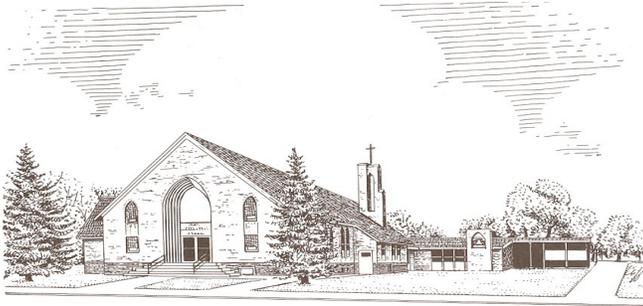


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



123 4th Ave SW
Conrad, MT 59425
(406) 278-3043

February 2021 Newsletter
www.conradfirstpres.org
conpres@3rivers.net



Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM
Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM

Office Hours are Monday through Friday
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

For those of you wishing to pay your per capita in 2021, the amount is \$62.00. This is an increase of \$10.00 over last year. The increase is for expenses incurred to Glacier Presbytery for legal and insurance costs due to the collapse of deck at the Glacier Camp a few years ago, and a decrease in active membership in the congregations of Glacier Presbytery.

Per Capita is the way our congregation is assessed for denominational support, which furthers the mission of the whole church, regional and national. It is called "Per Capita" because our fair share of support is determined by the number of active members in our congregation. We thank you for your willingness to make your giving to our congregation go farther by including a gift to cover the per capita for each member in your household.



JOIN US FOR ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 17TH

The church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Week each year. Lent is a time of reflection, heightened religious devotion through prayer and other practices, and, often, sacrifice. Come join us on February 17th at 7:30 PM as we begin this season together, remember our place through the imposition of ashes, and consider our practices for the season.

FEBRUARY LAY READERS

Feb. 7 Karla Wittmier
Feb. 14 Barb Perry
Feb. 21 Amy Zimbelman
Feb. 28 Bonnie Flesch



DEACON'S LIST

Feb. 7 Bonnie & Dale
Feb. 14 Amy & Karla
Feb. 21 Carol & Barb
Feb. 28 Della & Elsie
March 7 Jeanne & Bonnie

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday will be held February 21st for our third graders. If you know of any third grader that has ties to our church, please let Wendi in the office know, or contact Carol Dayrider at 279-3759, so that invitations can be sent to them.



FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

For nearly a year now, we have been in a season of giving things up. Due to the pandemic, most of us have had to give up more regular times with family and friends, dining out, movies and theater productions, in-person educational programs, vacations and trips, and many other things. In the church, we have given up coffee hour for much of this period, in-person worship for periods, our children and youth programs, meals together, and other activities. In all honesty, I probably don't even know how much we have given up considering my time with you has been almost entirely during this pandemic period. In many ways, it feels like we've had one foot in Lent for the last year.

As many of you know, Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week and will begin this year on February 17th. Our fast-moving world today doesn't often allow us time and space for contemplation, reflection, and evaluation. Lent can be a time where we intentionally allocate time to push the world aside to incorporate practices that are life-giving but different from what the world presses upon us. It can, also, be a time that we make sacrifices — we give up luxuries or vices for a period or even indefinitely.

In our Ash Wednesday service this year, we'll take time to note some of these practices and contemplate what might be life-giving and faithful for each of us.

After this past year of pandemic, I wonder if we might want to add practices rather than remove as we've removed so much this last year. Perhaps, you'd like to dedicate some time to reading scripture and praying each day. Others might want to explore the Ignatian practice of Examen or reflection each evening. You might reflect on what drew you closer to God and what pushed you away from God each day. You can, then, focus on those things that draw you toward God and diminish those that push you away.

One of my seminary professors (Rev. Dr. Gary Neal Hansen) wrote a book exploring these practices titled, *Kneeling with Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers*. This very accessible book steps the reader through a new practice each week allowing you to find one that works well for who God has created you to be. I highly recommend it, and you can find it through a variety of bookstores online. My hope for you is that you will find a practice that draws you closer to God and offers you life — one that might be a practice you engage regularly throughout your life.

I'd even invite you to consider joining with another person — perhaps in your family or another member of the church you join by phone, video discussion, or in-person.

I strongly encourage you to find a way during Lent to push the world aside — all its noises and excesses, all its conflict and distractions — and work to center your soul. If you'd like to discuss practices that might benefit you, I'd be happy to do so. As always, feel free to reach out to me with your questions or pondering.

May this season of Lent be one that allows you to center yourself, draws you closer to God, and brings you life.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy".

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Glacier Camp is once again making plans for Winterfest. The dates for Winterfest this year are February 12th-14th for grades 6 through 12. Winterfest begins at 8:00 on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday at about 1:30 PM. See the attached flyer for information. For registration forms and additional information, contact the Camp website at www.glaciercamp.org. Scholarships are available through Glacier Camp. Deadline for registration is January 29th.

Plans are in the works for Vacation Bible School, in conjunction with Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. Be on the lookout for more information.

Winterfest 2021

Grades 6-12

February 12-14, 2021

(deadline January 29th 2021)

Important Info...

Package A: Conference Only \$100

Package B: Conference w/ Lift Ticket \$130

Package C: Conference w/lift & Equipment \$160

Package D: Conference w/lift/Equipment/Lesson \$210

When: Starts Friday at 8pm and ends Sunday after lunch. (done about 1:30pm)

Where: Glacier Camp, on Flathead Lake, in the Spruce Lodge and on Blacktail Mtn .

Speaker: Beth Rolfe

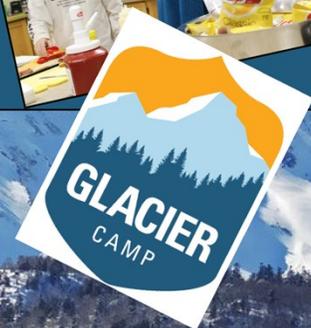
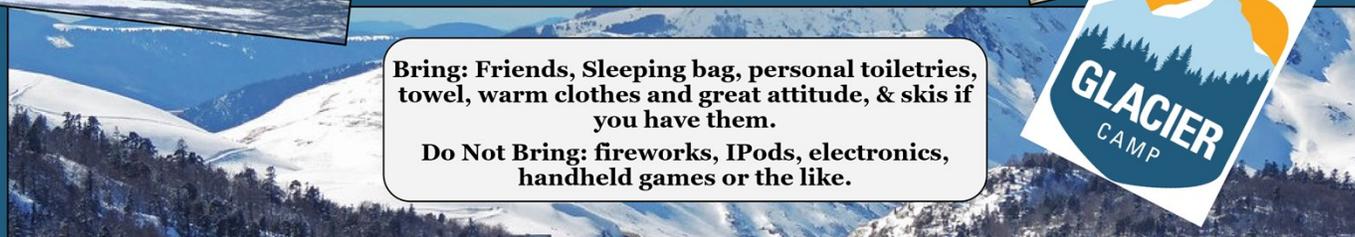
Music: Megan Newbury

(Adults in leadership positions get the conference FREE)

(BUT ski at their own cost)

Bring: Friends, Sleeping bag, personal toiletries, towel, warm clothes and great attitude, & skis if you have them.

Do Not Bring: fireworks, iPods, electronics, handheld games or the like.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for March's newsletter is Thursday, February 18th.

If you have any articles or information you would like to submit, please send them either by email to conpres@3rivers.net or mail to:

First Presbyterian Church
123 4th Ave SW
Conrad, MT 59425





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD

Session Highlights

January 2021

1. Pastor Smothers reported we are continuing to offer both in-person and online worship. The number of viewers on the YouTube viewer sites were **15** on November 29th, **9** on December 6th, **12** on December 13th, **10** on December 20th, **23** on December 24th and **11** on January 3rd. He reminded us these numbers are approximate.
2. The Wednesday Evening Prayer has started meeting again at the church at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings.
3. **The Annual Meeting has been called for Sunday, January 31st, 2021 following the worship service.**

The Church Finances:

December 2020:	Operating Income:	\$ 10,308
	Operating Expenses:	\$ 10,701
	Balance:	\$ -393
	Year-to-Date Balance:	\$ -33

The Property Committee reports:

1. The Committee requests that any individuals seeing needed repairs around the church or have any church property projects to fill out a work order in the office. The Committee will check the office for the work orders.

The Christian Education Committee reports:

1. The Committee reported that some additional video was added to the original Children's Virtual Christmas Pageant. The total number of viewer sites, although estimated, are 144 for the three videos which include the original video, the video with the additional video added and the church service with the video included.

The Worship Committee reports:

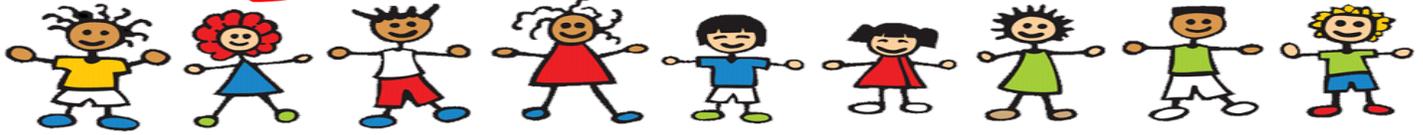
1. Communion will be served Sunday, February 7th and 21st.

The Pastor Nominating Committee reports:

1. They have begun compiling questions they will use in candidate's interviews.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, February 15th, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

KID'S CORNER



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

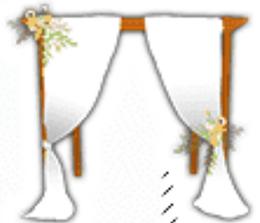
Transfiguration

P E T E R L E Q Z T E G O P J D I J I E
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H J O H N E M U I F J U I E L I J A H Y

LIGHT
MASTER
PETER
PRAYER
SON
BELOVED

ELIJAH
MOSES
MOUNTAIN
TALMIDIM
ISRAELITES
JOHN

JAMES
TENT
SUKKAH
DISCIPLES
TRANSFIGURATION
YESHUA



Coloring Time



Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



THE TRANSFIGURATION

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	4	5	6
7 Worship 11:00 AM 5th Sunday after Epiphany Communion	8	9 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	10 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	11 10:30 AM PW Meeting	12	13
14 Worship 11:00 AM Transfiguration of the Lord 	15 7:00 PM Session	16	17 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	18 	19	20
21 Worship 11:00 AM 1st Sunday in Lent Communion	22	23 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	24 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	25	26	27
28 Worship 11:00 AM 2nd Sunday in Lent						

First Presbyterian Church
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Conrad, MT 59425-2302
www.conradfirstpres.org
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February Birthdays

- 1 Charlotte Meyer
- 2 Dania Jones
- 3 John Goodheart
- 10 Tawnya Broesder
- Molly Springer
- 13 Reed Harris



- 16 Michael Kellogg
- 17 Rebecca Meier
- 18 Don Zimbelman
- 20 Irene Stoddard
- Della Kellogg
- 21 Robert Lamma
- 22 Jackie Miller
- 23 Maureen Orcutt



- 25 JoAnn Stenerson
- Edgar Keil
- 26 Matt Wittmier
- Stacy Aaberg
- 27 DJ Burditt
- 28 Robin Goodheart