

NEWS from the PEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Rev. Bob Thomson
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October 2023

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Imitating God's Love In Our Lives

As we settle into Fall, I always enjoy the beauty of the trees changing colors. I am reminded how nature gives praise to God as the one who placed such colors in the very fabric of the leaves. Isaiah 55:12 says, "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace, all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Glory to God for the beauty of creation.

For Worship in October, we will be working our way through the book of Ephesians. In Ephesians chapter 2, the Apostle Paul describes the faithfulness of God in redeeming his people, in redeeming all people. Verse 13 says, "In Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." We proclaim God's faithfulness. Even when we were separated from God by our own choices, he did not abandon us but instead sent his son to "bring us near" again through Christ's sacrifice. We will hear in Ephesians 5:1 that we are to be imitators of God, living in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." As we seek to be faithful disciples, we could hardly do any better than to remember that we are to imitate the love of God in our lives. We are to give up ourselves as a sacrifice to God so that we can continue the ministry of Jesus Christ. As we imitate Christ and demonstrate God's love to the world, we will enable others to experience the love of God. Those who feel separated from God or distant from God's love will be brought near to God through our ministry in Christ's name.

Praise God that for generations disciples have imitated God's love and shared God's love with others. Through the proclamation of Christ's sacrifice and the church's ministry, those who felt separated from God have been brought near to God. There are two church celebrations that recognize how God's love has touched the lives of people for generations.

The first is Reformation Sunday, which we will celebrate on October 29, the last Sunday of the month. In 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 statements that criticized the Roman Catholic Church's theology. This defiant act is remembered historically as the beginning of the Reformation. Because of his criticism, Martin

Luther was kicked out of the Catholic Church, and he started the Lutheran Church. Other reformers came alongside Luther and the Protestant movement began. The Presbyterian Church, which was started by John Calvin and John Knox, is part of the reformed church movement. Through the reformation, the good news of God's love and grace has been shared with the world.

The second celebration is All Saints Day, on Nov 1. We will celebrate All Saints Day on October 29 by remembering those disciples who have, through their service, faithfully shared the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the years. If we think back, most, if not all of us, heard the good news of God's love and became disciples through the ministry of other disciples. I know I first heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ through the teaching of the church in Christian Education and in worship. Later a Bible Study led by a church elder helped me understand the depth of God's love and the great grace of God's salvation for all of humanity. Those saints who came before us and touched our lives will be remembered for their faithful service and witness.

As we experience the beauty of God in creation in October, let us celebrate the beauty of God's love, grace, and mercy experienced by us and by disciples throughout history. Let us be imitators of God by sharing God's love with the world.

Pastor Bob

Thank You!



Our Men on a Mission ministry deserve some high-fives and congratulations! They have been busy since we moved back into the church last August.

They hung the white board in the Fellowship Hall, and many pictures through-out the church including the upstairs stained-glass artwork of Jesus (on the landing before entering the Christian Ed area). They've modified a few closets and repaired various items through-out the church. They're always willing to lend a hand and handle requests. Your work and time are appreciated!

Nursery Revamp



We are so excited about our expanding Children's Ministry! We are experiencing more variable ages, and our numbers are greater! As we continue to grow, we are seeking your help!

Please consider volunteering your time in the nursery, and/or donating supplies from our Amazon registry. To access the registry, you may scan the QR code, or use the link sent out in Flocknote.

Please contact Ashley with questions, if you're interested in volunteering, or would like to assist in another way. Thank you for your support!



You Are God's Pumpkin

This devotional was written by Kelly McFadden. Please share this devotion with your family! Carving pumpkins with your children or youth will have a whole new meaning! Branden and I will even be doing this with Gavin this year. I feel that this devotion can be adjusted for all ages.

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit, God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you boast, boast only about the Lord."-1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NLT)

For most of the country, the crisp cool air of autumn is upon us. A sure sign of autumn is that Christmas decorations are popping up everywhere in retail stores. Halloween costumes and disguises are selling out in stores as trick-or-treaters are ready to take over the streets. A popular symbol of both harvest time and Halloween is the pumpkin. I was thinking recently that being a Christian is a lot like being a pumpkin. Perhaps you are visualizing this orange, round vegetable and wondering how you could ever be compared to one of these squashes! Simply put, as a child chooses a pumpkin to carve and mold an image upon, so God carves and molds His own unique design in you.

The Scriptures tell us that the Lord chooses us. He lifts us up and washes the dirt from our skin. Then he opens us, connecting deep inside to scoop out all the slimy, yucky stuff, including seeds of doubt, spite, lies, and fear. Then He carves a new creation and makes our faces shine by putting His light inside for all to see. *(This can be a hands-on activity for your children.)*

Sometimes I feel like I don't want my light to shine because I am ashamed of a thought, action, or pattern in my life. I try to hide the light Christ has put in me and blend in with the crowd. What I forget is that when God carved me, created me, and gave me His Son, I no longer

had to count on my own strength. I can count on the Lord's. It is He who washes me clean; it is He who gives me a spirit of strength and perseverance; it is He who makes me pure; it is He who frees me from sin; and it is He who gives me hope. When I realize that my part of the equation is to rely on His strength and power, then I can do as the Scriptures say, and shine His light through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What starts as an everyday squash turns into a lantern of light. What starts as an everyday person turns into a beacon of hope for all to see. Through our union with Christ, we are given the light and wisdom of the Holy Spirit who enters and dwells in our lives. It is He who picked you out and carved you just the way He wants you. So, make sure to keep your lantern lit for all to see.

God Bless,

Ashley Braisted

Children's and Youth Ministry Director

WELCOME new member

The church was happy to receive John Robert Hays as a new member in September. Born in Torrington, Mr. Hays was baptized as a child at the Presbyterian Church, and previously lived in Denver. He moved to Cheyenne last March to work for Dish Network. He's a veteran of both the Air Force and Air National Guard and his hobbies include reading, writing, working in his yard, and cooking, among other things. A music fan, he's interested in joining the choir as well as getting involved in other church activities. Please look for him at Fellowship and say hello.



Les & Jan Schippers were surprised with a cake and flowers from their children on Sept. 17 in celebration of their 65th anniversary in September.



In the encouraging book, *You'll Get Through This*, Max Lucado states that God didn't promise we would have no pain or suffering in our lives. Instead, as we go through a crisis, he promises he will be with us, giving us the resources and strength we need to survive and grow stronger. The crisis could be the loss of a spouse, job, or friend; illness of self or family member; or a financial setback. In all cases, we should trust that he will be there supporting us. Lucado says God will reweave our pain for a higher purpose – to train, test, and teach. He uses the story of Joseph and his brothers as an illustration throughout the book. No matter what we have lost we still have a loving God – we are his children forever.

In *Life on the Vine – Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community*, Philip Kenneson begins by defining culture and community. He discusses how values, practices, and expectations of the larger community and the smaller groups to which we belong, often result in shaping both the church and the world into other than the image of Christ. He talks of our Christian responsibility to cultivate and harvest the crop but that we often fail to harvest the correct crop – the fruit of the spirit. Kenneson then covers eight of the fruits mentioned in Galatians and how they relate to the ninth – love. He defines the character of each fruit and gives thoughts on which to reflect and practical suggestions for harvesting all of them.

Missionaries Scott and Elmarie Parker:

A Time for Everything . . .

- Mission Ministry

Over the years, our congregation has developed an especially strong bond with missionaries Scott and Elmarie Parker, who have dedicated their love and talents to the people of Lebanon and Syria for years. Several years ago, Scott and Elmarie even visited us here at church, and we felt that special connection that told us they were dedicated to easing the trauma for residents in the Middle East.

We recently received a letter from Scott and Elmarie. It began with the phrase above, "A Time for Everything," and we want to share their news with you.

Scott had an interesting year! He participated in a Chaplain Residency in Cincinnati and honed his already impressive skills in working with underserved, traumatized children by helping children in the Cincinnati area whose lives were upended by homelessness. What followed was Scott receiving a call to work with homeless children in the Salem, Oregon, area as a Chaplain/Pastor for Spiritual Care with Church at the Park. He began his work on September 5 and reports that God's call on his life was expanded with this

move and that it was time for him to take this call.

In the meantime, Elmarie continues her work as a regional liaison in the Middle East and will maintain her residence in Beirut, joining Scott for extended visits throughout the year. In a way, the Parker's influence will expand as Elmarie works through World Mission Presbyterian Mission Agency and Scott uses his impressive talents to ease the suffering of homeless children in Salem.

The message here is that Elmarie needs our continued encouragement for the God-inspired work we have supported so well in the past. Donating to missionary efforts is certainly a way for us to reach around the world! PC(USA) no longer funnels donations to specific missionaries but adds funds given for mission work to their World Mission Fund and distributes them according to areas of greatest need. Make your check out to PC(USA) and write World Mission, E132192 in the memo line. Mail your donation to Individual Remittance Processing, Presbyterian Church (USA), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. All missionaries will appreciate your gift!



Thank you to all who provided soup, served and attended the Empty Bowl fundraiser for Volunteers of American. The funds raised will help them support those in need in Cheyenne.

Our Extended Table donations will go to Salvation Army on 1 October. They need large cans of food such as vegetables, tomato sauce, coffee and drinks such as powdered lemonade.

Deacons could not complete any of our community mission projects without your generosity.



Left to right: Kevin Boyce, Bill Westerfield, Ed Marcus, Belinda Smith, Lois Phillips, Ruth Westerfield, (not pictured) John Hays. (Cooks: Belinda Smith, Al Bird, and Kevin Boyce.)

Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve a Mexican meal at Comea Shelter last month. We served 62 meals to grateful individuals.

*Belinda Smith,
Deacons Local Mission Chairperson*

October 2023 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
Weekly Meetings:			
	Mondays	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 116 (Activity Center)
	Tuesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting (Library)
		5:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	Wednesdays	4:00 pm	-5 Children's Choir & Chimes Rehearsals
		5:30 pm	-7 Bell Choirs (Rehearsals)
	Thursdays	7:00 pm	APNC (Library)
<i>See specific date for any weekly updates:</i>			
WORSHIP	Sunday	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
		TBD	Youth Group
October 1	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
October 2	Monday	5:15 pm	Worship & Music (L)
		5:30 pm	Christian Ed (Christian Ed)
October 3	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Mission Ministry (Library)
		7:00 pm	Boy Scouts OA (Stage Room)
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
October 4	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Friendship Mariners (Fellowship Hall)
October 6&8	Fri. & Sat.		<i>Presbytery in Powell</i>
October 7	Saturday	10:00 am	Hearts & Hands (Fellowship Hall)
October 8	Sunday		<i>Guest Pastor: Rev. Jeromey Howard / All Saints Form Avail.</i>
			<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
October 9	Monday	1:30 pm	Building & Grounds (Fellowship Hall)
		5:30 pm	New Life (Library)
		5:30 pm	Moms2Mom (Christian Ed)
October 10	Tuesday	1:15 pm	Personnel (Library)
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
October 11	Wednesday	2:00 pm	Finance (Library)
October 12	Thursday	5:30 pm	Sarah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
October 14	Saturday	10:00 am	Men on a Mission (Fellowship Hall)
October 15	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top / Special Music: 1st Five</i>
October 16	Monday		<i>November Newsletter Deadline</i>
		10:00 am	Genealogy (Family History Center)
		12:00 pm	Investment (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
October 17	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
October 18	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Worship and Design Team (Library)
October 19	Thursday		<i>Deadline All Saints Form into Office</i>
		9:30 am	Coloring and Caring (Fellowship Hall)
October 20	Friday	1:00 pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
October 21	Saturday	10:00 am	Stitch by Stitch (Fellowship Hall)
October 22	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
October 23	Monday	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)

October 2023 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
Oct.23(cont'd.)	Monday	6:30 pm	Local Missions (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Deacons (Fellowship Hall)
October 24	Tuesday	1:30 pm	PW Coordinating Team (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
October 25	Wednesday	9:30 am	Walk, Pray, Love (Library)
October 28	Saturday	2:00 pm	-4 pm Trunk or Treat (Taco John's Parking Lot)
October 29	Sunday		See Worship Schedule at the Top of Pg. 4
October 30	Monday	10:00 am	Lions Club Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
October 31	Tuesday		Budgets Due to Bookkeeper and Finance Chair

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Everyone is invited to express their thanks
and appreciation to Pastor Bob on Sunday, Oct. 29

We invite you to join us during the 8 and 11 a.m. fellowship time and enjoy some Halloween-themed treats. Please consider bringing a card that Sunday so we can shower Pastor Bob with cards of appreciation for all he does! This 5th Sunday Fellowship and Pastor Appreciation Sunday is sponsored by the Board of Deacons, and we appreciate your participation.

Gail Heimback,

Board of Deacons Moderator



Join us for our 4th annual

Trunk or Treat

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th
FROM 2:00-4:00PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
220 W. 22ND ST.

location will be in the parking lot next to Taco John's on Carey Ave.



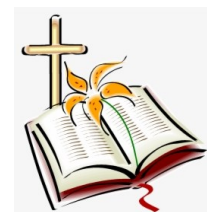
Prayers for Pat & Paul Stenback for the loss of her brother, Jerry John;
for Nina & Larry Magnuson for the loss of her sister;
and for Connie Davis for the loss of her son, Matt.

Meryl Adams
Nadine Amen
James Anderson
Max Arrowsmith
Guy Beardsley
Gail Blackwell
Dr. Richard Brown
Minnie Bunley
Chuck Burke
Rose Burrows
Olivia Campbell
Rachel Campbell
Debbie Confortini
Gina Courtade
Karen Denniston
Donna DiNino

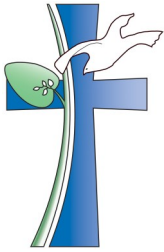
Robert Drummond
Kevin Gallagher
Adam George
Melissa Gilespi
Lyle Ginter
Patricia Goss
Carmen Grubbs
Patricia Hamil
Tamiecta Hamm
Hart Family
Patricia Hawke
Geraldine Hayes
Sherry Hayes
Gail Heimback
Ray Hernandez
Jamie Herrera
Jessica Jessen
Jim Keen
Debbie Lenhart
William Loftus

Linda McGuire
Pat McLlwain
Mary Lou McMIndes
Tom Milholland &
Children
Kathy Lee Montgomery
Tom Muhlback
Kari Murdoch
Stephanie Oakland
Kim Olson
Susan Payne
Dale & Aurthur Petersen
Catherine Pacheko
Amanda Pierce
Dorothy Pontillo
Paula Qualls
Carol Rieser
Frank & Belinda Serrano
Del Shortliffe
Jeannie Smith

Karen Smith
Marilyn St. John
Don Stang
Diana Stevens
Paula Stevens
Carol Ann Strader
Mary Tolle
Larry Twidwell
Dorothy Tyrell
Georgia Valdon
Sarah Wacker
Javen Westby
Lexie White
Brenda Williams
Jennifer Wulf



Let us know when people are well and can be taken off our prayer list. Thank you!

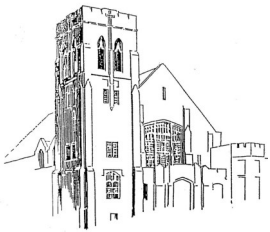


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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



10/2023



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.*

Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time
and wander on this, their only chance to soar.

