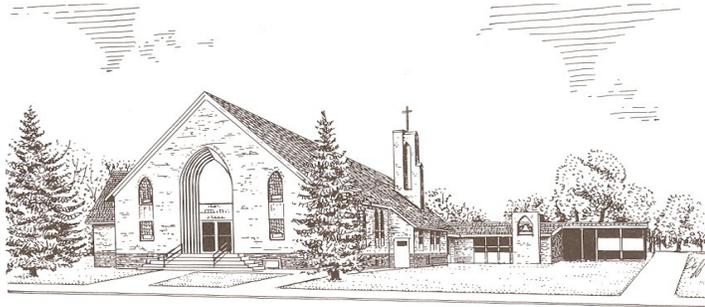


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



February 2022 Newsletter
www.conradfirstpres.org
conpres@3rivers.net



Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM
Sunday Bible Study at 10:00 AM



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 who wish to pay your per capita for 2022, the amount remains at \$62.00 per member. 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 further by including a gift to cover the per capita for each member in your household.

CHURCH SCHOOL



Church School resumed January 5th, 2022 after the break for Christmas. We started the year with a game night, due to a low number of students attending. Due to an increase in COVID cases, the decision was made to put the Wednesday Evening Programs on hold until the numbers begin to decline. When we resume, we will be practicing for Bible Sunday. Bible Sunday this year will be held on Sunday, February 27th. This is the



Sunday that our third grade Church School students will receive their Bibles. We currently have four third grade students who will be receiving Bibles on this day. They are Jasper Sanders, Roslyn Martin, Bella Dayrider, and Quinn DuPree. The young people will be singing on that Sunday. We hope that everyone can join us for this special day.

BIBLE SUNDAY

Sunday, February 27th, will a very special day in the life of our church. The Wednesday Church School and Pastor Andy will present Bibles to third graders. In addition, the Church School will sing during morning worship. We hear the Church School is preparing some fun and exciting music to share with us all. You won't want to miss it!



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By the time you receive this newsletter, most of you will know that I have elaborated my plans for continued ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. While my current contract ends on March 8th, I have shared with our Session that I am willing to continue service into a new contract but not beyond May 31st.

With those dates in minds, it is far too early to begin to share goodbyes; however, it is not too early to share hopes for continued ministry in Conrad.

I will not at all claim to know God's plans for this congregation; however, I do believe there is great hope for continued ministry here. In a recent sermon, I shared a number of signs that give reason for hope. First, you are the only mainline denomination in Conrad. Second, you are the only PC (USA) congregation within about 60 miles. You have a much larger congregation than you worship, which gives you opportunity to invite members back into worship and involvement in this congregation. Denominational experts tell us most pastors are looking for congregations that can describe how they are involved in ministry to their community and surrounding community, and you have a history of doing this type of work. Redeveloping outreach into the community could increase the congregation's footprint in the area and attractiveness to a prospective pastor. You have been in ministry in this place for approaching 120 years, and my hope for you is that you would have many more years of ministry in this place. I should not neglect either that we worship a God of power and action — a God who is faithful to his people and calls his church into local ministry where he has already begun doing ministry.

Several of you recently attended a program focused on alternative church models hosted by a church in Shelby and led by our Presbytery Leader and a pastor from Iowa. The pastor from Iowa presented a parish model in which several congregations shared a few pastors. The various congregations developed a shared identity while still maintaining their individual identities. This is but one of many alternative models of being a congregation.



There was another presentation in our presbytery much like that which several of us attended in Shelby. In response to that presentation, elders and church members of three PC(USA) congregations in Havre, Chinook, and Harlem have invited three other area congregations (Lutheran and Methodist) to consider partnering in exploring alternative arrangements. None of the three PC(USA) congregations have a full-time pastor — only one has a Minister of Word and Sacrament, and that pastor who has been serving 20%-time for the church in Harlem is readying to retire. These three congregations moved so quickly as to get out ahead of the presbytery in exploring their future!

As I mentioned, I don't know God's particular plans for this congregation. You may find an installed pastor to serve for an extended period as before. You may find God is calling you to a new model. I invite you, though, to get excited for the journey and to engage that journey. What impact will First Presbyterian Church have on Conrad and beyond? How can this church become more visible in ministry to the area? What will ongoing ministry look like here? God is still active here and is still calling his church into ministry.

My prayers continue with you as I serve and will beyond my time here.

Grace and peace,

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

FEBRUARY LAY READERS

Feb. 6 Jane Arends
Feb. 13 Della Kellogg
Feb. 20 Barb Perry
Feb. 27 Hunter DuPree



DEACON'S LIST

Feb. 6 Barb & Della
Feb. 13 Karen & DJ
Feb. 20 Bonnie & Amy
Feb. 27 Carol & Barb

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women met on January 9th with Carol Dayrider as hostess. The annual report was presented to the membership present. The treasure's report was presented and approved by the members. It was decided that the Thank Offering and Birthday Offering would be collected after a new budget was voted on. Karen and Elsie will work on setting a new budget. A report was given on the bazaar. The money brought in was approximately \$1900. All of the items that remained have been packed up and put away. Conrad Presbyterian Women will be responsible for developing the program for the Women's Retreat at Glacier Camp and Conference Center in August 2023. Roma Lee presented Jason Dorsey as a possibility for a speaker for that event. The membership gave Kim Cooney the authority to explore the possibility of using Jason Dorsey as a speaker for the PW Retreat at Glacier Camp in August 2023. Presbyterian Women are in charge of the blood drawing on February 10th. The hostess list is complete and will be passed out at the next meeting, which will be on February 10th. Jeanne Stordahl and Karen Burditt are hostesses for that meeting.

DEACONS' NEWS

The newly elected Board of Deacons met on January 10th and elected Amy Zimbelman as Moderator, Barb Perry, Secretary & Greg Kellogg, Treasurer. Other board members include, Carol Dayrider, Bonnie Flesch, Jeanne Stordahl, Karla Wittmeier, Karen Burditt & DJ Burditt.

It is the duty of the Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. As set forth in Scriptures, the office of Deacon is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ.

If you would like a visit from a Deacon, have a need we might be able to assist with, or other questions, please contact Amy Zimbelman 406-899-9522, or the church office at 406-278-3043.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for March's newsletter is Thursday, February 17th.

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 2022

1. The Session reminds every one of the COVID Precautions that were put in place in September 2021 stating that when the cases in Pondera County reach 55 Coffee Hour and meals will be canceled. At 70 cases all in-person activities on Sunday including worship will be canceled. The directors of our Wednesday evening program will decide and share plans regarding that program based on the current numbers.
2. The new member class will start January 16th, 2022, and confirmation class will begin February 2nd, 2022.
3. Pastor Smothers plans to visit with the Catholic and Lutheran Church's regarding the Lenten Lunch program that would typically start on March 3rd.

The Church Finances:

December 2021:

Operating Income:	\$	12,175
Operating Expenses:	\$	12,716
Balance:	\$	-541
Year-to-Date Balance:	\$	-2,680

The Finance Committee reports:

1. The Committee reported that as of this date 49 Estimate of Giving Cards have been returned.

The Property Committee reports:

1. They are thankful for the donations that have been received to defray the cost of trimming the trees in the front of the church and ask that if you have not given to please consider giving to this worthwhile project.
2. They have installed a new thermostat and are working on the outside lights.
3. A doorbell has been placed outside by the wheelchair lift and will ring in the narthex for the Deacons to assist anyone outside.

The Worship Committee reports:

1. Communion will be served on Sunday, January 16th, and February 6th.
2. Due to the increase of COVID cases in Pondera County the choir will not be singing during worship for the remainder of January. Future months will be decided between the pastor and choir director based on COVID cases in the community/county.
3. Upcoming Church Events:
 - a. January 23rd – Membership Class
 - b. January 30th – Annual Congregational Meeting
 - c. February 2nd – Confirmation Class
 - d. February 27th – Bible Sunday

The Technology Committee reports:

1. A new computer has been ordered for the church office.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be a potluck meeting with the Deacons and new members



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	2 *6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	3 7:00 PM Choir	4	5
6 *Worship 11:00 AM 5th Sunday after Epiphany Communion *10:00 AM Bible Study 	7	8 9:30 AM Finance Committee 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	9 *6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	10 10:30 AM PW Meeting  7:00 PM Choir	11	12
13 *Worship 11:00 AM 6th Sunday after Epiphany *10:00 AM Bible Study	14 11:30 AM Worship Committee	15 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	16 *6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	17 7:00 PM Choir 	18	19
20 *Worship 11:00 AM 7th Sunday after Epiphany Communion *10:00 AM Bible Study	21 7:00 PM Joint Session and Deacons' Meeting	22 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	23 *6:00 PM Church School, Youth & Adult Group	24 7:00 PM Choir	25	26
27 *Worship 11:00 AM Transfiguration of the Lord Bible Sunday—Children Sing *10:00 AM Bible Study 	28	*Please watch the church Facebook and website pages for updates on cancelations for weather and/or COVID. At this time, our Wednesday evening program is canceled until further notice; though, we hope to restart the program soon.				

First Presbyterian Church
123 Fourth Avenue SW
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 Della Kellogg
21 Robert Lamma
22 Jackie Miller
23 Maureen Orcutt
25 JoAnn Stenerson
26 Matt Wittmier
Stacy Aaberg

27 DJ Burditt
28 Robin Goodheart

