

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2025 Newsletter
www.conradfirstpres.org
conpres@3rivers.net



Sunday Worship @ 11:00 AM

Secretarial Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00AM

Monday Handbells @ 6:00PM

***1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesdays**

Prayer Ministry @ 12:00PM*

***Wednesday Learn 2 Sew Class**
@ 3:30PM to 5:00PM*

***Wednesday Adult Discipleship**
Class @ 6:00PM*

***Wednesday Children/Youth**
Program @ 6:15PM to 7:45PM*

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE INSIDE!

***Thursday Bible Study @ Horizon**
Lodge @ 2:00PM

Thursday Choir @ 7:00PM

***1st Friday of Every Month Free**
Community Meal @ 11:30AM to
1:00PM*



Mark Your Calendars!!

Come and enjoy a home cooked meal and an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new friends on Friday, December 5th, starting at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. The menu will be Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Green Salad, and Christmas Cake Dessert.

Everyone is welcome at our tables.



PASTOR'S CORNER



Advent, the season of waiting and watching, begins November 30th and ends on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day our patience is rewarded by celebrating the birth of the baby Christ, the hope of life filled with peace, joy, and love. For some Christmas is a day of celebration, gift giving, and a groaning table of turkey, dressing, gravy, and trimmings to share with the drooling palates of adults and youth who still expect Mom to do all the holiday cooking.

For others Christmas and the chaotic season leading up to it is a time of remembering and wishing and weeping - wishing that the one most special to them were still by their side or wishing that they could afford just one small gift for their precious children. Be gentle with those who cannot respond to the season with the same giddy joy that washes over you as you shop, buy, wrap, and stack the goodies under the tree.

We who are Christ followers, regardless of our sad or joyful circumstance are blessed because we can lean hard into the message of God that promises hope, peace, joy, and love to a world in perpetual turmoil.

The prophet Isaiah says, *"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...he shall judge between the nations...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."* And there will be hope for peace. *"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice..."* And there will be joy. *"...a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; ...he shall be called Wonderful Counselor...from this time onward and forevermore."* And there is love.



Blessings,

Pastor Judy



PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th, 2025 at 12:30PM. It will be held at the Moose Lodge. The meal will be steak and scampi for \$25.00. We will be taking a special offering of canned fruit for the Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome. Signup sheets will be posted in the Fellowship Hall and the Church Office. Please sign up before Friday, December 5th.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports are due in the church office **the week after Christmas**. If the office is not open when your report is ready, you may put it in an envelope and slip it through the mail slot or you can email your report to conpres@3rivers.net. We need as many annual reports in as early as we can, so that the office can publish our annual report booklet in time for members to take home and read it before the annual meeting. So please, bring in your reports as soon after.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

If you drove up and down 4th Ave in Conrad in October, you probably noticed our Bale'm and his Donkey Hay Bale display. Although our church is not a member of the Chamber we wanted to join in and do our part in helping out the Senior Center and Surrey. This was a Youth Group sponsored fundraiser and people generously gave \$331 toward the effort. Thank you all who participated in this event. A special thank you to Lisa Schmidt for the hay bales.

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group attendees have also poured their hearts into their practices for our upcoming Christmas Season. At the church last Wednesday, chimes were ringing, a guitar strumming, and lots of voices singing out Carols old and new in preparation for their visits to the Horizon Lodge on December 3rd, Extended Care on December 17th, and Church service on December 14th. We can all look forward to enthusiastic singers from ages 4 to 17 sharing in the Joy of the season through song and a dramatic sketch. All are welcome. Spread the word! Food will be served after church on the 14th.

After our own Christmas party on December 17th we will be taking a Christmas Break and be back to our regular schedule on January 7th. If any church members would like to participate in helping with a meal for our 28 youth and additional adult volunteers in the new year please talk to Pam Wittmier or Jane Arends. Thanks for the support from Conrad Presbyterian Church and community members.

There will be no Youth Group on November 26th. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign is now underway. By now you should have received a letter containing a stewardship letter, brochure, and estimate of giving card with return envelope in the mail. Thank you to those that have already returned their giving cards to the church. To those who have not replied, prayerfully consider what you can give to the church for 2026 and return your estimate of giving card as soon as possible. Thank you!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have any articles to contribute to the **January Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than the morning of **Thursday, December 18th**, which should provide enough time for article placement and proofreading if all articles are received by the due date. Any articles received after the due date will need to go into next month's newsletter or bulletin if it is time sensitive. The newsletter will be printed and mailed out the following week, providing enough time for the newsletter to be delivered with time sensitive articles.

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**





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women met on November 13th at 10:30AM. The meeting was called to order by Karla Wittmier. Karla opened the meeting with prayer, and Roma Lee led a devotional based on Psalm 22:8. Karla thanked everyone who helped with the blood drive. The leftover bread was taken to the food pantry and the leftover cookies were brought to the church. The PW Christmas Luncheon will be held December 11th at 12:30PM at the Moose. The meal will be steak and scampi for \$25. Those wishing to attend should sign up in the Church Office or Fellowship Hall by December 5th and everyone is invited to attend. A special offering of canned fruit for the Food Pantry will be collected. Under committee reports, the card ministry is going well. If you know of someone who should be added to the list, please let Karla know. A project collecting personal items for service men and women was discussed. Karla will get a copy of the list from Pam. The Outreach committee has been busy. They participated in Trunk or Treat, handing out over 300 bags of treats. They are continuing First Friday meals. At the November meal, 129 meals were served, and they continue to provide cookies/donuts once a month at the Food Pantry. Election of officers will take place at the January meeting. There are three prayer shawls available.

NEWS FROM GLACIER CAMP AND SPRUCE LODGE



Winterfest returns for the first time since 2023. It will be offered for Middle and High School youth and is scheduled for February 6th through the 8th. Sophie Heinz, Josiah Mlodzik, and Aaron VanBrocklin will share the keynote speaker duties — focusing on the Summer 2026 theme, *“My Cup Overflows—Jesus and the Thought of Abundant Life.”* For Saturday, participants will have a choice between skiing at Blacktail or participating in activities on site.



The camp is in the process of launching a capital campaign, with the goal of paying down the Spruce Lodge mortgage and covering the cost related to bringing the new KOA cabins online.

The Advent On-Line Bible Study begins on Sunday, November 30th starting at 5:00PM. Gratitude is the theme, particularly as it relates to our response to the gift of Christ. The Reformation Study Tour scheduled for the Fall of 2026 has room for a half-dozen more participants. For information on either opportunity, contact Tim Lanham at timothy@glaciercamp.org.

SUNDAY MORNING ADVENT CLASS

The Sunday Morning Bible Class, will begin an Advent study on November 30th. It will be the first Sunday in a 4 week video and discussion study titled, *“Heaven and Earth and the Incarnation”* by Will Willimon. The author and presenter is a retired United Methodist bishop and serves as Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC.

To quote the information on the back of his book, *“What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us, but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here and now.”* In this study, Will Willimon introduces us to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything.

In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Join us at 10:00AM in Room 3. Coffee is hot and doughnuts are fresh.



FPC OUTREACH SUMMER ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

There were lots of loose ends to address before the end of the year. The Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were checked to make sure all items were included and a tracking label put on each box before shipping. Thanks to our generous congregation, each box was sponsored with a \$25 donation which helps with purchasing the items. Around the first of the year, the church will hear the destination of each box. Each sponsor included a personal note and holiday greetings to the unknown recipient. Special thanks goes to Karen Burditt and her son DJ for loading the 30 boxes and seeing that they got to the Great Falls collection site on November 17th.

There was a large turnout for the Thanksgiving themed First Friday Community Meal held on November 7th. Karen reported that 86 meals were served in the Fellowship Hall and 43 meals were boxed for takeouts. This was our largest crowd to date. Think about joining us for a home cooked meal on December 5th in the Fellowship Hall. Serving time is 11:30AM to 1:00PM.

The Grow Young Fitness class continues to meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to participate.

The After School Sewing students have completed their wristlets, lanyards, and zippered pouches and will be deciding on a Christmas project at their next class.

Holiday blessings to our church family and to all of our newsletter readers.

Martha Orcutt
Della Kellogg

Karen Burditt
Phyllis Hammermeister

Pat Keil
Karla Wittmier

And all the angels who help in this outreach.



DECEMBER LAY READERS

Dec. 7	Susan Emrick
Dec. 14	Children's Program
Dec. 21	Helen Stordahl
Dec. 24	Gary Klette
Dec. 28	Karen Burditt



DEACON'S LIST

Dec. 7	Arlene & Karla
Dec. 14	Carol & Nikki
Dec. 21	Amy & Roma Lee
Dec. 24	Volunteers
Dec. 28	Karla & Phyllis

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS

Nov. 30	Kim Cooney and Brian Seavey - Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
Dec. 7	Choir Members
Dec. 14	Youth Group
Dec. 21	Arends Family
Dec. 24	Wittmier Family





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD



Session Highlights - From Meeting Held on Nov. 17

THE CHURCH FINANCES FOR OCTOBER 2025:

Operating Income: \$7,902.00

Operating Expenses: (\$7,564.14)

August Balance: \$337.86

Year-to-Date Balance: \$8,782.72



Worship Committee:

1. Communion will be served on December 7th and 24th.
2. Pastor Judy will preach on December 7th and 21st.
3. Children's Program is on December 14th and David Arends will preach.
4. The Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00PM and David will preach.
5. Gary Klette will preach on December 28th.

Thanks to Helen Stordahl for preparing Christmas banners for the church.

Presbyterian Women:

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held at the Moose on December 11th with a choice between steak or scampi. Everyone is invited.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2025 @ 7:00 PM.



PRAYER LIST

Please remember to pray for Bruce Benjamin, Cecil & Alice Benjamin, Amy Zimbelman, Helen Stordahl, Barb Perry, Wally McHenry, Wendy Wagner, Dave Perry, Ward Orcutt, Kristine Ries Prewett, Mary Sanders, Lavon & Karen Carter, Sean Carter, Dana & Marie Ahmed, Pearl Severtson, and Hazel Jones.

If there is a name that you would like to add or remove from the prayer list in the bulletin, please call the church office, 406-278-3043. For **Prayer Chain Requests**, please call either Martha Orcutt, 406-868-1890 or Karen Burditt, 406-271-5295.

Kid's Corner Coloring Time

AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN SON:
AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER,

LUKE 2:7



KID'S CORNER



Christmas Word Search

E	F	L	K	A	E	L	R	T	E	B	M	H	D	M
R	S	Q	L	H	N	Y	B	K	Y	S	A	Y	P	F
I	K	N	C	I	E	J	A	S	N	T	X	T	A	O
Q	T	E	E	N	W	C	O	O	U	U	L	L	R	P
E	R	M	M	C	T	D	W	D	U	N	R	I	T	G
C	W	I	I	I	N	F	O	I	Q	T	E	A	R	P
D	H	T	U	S	L	I	W	O	T	S	J	S	I	E
C	V	R	U	A	T	X	K	I	G	E	O	S	D	D
Y	F	Z	K	R	F	L	Z	N	Z	H	I	A	G	I
E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	A	C	C	W	E	T
G	A	R	L	A	N	D	X	T	L	R	E	Y	I	E
M	U	L	P	R	A	G	U	S	O	G	F	G	D	L
S	G	N	I	D	I	T	A	N	O	E	Y	T	D	U
E	D	I	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	N	Y
W	V	S	N	V	E	E	G	Y	M	B	O	U	G	H

BOUGH
CHRISTMASTIDE
FRANKINCENSE
GOODWILL
REJOICE
TIDINGS

CHESTNUTS
CRECHE
FRUITCAKE
MISTLETOE
SNOWFLAKE
WASSAIL

CHIMNEY
EVERGREEN
GARLAND
PARTRIDGE
SUGARPLUM
YULETIDE

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells	2 12PM Prayer Ministry	3 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program	4 10:30AM Worship Committee 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir	5 10AM Exercise Class 11:30AM to 1PM Free Community Meal	6
7 Worship 11AM 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion 10 Bible Study 	8 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells 	9	10 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program	11 10AM Finance Committee 12:30PM PW Christmas Luncheon @ The Moose 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir	12 10AM Exercise Class	13
14 Worship 11AM 3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Program 10 Bible Study 12:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 	15 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells 7PM Session	16 12PM Prayer Ministry	17 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program	18 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 	19 10AM Exercise Class	20
21 Worship 11AM 4th Sunday of Advent 10 Bible Study 	22 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells	23	24 5PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27
28 Worship 11AM 1st Sunday of Christmas 10 Bible Study	29 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells	30 12PM Prayer Ministry	31			

First Presbyterian Church
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www.conradfirstpres.org
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406-278-3043

**YOUTH GROUP
 UPDATE INSIDE!**

December Birthdays

1 Elin Hohman
 2 Llew Jones
 4 David Oien
 6 Bernard Ries
 7 Tyrell Kallstrom
 8 Jay Hould
 11 John Baringer
 Ethan Wittmier
 13 Shawn Mellinger
 Annabell Wittmier
 15 Burns Brown
 Amy Weis



16 Charleen Utterback
 18 Carol Miller
 19 Michelle Finlayson
 21 Phyllis Hammermeister
 Jerry Bishop
 25 **CHRISTMAS**
 Carol DayRider
 Daniel Jones
 27 Diane Zeiler

December Anniversaries

11 Bill & Linda McFarland
 20 Roma Lee & Ralph Fuson
 27 Terry & Charleen Utterback
 31 James & Tonya Sanders

