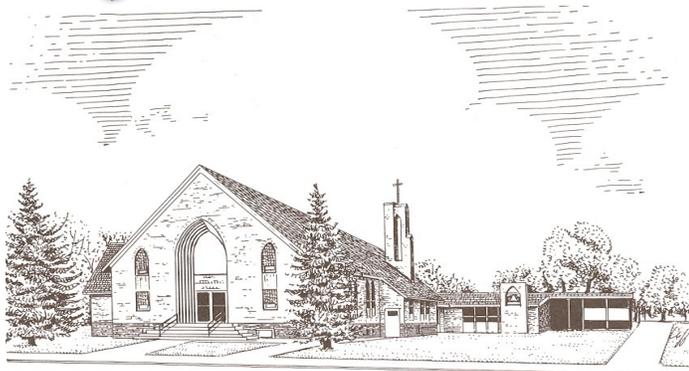


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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



Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM

Wednesday Night Church School, Youth,
& Adult Program

6:00 PM to 7:15 PM



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

NEWS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

We must have been having lots of fun, because as the saying goes "*time flies when you're having fun*". Long story short.....it's almost time for the Finance Committee to prepare the church budget for the coming year. Ever try to prepare a budget when you have absolutely no idea how much income you will have to cover expenses? That's why we'll very soon be asking all of you how much you will contribute to First Presbyterian Church next year.

John Calvin once said, "We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude."

Greg and Pat are very thankful for each and every member and friend of this congregation who has contributed time, talents, and money to further God's work in this church. As each of us prays for God's guidance this year concerning our giving, let's do so with a thankful heart for all of the blessings God has bestowed on us this past year.

Greg Kellogg, Moderator
Pat Keil

BAZAAR & LUNCHEON



The Presbyterian Women have decided to postpone the Bazaar and Luncheon scheduled for October 15th due to the large number of COVID cases at this time. It will be re-visited at the October PW meeting and the final decision will be made at that time. We will continue our **Wednesday Craft Days from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Rm 3** of the Education building and encourage you to bring in any items you have for the Bazaar. We will put out any Halloween items we have downstairs during Coffee Hour for anyone who wishes to purchase them. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Stordahl at 278-3830 or Karen Burditt at 450-5295.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for November's newsletter is Thursday, October 28th.

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



FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I was disappointed recently when we needed to delay our start to our Wednesday evening program. Hopefully, you have heard or noticed by now that we are intending a different format this year — one that is shorter in duration for many and that incorporates more people.

Last year, I began our Wednesday Evening Prayer program during COVID to give us some time in discipleship despite the pandemic. I began with prayer and scripture readings because I was hopeful it might have us explore our Bibles anew. We took time off from that format to spend 10 weeks in prayer using Gary Neal Hansen's book *Kneeling with Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers*.

This fall and into the beginning of the winter, we're inviting our adults to join our Wednesday evening discipleship program at 6pm for a meal followed by the Alpha Course. Our youth will be using a youth version of this same course. Consider the time it will save you should you normally have to prepare a meal! Alpha is a program started in London in the Church of England — the mainline denomination in England. It was first used as a discipleship program, but the leaders learned in time it worked well for evangelism, also. I want to strongly encourage you to attend it for two reasons. First, it will teach you the basics of the Christian faith. It did this for me when I first participated and helped lead the program in a Roman Catholic setting. It filled many gaps in my faith. Secondly, it may be a program the church or you might consider using to invite others to consider the Christian faith. It's been used for such purposes in 169 countries and in 112 different languages (we'll use English). Millions have benefited from this course, which has been led in many different denominations. Feel free to invite a friend to participate this year with you!

The program has fifteen different sessions:

- Is There More to Life Than This?
- Who Is Jesus?
- Why Did Jesus Die?
- How Can I Have Faith?
- Why and How Do I Pray?
- Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
- How Does God Guide Us?
- Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- What Does the Holy Spirit Do?
- How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?
- How Can I Resist Evil?
- Why and How Should I Tell Others?
- Does God Heal Today?
- What About the Church?

I've had the blessing of leading in the course in a Roman Catholic setting in Iowa City around three times and at a presbyterian church in New York City. I'd invite you on the journey that is Alpha and to a meal and fellowship. Come join us on Wednesday evenings!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy', written on a light-colored background.

COVID Precautions

September 20, 2021

First Presbyterian Church, Conrad, Session

The CDC reports that the delta variant of COVID-19 is more infectious and has increased transmissibility when compared to other variants. The delta variant has become the predominant variant in the United States. Current guidance indicates it is more than twice as contagious and may cause more severe illness than previous variants in unvaccinated people. Fully vaccinated people get COVID-19 less often than unvaccinated people, but they are able to transmit the virus to others, though, for a shorter period than unvaccinated people. COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the delta variant. The CDC indicates that vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community. They do recommend use of all prevention strategies including masking indoors in public places to stop transmission and stop the pandemic.

For All Programs and Activities

- Attendees are asked to stay home if they have a temperature above 99.9°F or have been asked to isolate or quarantine for the duration of that recommendation.
- Signs will be placed on or near entry doors and around the church to encourage masking.
- Recommend attendees follow vaccination guidance provided by their physician

For Worship

- If the number of active cases for Pondera County reaches 70, we will immediately move to online-only worship.
- Maintain hand sanitizer stations at back of sanctuary
- Continue using pre-packaged communion elements spread on table in Narthex
- Continue collecting offering at back of sanctuary
- Continue recommending the seating pattern designated on pews
- Request deacons wear masks
- Continue sharing our peace with one another without touch and without movement around sanctuary
- Limit singing on most Sundays to 2 sung hymns
- Recommend all attendees wear masks (vaccinated or unvaccinated)
- Begin taking photos again for contact tracing

- Discourage use of hymnals and Bibles when worship services are less than 2 days apart
- Add hand sanitizer to the pews for those who would like to use it. Note this may require we hang sanitizer bottles with floral wire or similar from communion cup holders.
- Open windows when possible and practical
- Provide disposable masks in the Narthex

For Meetings and Classes

- Add hand sanitizer in large bottles to each classroom and meeting room and keep refills on-hand
- Recommend all attendees wear masks (vaccinated and unvaccinated)
- Recommend members of different households sit at least 3 feet apart
- Open windows when possible and practical
- Sanitize tables and chairs between meetings if less than 2 days between gatherings.

For Memorial Services and Other Large Gatherings

- Maintain hand sanitizer stations at back of sanctuary
- Continue recommending the seating pattern designated on pews
- Recommend all attendees wear masks (vaccinated or unvaccinated)
- Add hand sanitizer to the pews for those who would like to use it (see details above)
- Setup the Fellowship Hall for overflow with audio/video (including where a meal would be offered afterwards with tables setup between rows of chairs)
- Open windows when possible and practical

For Meals and Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall

- If the number of active cases in Pondera County reaches 55, we will automatically cancel these programs.
- Add hand sanitizer in large bottles to Fellowship Hall and keep refills on-hand
- Encourage use of masks when not eating
- Encourage families to sit together and space between families when possible
- Encourage kitchen staff to serve buffet-style with gloves and masks rather than each person grabbing food themselves or to space out pre-packaged portions

For Church School (in addition to policies for Meetings and Classes and Meals in the Fellowship Hall above)

- When case numbers are high, have each class eat in their classroom
- Place hand sanitizer from office outside Christian Education wing bathrooms
- Take attendance including for contact tracing
- The Superintendent of the Church School and the Director of Youth and Adults will assess and cancel or modify the program as necessary. Very likely, if a public school class goes remote, this will result in cancelation for that/those week(s).

**Provide masks in places where they will be noticed
For Presbyterian Women's Bazaar**

- If the number of active cases in Pondera County reaches 55, we will automatically cancel the meal.
- The number of people in the Fellowship Hall will be limited to a maximum of 60 (total staff and guests)

- Guests may wait in the sanctuary until there is space in the Fellowship Hall based on entry numbers given to them (similar to procedure used previously for Harvest Dinners)
- Food will be served by staff wearing masks and gloves rather than guests dishing or separating their own food
- Encourage use of masks when not eating
- Encourage families to sit together and space between families when possible
- PW will need to supply hand sanitizer near the sales at tables and at the doors to the Fellowship Hall
- The stairs near the balcony will be the entry into the Fellowship Hall. Guests and staff will exit through the door near the kitchen.
- Additional staff will be necessary to direct people into the sanctuary as necessary, hand out entry numbers to guests, and direct people to the appropriate place at the appropriate time.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>.

This will be assessed based on the State of Montana data available at <https://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7c34f3412536439491adcc2103421d4b>.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD



Session Highlights - September 2021

1. Pastor Smothers' will take study leave October 11th thru 24th.
2. Pastor Smothers invites everyone to attend the Wednesday Night Youth/Adult Program beginning Sept 22nd at 6:00 PM.
3. On Sunday, Sept 26th Pastor Smothers is planning a time of prayer for people in the congregation struggling with illness, surgeries, grief and other challenges. He is requesting three Elders to assist him by praying with individuals as they come forward.
4. Regarding the Glacier Camp lawsuit, Pastor Smothers reported he has spent several hours searching through file cabinets and the church computer looking for documentation that has been requested by our lawyers.
5. Pastor Smothers is planning a new members class.
6. The Session approved gifting our 25% of the Peace and Global Witness offering that will be taken on Oct 3rd to the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Organization.
7. The Session agreed to apply the COVID Precautions to all church programs and activities including worship, coffee hour and meetings.
8. The Session amended the COVID Precautions for the PW Bazaar by stating that if Pondera County active COVID cases reach 55 the meal will be automatically cancelled. However, the sale of crafts may proceed with a limited number of people in the Fellowship Hall at a time.



Continued Session Highlights - September 2021



The Church Finances:

August 2021:

Operating Income:	\$	10,418
Operating Expenses:	\$	10,189
Balance:	\$	229
Year-to-Date Balance:	\$	4,149

The Finance Committee reports:

1. The paperwork has been filed to have the Payroll Protection Program 2 forgiven.
2. It was the Sessions decision to use the Logos Funds to pay for the curriculum that has been purchased for the new Wednesday Night Youth Program and also to help defray the food costs not covered by the weekly free will offering.
3. The Stewardship Campaign will be a mailing to all members and friends of the church.
4. The Finance Committee is looking for another member to fill the vacancy left after Steve Keil's passing.
5. The Technology Committee was requested to make arrangements for a Great Falls security company to give the church an estimate on a security system.

The Property Committee reports:

1. The Committee plans to visit with Darin and Joey Pruttis to do snow removal for the 2021-2022 snow season.
2. Darryl Burditt and Greg Kellogg will review a series of videos on church security and bring their recommendations to the Session during the October meeting.

3. The Committee will visit with Doug Moritz to have the lawn irrigation system winterized.
4. The Committee will visit with the Tree Amigos to trim the two spruce trees in the front of the church.

The Worship Committee reports:

1. Communion was served on Sunday, Sept 5th and 19th and will be served on Oct 3rd & 17th
2. The decision for the choir to return to a regular practice schedule and singing in worship is postpone until the October Session meeting.
3. The Worship & Property Committee to work together to have the Christmas Tree up and decorated before Sunday, Nov 28th
4. Upcoming Church Events:
 - a. September 26th – Healing & wholeness service
 - b. October 3rd – World Communion Sunday
 - c. October 17th – Rev Tim Lanham pulpit supply
 - d. October 24th – Gary Klette pulpit supply
 - e. October 31st – Reformation Sunday

The Christian Education Committee reports:

1. Carol DayRider, Superintendent of the Wednesday Church School and Marla Bruner, Director of the Wednesday Night Youth/Adult Program reported that the programs will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM and are scheduled to begin Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, October 25th, 2021 @ 7:00 PM.



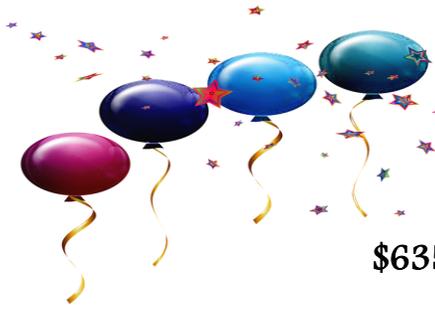
OCTOBER LAY READERS

Oct. 3	Carol & Bella DayRider
Oct. 10	Jan Carter
Oct. 17	Pat Keil
Oct. 24	Helen Stordahl
Oct. 31	Amy Zimbelman



DEACON'S LIST

Oct. 3	Barb & Della
Oct. 10	Elsie & Jeanne
Oct. 17	Bonnie & Dale
Oct. 24	Amy & Karla
Oct. 31	Carol & Barb



**‘What’s to Eat’ Raffle
Drawing held September 29, 2021**



Congratulations to Winners

**Pam Wittmier
\$635.00 in local Restaurant Gift Certificates**

**Bonnie Flesch
\$100.00 Conrad Chamber Gift Certificate**

**Because of everyone that bought a ticket or two
we paid off the remaining balance due on the
new flooring in the hallways!**

THANK YOU!!



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH PROGRAM
5th Grade – 12th Grade**

**We missed last year
But we’re back and ready for you!**



Dinner is served from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM

**Don’t worry we’ll have plenty to eat for those sport
enthusiasts when they get out of practice
Just come down stairs and there will be a plate of food
and a chair waiting just for you!**

**After dinner, we will all share in a short time of worship
Followed with a Bible Lesson**



**Parents – Please come and share dinner with your children.
We welcome you to stay for the Adult Bible Lesson but also
Know the demanding lifestyle of working parents
And understand if you choose to leave.**



We look forward to seeing YOU on Wednesday

**If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to call
Marla Bruner @ 406-271-5713
Or Pastor Andy @ 406-278-3043**



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 11:00 AM 19th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion 	4	5 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	6 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop 6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	7	8	9
10 Worship 11:00 AM 20th Sunday after Pentecost	11 11:30 AM Worship Committee 2:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	12 9:30 AM Finance Meeting 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	13 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop 6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	14 10:30 AM PW Meeting 	15	16
Pastor Andy on continuing education leave from 11th through the 25th						
17 Worship 11:00 AM 21st Sunday after Pentecost Communion	18 	19 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	20 6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	21	22	23
24 Worship 11:00 AM 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	25 7:00 PM Session	26 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	27 6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	28 	29	30
31 Worship 11:00 AM 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday 	 Trick or treat!					

First Presbyterian Church
123 Fourth Avenue SW
Conrad, MT 59425-2302
www.conradfirstpres.org
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406-278-3043

October Birthdays

1 Cashley Redd
3 Wendy Goodheart
5 Emma Naylor
6 Matt Kellogg
8 Paula Hudson
13 Afton Lamoreaux
Zach Orcutt
15 Wally McHenry



17 Zach Lettenga
20 Marilyn Nyberg
23 Susan Emrick
24 John Silvernale
26 Alex Finlayson
Shannon Naylor
28 Judy Buechler
29 Adam Eisenberg Oien
30 Ralph Diedrich
Tom Bishop



October Anniversaries

3 Kenn and Elin Hohman
4 Doug and Kim Moritz
25 Matt and Pam Wittmier
27 Darryl and Karen Burditt
29 Todd and Patti Mellinger
29 Barbara and Don Perry



Was your birthday or anniversary not on the church list? Please contact the office, so your information can be inserted in future Newsletters!