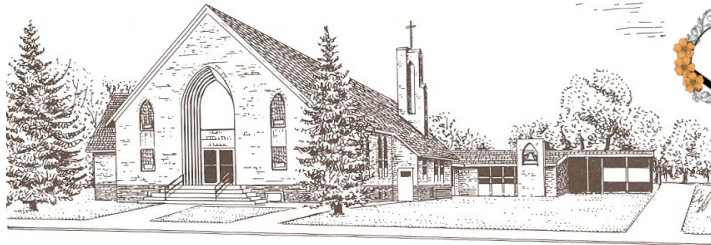


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2026 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, February 6th, starting at 11:30AM to 1:00PM in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. The menu will be a delicious surprise.

Everyone is welcome at our tables.

FEBRUARY LAY READERS

Feb. 1 Jane Arends
Feb. 8 Amy Zimbelman
Feb. 15 Susan Emrick
Feb. 22 Pat Keil



DEACON'S LIST

Feb. 1 Arlene & Jeanne
Feb. 8 Kim & Arlene
Feb. 15 Roma Lee & Phyllis
Feb. 22 Jeanne & Mike

ANCIENT WORDS – TIMELESS MESSAGE

Have you ever wondered where God is – especially when the world around you seems to be falling apart? Have you ever asked the biggest three letter question – WHY? – as you see a world so broken, so falling apart and wonder how a good God could let bad things happen? These are questions familiar to everyone who believes in God yet is troubled by a world which ignores or defies the existence of God. If you have ever asked these questions, you should know that people have asked them for a long, long time. One of these questioners was the ancient Hebrew prophet Habakkuk who watched his people suffer unspeakable horrors from the armies of a pagan nation. Why? He wondered – over and over again. Why does God let this happen?

The little book of Habakkuk asks hard questions of God. And the answers God provided this troubled prophet still speak to people today who live in a world filled with turmoil and wait for the time which God has promised to surely, certainly come. As the Apostle quoted in both Romans and Galatians, Habbakuk's challenge for the people of God involves living by faith. What does this mean? How can we apply this message to our lives?

We will ask and answer these and other questions during our journey through the book of Habakkuk. Join us in exploring the ancient words of this compelling prophet to see and hear how this timeless message speaks even to us in the year 2026!

Friday, January 30th Dinner at 6PM

Saturday, January 31st Continental Breakfast at 9AM & Lunch at 12PM

We will finish on Friday about 9PM and on Saturday about 3PM.

Please call the church office at 406-278-3043 if you plan to attend, so we can get an estimated number for food preparation.

THREE LOCAL CHURCHES & THURSDAY NOON LENTEN LUNCHESES

Once again three local churches are coming together to host Lenten Lunches on THURSDAYS beginning February 19th. This has been an ongoing tradition for years involving St. Michael's Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. It begins each Thursday at noon and is designed for people to be able to do this over their lunch hour so soup is served at 12:00PM and a short talk by one of the pastors or priest and the event is done by 12:50PM. This year's topic will be on Henri Nouwen's book, *"The Prodigal Son"*. The Presbyterians will host February 19th and 26th with Pastor Judy Sibley speaking. The Catholics will host March 5th and 12th with Father Nicetas speaking. The Lutherans will host March 19th and 26th with Pastor Jeff Driscoll speaking. Participants get to pick from several hearty soups and bread. A free will offering will be taken and will be given to one or more of our local charities. The community is invited to attend!

ASH WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

Pondera Valley Lutheran Church wants to extend an invitation to join in their traditional Ash Wednesday Breakfast and short devotional to start out their Lenten journeys. The Lutheran women have always hosted this and invited other faiths to join. This is extended to everyone. It will begin at 9:00AM on February 18th in Pondera Valley Lutheran's Fellowship Hall. Pastor Jeff Driscoll is our speaker this year. There will be a free-will donation to help cover costs. We would love to have you join us.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Karla called the meeting to order. Roma Lee led the opening prayer, and led a devotional based on Philippians 4:12-13. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Correspondence from Esther Finlayson called "*One Life*." Karla presented a receipt from the Food Pantry for 27 pounds of canned fruit. Martha presented the financial summary for 2025; it was moved and seconded to approve the financial report.

Under old business, Karla reported that PW paid for David and Gary's meals at the Christmas Luncheon. It was moved and seconded to reimburse Karla for the meals. 27 pounds of canned fruit were collected and taken to the Food Pantry. Carol will write a thank you note to the Moose for allowing us to have our Christmas Luncheon there, and the wonderful service provided. There will be a Bazaar in November; work sessions will resume to make items to sell. A possibility of having a silent auction during the Bazaar was raised. More discussion will be held at a later time. The idea of creating care packages for service members was tabled for now. Carol will check with Ruth, the Presbytery Mission liaison, to see how PW might be able to support Frontera de Christo.

Under committee reports, Presbyterian Women are entering their third year of the Birthday/Anniversary mission project. They will be needing stamps again. First Friday meals continue; January's meal will be on the 9th, rather than the first Friday, which was the 2nd.

Under new business, election of officers was held. It was moved and seconded to retain the current slate of officers. Those officers will be Karla Wittmier, Moderator; Roma Lee Fuson, Devotional Leader; Martha Orcutt, Treasurer; Carol Dayrider, Recording Secretary, and Karla Wittmier, PW representative to the nominating committee. Lenten Luncheons will begin on February 19th. WinterFest will be held at Glacier Camp on February 6th-8th. David and Jane Arends are trying to get a group together to take to the camp.

The next meeting will be held February 12th, 2026, at 10:30 AM. The hostess will be Phyllis and Carol will lead the opening prayer. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have any articles to contribute to the **March Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than the morning of **Thursday, February 19th**, which should provide enough time for article placement and proof-reading 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**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

Youth Grades 7th-12th have an opportunity to attend the Glacier Bible Camp (Lakeside) WinterFest on the weekend of February 6th-8th. David and Jane Arends will drive and chaperone those students who attend. We will leave Conrad around 2:30PM on Friday, the 6th, and return early afternoon that Sunday the 8th. The great news is that all students can attend free of cost, as we have secured scholarships for everyone. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities and great meals with friends in Christian fellowship. We will stay in the beautiful Spruce Lodge at the camp.

We need all those interested in attending to call or text Jane Arends at (406)450-4163 or email janemariearends@gmail.com, by Monday, February 2nd.



NEWS FROM GLACIER CAMP AND SPRUCE LODGE



WinterFest is back at Glacier Camp, after a two-year break. Join us February 6th-8th at Glacier Camp for outdoor adventures and indoor fun. Scholarships are available. If you are interested, contact David and Jane Arends.

Registration for Summer Camp is LIVE. To register and to see what camps are available, go to glaciercamp.org/summercamp. With new programs and old favorites running through the summer, Glacier Camp remains the best destination to have fun, make friends, and grow in faith.

Looking Ahead: Spring work weeks April 13th-17th (indoor work) May 11th-16th (outdoor work). These work weeks will assist the camp staff in getting the camp facilities ready for the Summer camp season. TIM Talks April 19th-21st.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

The Wednesday Night Adult Discipleship class meets Wednesdays 6-7 in Room #1 next to the church office. Come and share in scripture-based discovery, discussion and spiritual growth with fellow Christians. All are welcome!

GLACIER BIBLE CAMP **WINTERFEST** *At Flathead Lake*

FRIDAY FEB 6-SUNDAY FEB 8

GRADES 7TH-12TH

*sledging! snowshoeing!
indoor fun!*

LODGING AND MEALS ARE INCLUDED

ALL STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FULL OR PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact Jane Arends at janemariearends@gmail.com or 406 450-4163 if interested

*David and Jane Arends will be chaperoning this event



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The First Friday Free Community Meal was held on January 9th, the second Friday, this month only. The team felt that the first Friday was too close to January 1st and still part of family celebrations and vacations. About 80 meals were served, which included 33 takeout orders. Quite a few new faces were observed enjoying the food and the table conversation. That is what this ministry is all about!

Tracfone cards and children's snow boots were delivered to the office in Blue Sky Villa.

After School Sewing Class and the Grow Young Fitness exercise group have begun their usual weekly routines in the New Year.

The team was notified that the 2025 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes arrived safely before Christmas to northern villages in Mexico.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD



Session Highlights - From Meeting Held on Jan. 19

THE CHURCH FINANCES FOR DECEMBER 2025:

Operating Income:	\$15,015.25
Operating Expenses:	<u>(\$10,245.60)</u>
October Balance:	<u>(\$4,769.65)</u>
Year-to-Date Balance:	\$13,306.74

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- February 1 - Communion; Tim Lanham will preach .
- Gary Klette is serving home communion to the Zeilers.
 - February 8 - Gary Klette will preach.
 - February 15 - Liturgy and Lunch; Judy presides.
 - February 18 - Ash Wednesday.
- February 22 - 1st Sunday in Lent; David will preach.

PER CAPITA REMINDER

Per Capita is \$71.00 per person this year.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

Plans are underway to hold a Bazaar in November.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, February 16, 2026 @ 7:00 PM.

PER CAPITA FOR 2026

For those of you who wish to pay your per capita for 2026, the amount remains at \$71.00 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.



PRAYER LIST

Please remember to pray for Family & Friends of Allen Wittmier, Jean Baringer, 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

Ash Wednesday



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

SIGN OF THE CROSS

PALM SUNDAY

ABSTINENCE

MORTALITY

SACRIFICE

PENANCE

FASTING

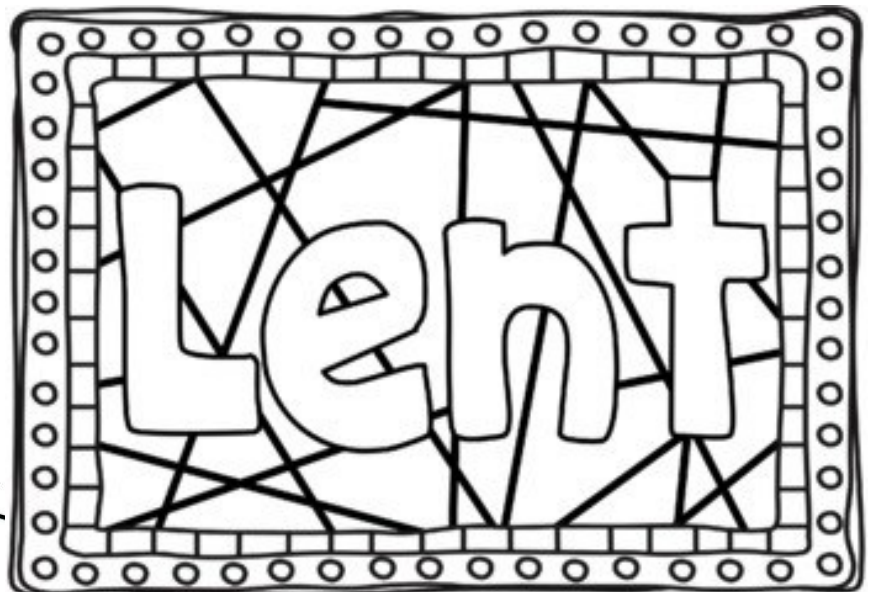
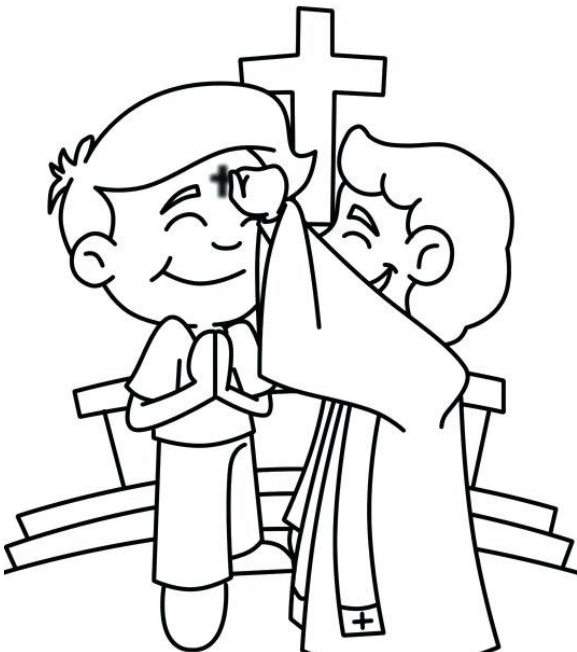
CROSS

ASHES

FORTY


LENT

DUST





February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Worship 11AM 4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion 10 Bible Study</p> 	<p>2 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells</p>	<p>3 10:30AM Worship Committee 12PM Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>4 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program</p>	<p>5 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir</p>	<p>6 10AM Exercise Class 11:30AM to 1PM Free Community Meal</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Worship 11AM 5th Sunday after Epiphany 10 Bible Study</p>	<p>9 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells</p>	<p>10 10AM Finance Committee</p>	<p>11 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program</p>	<p>12 10:30AM PW Meeting 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir</p>	<p>13 10AM Exercise Class</p>	<p>14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</p>
<p>15 Worship 11AM Transfiguration of the Lord 10 Bible Study</p>	<p>16 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells 7PM Session</p>	<p>17 12PM Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>18 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program – Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service</p>	<p>19 12PM Lenten Luncheons - Presbyterian 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir</p> 	<p>20 10AM Exercise Class</p>	<p>21 </p>
<p>22 Worship 11AM 1st Sunday in Lent 10 Bible Study</p> 	<p>23 10AM Exercise Class 6PM Handbells</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 3:30PM Learn 2 Sew Class 6PM Adult Discipleship Class 6:15PM Youth Program</p>	<p>26 12PM Lenten Luncheons - Presbyterian 2PM Bible Study 7PM Choir</p>	<p>27 10AM Exercise Class</p>	<p>28</p>

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

**YOUTH GROUP
UPDATE INSIDE!**

February Birthdays

- 1 Charlotte Meyer
- 2 Dania Oelkers
- 3 John Goodheart
- 10 Tawnya Broesder
- Molly Springer
- 13 Reed Harris
- 16 Michael Kellogg
- 17 Rebecca Meier



- 20 Della Kellogg
- 22 Jackie Miller
- 23 Maureen Orcutt
- 26 Matt Wittmier
- Stacy Aaberg
- 27 DJ Burditt
- 28 Robin Goodheart



February Anniversaries

- 22 Dave & Angela Thomas

