What opportunities await you? What experiences, skills, or interests could you contribute to the Archives committee? No experience necessary, just an honest desire to protect our history.

If you have any questions, either Pastor Bob or Peggy Williams can help you out.

Don't forget to put your pennies in the *Pennies for Stained Glass* jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. Your pennies help fund maintenance or cleaning of our beautiful windows. Put your age in pennies every year on your birthday!

The Church Office is Closed Friday Afternoons

Hours: Monday –Thursday, 8-4:30 and Fridays, 8-Noon.

**The Church Office Will Be Closed
February 19 For Presidents' Day**

February 2024 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
Weekly Meetings:			
	Mondays	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 116 (Activity Cntr./3rd Mon. Stage Rm.)
	Tuesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting (Library) (10 am 2/20/24)
		5:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	Wednesdays	5:30 pm	-7 Bell Choirs (Rehearsals) (Not on 2/14/24)
	Thursdays	5:30 pm	APNC (Library)
	Fridays	Noon	Church Office Closed
<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)
February 3	Saturday	10:00 am	Hearts & Hands (Fellowship Hall)
February 4	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
			<i>Souper Bowl Sunday - NO Adult Sunday School</i>
			<i>Special Music: Children's Chimes</i>
February 5	Monday	5:15 pm	Worship & Music (Library)
February 6	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Mission Ministry (Library)
		2:00 pm	Mission Center Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty (Fellowship Hall)
February 8	Thursday	5:30 pm	Sarah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
February 9	Friday	1:00 pm	Presbyterian Women Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
February 10	Saturday	8:00 am	Men on a Mission (Fellowship Hall)
February 11	Sunday		<i>Annual Congregational Meeting / Per Capita Sunday</i>
			<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top /</i>
			<i>Special Music: Bell Choir and Children's Choir</i>
February 12	Monday	1:30 pm	Building & Grounds (Fellowship Hall)
		5:30 pm	New Life (Library)
		5:30 pm	Christian Ed (CE)
February 13	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Personnel (Library)
February 14	Wednesday		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
		2:00 pm	Finance (Library)
		7:00 pm	Service - Imposition of Ashes
February 15	Thursday		<i>March Newsletter Deadline</i>
		10:30 am	Coloring & Caring (Fellowship Hall)
		6:00 pm	Mariner's Catered Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
February 16	Friday	1:00 pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
		6:00 pm	Mariners (Fellowship Hall) – <i>catered dinner</i>
February 17	Saturday	10:00 am	Stitch by Stitch (Fellowship Hall)

February 2024 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
February 18	Sunday		1st Sunday in Lent
			<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
			<i>Special Music: 1st Five</i>
			<i>Alicia Ford—Camp Story—at table during fellowship 11 am</i>
February 19	Monday		Office Closed for Presidents' Day
		10:00 am	Genealogy (Family History Center)
		7:00 pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
February 20	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts O.A. (Stage Room)
		7:00 pm	Lent Bible Study Begins (Fellowship Hall)
February 21	Wednesday	9:30 am	Walk, Pray, Love (Library)
		12:00 pm	-5 Fellowship Hall reserved for outside organization
February 22	Thursday	8:00 am	-1:30 Fellowship Hall for outside organization
February 25	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
			Scout Sunday / Special Music: Bell Ensemble
February 26	Monday	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)
		6:30 pm	Local Missions (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Deacons (Fellowship Hall)
February 27	Tuesday	1:30 pm	PW Coordinating Team (Library)
		7:00 pm	Lent Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

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**

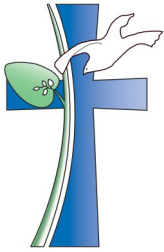
Class of 2025

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



2/24



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.*

FEBRUARY 14TH

Valentine's
Day

Ash Wednesday

