

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2024 Newsletter

www.conradfirstpres.org

conpres@3rivers.net



Sunday Worship @ 11:00AM

Secretarial Office Hours
Monday through Friday
9:00AM to 12:00PM



Sunday Choir @ 10:00AM

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00AM

***1st & 3rd Tuesdays**

Prayer Ministry @ 12:00PM*

Tuesday Handbells @ 1:30PM

***Wednesday Youth Sewing Class
@ 3:30PM***

***Wednesday Night Children
& Youth Group @ 6:00PM***

***Wednesday Night Adult Bible
Study @ 6:00PM***

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

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



DON'T FORGET
TO FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR FREE COMMUNITY MEAL!!

Enjoy a home cooked meal and an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet some new ones on Friday, December 6th, starting at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. The menu will be Swedish or Salisbury Meatballs over noodles, a veggie, and dessert. Everyone is welcome at our tables.



PASTOR'S CORNER



Something good is about to happen.

I read a version of that statement somewhere and it struck me so that I have repeated it to myself daily on getting up and going to bed. I've said it to our prayer warriors and to others at church when I see them looking down and depressed. The person whom I quoted was in a small group of a church and actually he said to them something like, "I've been to several churches around and here is the only place where I get the feeling that something is about to happen."

The first time I offered his comment, "Something is about to happen", to another person, she said, "Yes and it scares me to death." Taken that this was shortly after the Presidential election, I quickly edited my new mantra.

But what better time of the year to believe that something good is about to happen. The season of Advent is a time of anticipation, an edge of the seat time, waiting for something good to happen. I encourage you to catch the excitement of a new baby in town. When you're overwhelmed with anxiety about Christmas shopping, making sure that you have the absolute best present for every child, niece, nephew, uncle, aunt, spouse, teacher, or organizational poohbah, think of 9-months-pregnant Mother Mary riding on a donkey to her betrothed Joseph's town for mandatory census taking. Think of Joseph trudging along beside wondering if any moment his donkey would stumble and throw Mary off its back, and he would lose God's baby boy and Mary both because of Ceasar Augustus' tax census. Oh! The responsibility he carried on his shoulders. Think of the brand-new baby Jesus born in a cold stable, wrapped up in a thin blanket with straw poking his little bottom. When you're feeling overwhelmed by Christmas responsibilities, re-set your priorities and readjust your attitude.

Something really, really super good is about to happen. Keep your eyes on the baby Jesus who grows up to fill our hearts and being with love that never dies. Whose presence never abandons us. Who walk beside us through tragedy, uncertainty or the joy of the best Christmas time you ever in your life experienced.

Something good is about to happen. Amen.



HOME COMMUNION

Deacons are inquiring if anyone would like to receive home communion. Please contact the church, or any of the deacons.

DECEMBER LAY READERS

Dec. 1	Kim Cooney
Dec. 8	Helen Stordahl
Dec. 15	Susan Emrick
Dec. 22	Jane Arends
Dec. 24	David Arends
Dec. 29	Karen Burditt



DEACON'S LIST

Dec. 1	Karen & DJ
Dec. 8	Amy & Nikki
Dec. 15	Jeanne & Arlene
Dec. 22	Karla & Carol
Dec. 24	Volunteers
Dec. 29	Karen & DJ

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS

Dec. 1	Liz and Jake Shorna Family
Dec. 8	Nikki Stevenson Family
Dec. 15	Vanessa Bucklin Family
Dec. 22	Nathan Sanders Family
Dec. 24	Dayrider Family

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women met on Thursday, November 14th at 10:30 AM with 10 members present. The meeting was opened with prayer by Martha. Roma Lee led a very time-appropriate devotional titled "A Kingdom Divided" by Dr. John Koessler in the Journal of Practical Theology. The article speaks of the governing authorities that are part of

God's plan and necessary for human society to function in our troubled world, but that many leaders fall short of God's ideal by abusing their power or governing by values that do not reflect biblical teaching. A note from the Red Cross was read thanking PW for the sandwiches and cookies provided at the October 10th blood drawing.

Barb reported on three possible places/menus to hold our December meeting/Christmas meal. Choices were the Moose, Branding Iron and Coaches Corner. After a group discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to have our December 12th meal at the Moose at 1:00 PM. The three menu choices are scampi (\$15), turkey (\$10) and ham (\$10). The Moose has a deadline for a count of those attending before December 2nd. Signup sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

As discussed at last month's meeting, the Bazaar/Luncheon will be held in the Fall of 2025, giving members more time to prepare and plan. Members were asked last month to bring their ideas for themes and suggestions for projects to the November meeting. Members will continue to share ideas in the future meetings. Ideas presented by Karla today were:

1. "Glass in the Garden" vintage glassware/ tinware for outdoor ornaments.
2. Bible Dolls, a resurrected project from 20 years ago.
3. Wooden Nativity figures for children/wooden Noah's Ark figures/boat. Karla has patterns for these and many other patterns that will work for "special focus items".

Barb presented an interesting idea of a layered cloth Star with nativity buttons sewn on it.

We are all encouraged to bring our ideas to share each month.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TRUNK OR TREAT

On Halloween night and with the expert help of D.J. Burditt and Wade Clarke handing out the bags of treats, a total of 270 bags of goodies plus 2 extra large bags of candy, generously donated, were given out to the children of Conrad and surrounding area. The weather cooperated and Main Street was filled with happy goblins and cheerful parents. The Outreach Team wishes to thank our church members and church friends for their support in making First Presbyterian's part in the community event possible and successful.

AFTER SCHOOL SEWING CLASS

The students have finished their table toppers and have started a quick gingerbread man project before finishing up with a potholder before school is out for the holidays.

FIRST FRIDAY COMMUNITY MEAL

The layered turkey dinner on November 1st was well advertised and well attended. We served over 100 meals; including the takeouts. Seeing new faces and our "regulars" enjoying the food and the visiting makes the hard work rewarding.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Tuesday, November 19th, the 30 filled shoeboxes will be delivered to the distribution site in Great Falls. It will be around the first of the year when we hear where the boxes were sent. Almost all the boxes were sponsored by individuals in our congregation and the team is most grateful for the generous support on this project. We still have a few boxes left if anyone is interested in sponsoring one. FPC is home to such an amazing and sharing congregation. We are truly blessed in this Outreach endeavor.

FOOD PANTRY

The goal of 200 cans of green beans for the Food Pantry's, Thanksgiving baskets has been met and there has been a great deal of food and personal product donations these past two months. Thank you, congregation, for answering the call to serve those less fortunate.

CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

Our congregation was honored on Sunday, November 17th, to have Kiersta Sullivan, the Front Range CASA Director, provide an informative talk on how the program works with the court system and CASA volunteers in representing abused children in Pondera, Teton, Toole and Glacier counties. The FPC outreach provides school supplies/backpacks and Easter baskets each year for the children involved in the program, as well as other needs that may arise such as mittens, gloves and flip flops.

We have had a busy year and want to thank our congregation and the Session for their generosity in supporting the outreach efforts in our church. May God bless each and everyone of you.

***Karen Burditt
Martha Orcutt
Karla Wittmier***

***Pat Keil
Della Kellogg
Arlene Newmiller***



WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00 AM. The Church School Children and Youth Group will be joining the Adult Choir to sing two special songs. Each class will share a sketch or two and the Advent Candle will be lit. You don't want to miss it! Please text Jane Arends 406-450-4163 if your child is unable to participate or if you have any questions. Thank you!



FOOD PANTRY - On October 30th, the youth group from the First Presbyterian Church stopped by the food pantry to donate and stock the shelves with 130lbs of food and supplies. This is one of the service projects we are happy to participate in each year. Many thanks to Ernie and Jeanne Stordahl for their willingness to help after hours.



PRAYER LIST



Please remember to pray for Wendy Wagner, Dave Perry, Andy Vandolah, Mary Brooks, Friends & Family of Jeff Sutherland, Friends & Family of Jeanne Sneed, Carol DayRider, Ward Orcutt, John & Vicki Buckhouse, Cecil & Alice Benjamin, Kristine Ries Prewett, Helen Stordahl, Rosie Johns, Opal Ayers, 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.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The 2025 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 2025 and return your estimate of giving card as soon as possible. Thank you!

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.



ONGOING FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



Laundry Soap
House/Kitchen/Bath Cleaning Products
Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Feminine Products (pads & tampons)
Newborn Diapers
Diapers size 1



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

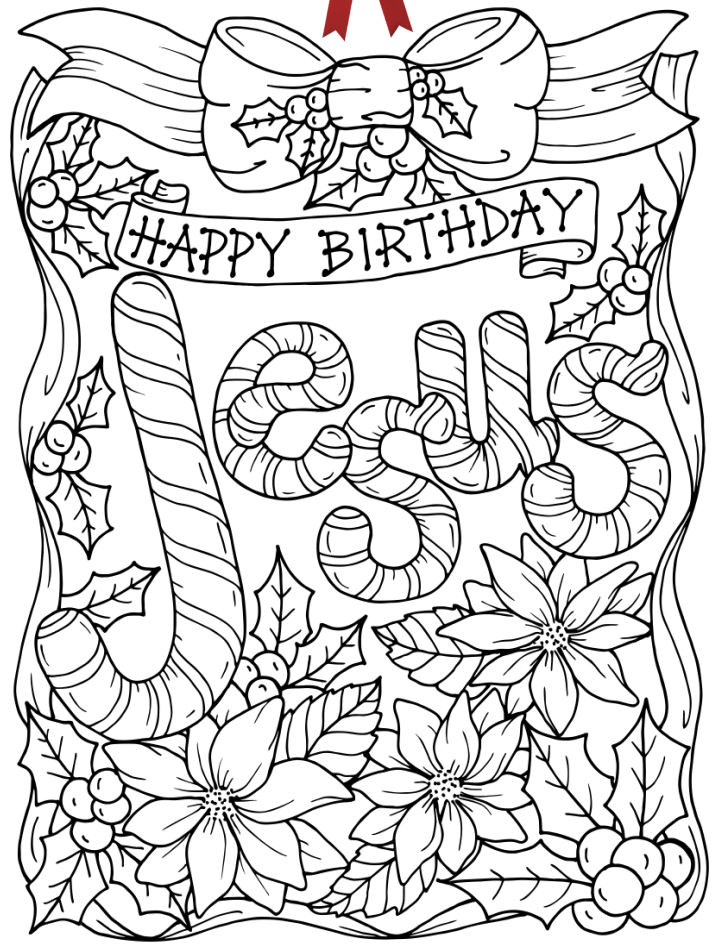
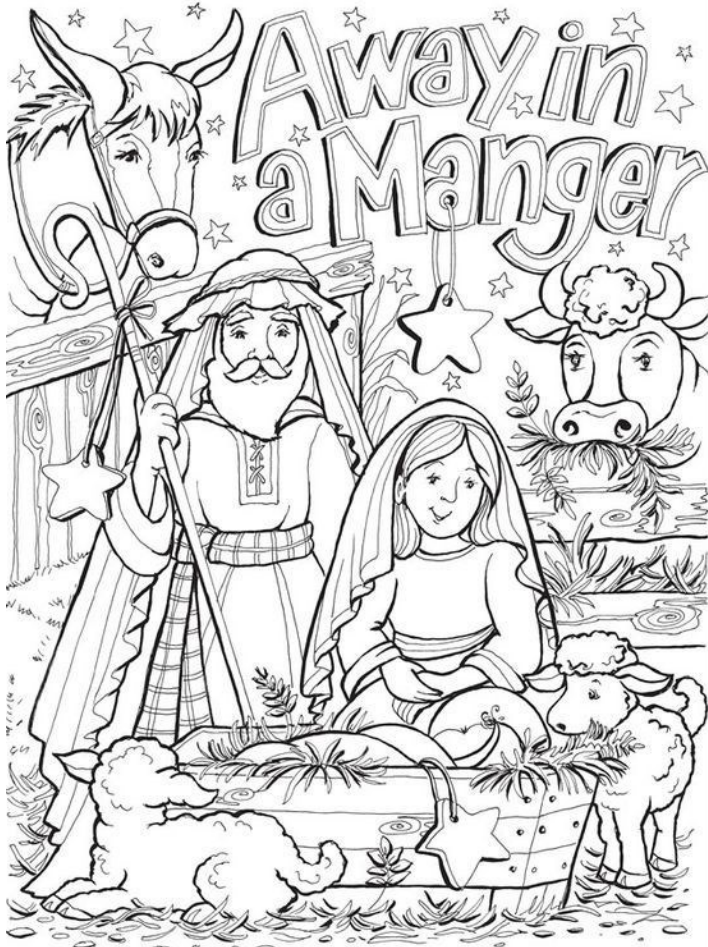
If you have any articles to contribute to the **January 2025 Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than **Thursday, December 19th**. This should provide enough time for article placement and proofreading. The newsletter will be printed and mailed out the following Monday, December 23rd, providing enough time for the newsletter to be delivered with any 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



Kid's Corner



KID'S CORNER



OH HOLY NIGHT

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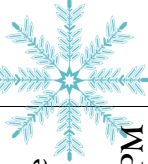

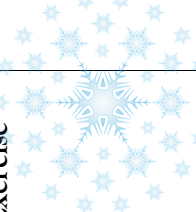


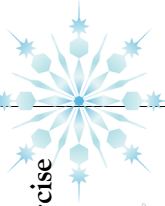

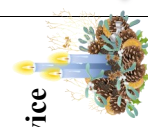






ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



December 2024

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

First Presbyterian Church
123 Fourth Avenue SW
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
 &
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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
- Dylan Kellogg
- Wishing Carol Miller and joy!*
- 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

