

CHUCK WAGON MEALS NEEDED

We are in need of restocking the chuck wagon meals in the freezer. If you are able to provide a meal please label it and place it in the small freezer for the Deacons to deliver. Labels and markers are located in the top left drawer of the serving counter. Thank you for helping!

CHOIR TIME CHANGE

For this choir season (September 2018-May 2019), the choir will meet on Sunday mornings in the choir room at 8:30 a. m., learn the anthem for that Sunday's worship, and then proceed upstairs and share our message in music offering. This time change is to allow those in choir to attend the year-long Bible study being presented from 11:00-noon each Sunday after worship. Hopefully this 1/2 hour earlier than usual will not prevent anyone from sharing their time and talent as we worship each Sunday morning.

“Sing”cerely, Jonene

ADULT BIBLE STUDY STARTING SEPTEMBER 9

If you have never participated in adult Sunday School before, now is the time to start. Beginning September 9th, I will be leading a year-long class on reading and understanding the Bible. Whether you are a novice, or an old hand at Bible study, this class will help you to recognize and understand the many different types of literature in the Bible. It will help you to appreciate how the larger themes of the Bible relate to each other...and quite simply...it will help you to understand things that you may have previously thought to be outdated or too complex. Each class will have an easily understood 30-minute video lecture from one of the most notable Biblical scholars of our day, and a discussion period.

I know this is a lot to ask, but I would genuinely like to see 100% participation from our members for this class. I have never asked this of any of you before, but I am that convinced that each of you, and our congregation will grow significantly if we commit to this. Please visit with me about this if you have any questions.

~ Pat Montgomery

SAVE THE DATE September 28-30

CONGREGATIONAL WIDE CAMP RETREAT

Where: Buffalo Bill State Park - Trout Creek Group Campsite for RVs & Campers **9 electric hookups already reserved.** For non-campers call River Bend Cabins for reservations: 307-899-2719, 602-510-2402 (www.riverbendcabinscody.com)

We will have a variety of activities including fishing, hiking, scavenger hunt, Bible study, campfire and picnic. More details to come.

Bring: Lawn chairs, hiking clothes/shoes, snacks, flashlights, fishing equipment (if you fish!) and picnic supplies.

SERMONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

A friendly reminder that almost all past and present sermons are available to listen to on the church's website, along with bulletins. It's a great way to share the meaning-filled messages of Sunday worship with friends and family from afar, or to relisten to a message that touched your heart. The website is www.codyfirstpresbyterian.org.

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad that you are here this morning. Please sign and pass the attendance pad at the end of the pew. We would especially appreciate having your name, address, and phone number, because we would like to have a chance to thank you for being with us. We invite you to join us for coffee after the service.

Worshipping with children: While children are always welcome in worship, we are happy to offer a nursery, staffed by trained and loving caregivers. The nursery is located in the east wing of the church, about halfway down the hall. Please speak with an usher if you would like assistance finding the nursery.

Listening Devices: If you need an assisted listening device, please ask one of the ushers and they will be happy to help you.

2018 ELDERS

Building & Grounds	Curt Scott (19)
Stewardship, Budget & Personnel	Ole Sondeno (18) Peggy Farman (19)
Clerk of Session	Cathy Aardema
Worship	Jonene Geile (20) Debbie Montgomery (20)
Congregational Life and Education	Jack Atkins (18) Patty Brus (19) Connie Fisher (20) Mary Phillips (20) Vieune Revolinski (18)
Evangelism and Mission	Sarah Thomas (18) Roy Holm (19)

2018 BOARD OF DEACONS

Amy Eckert (18), Moderator	Judy Bates (19)
Hugh Currah (18)	Karen Snyder (20)
Mary McDonald (18)	Chris Beers (20)
Ginny Donnelly (19)	Jan Bensink (20)
Quincy Sondeno (19)	

First Presbyterian Church, Cody Wyoming

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am

Office: 307-587-2647

fpcc@wavecom.net | codyfirstpresbyterian.org

2025 23rd Street Cody, Wyoming

Find us on Facebook!  First Presbyterian Church of Cody



MATURING IN CHRIST
come grow with us

First Presbyterian Church, Cody Wyoming

August 26, 2018
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Please print your name on the attendance pad
and pass it down your row.

Please turn off cell phones

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken” (Hymnal #469)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the time for worship and praise!

This is a day for song and celebration!

God calls us away from our toil.

God invites us to examine our life and times.

God wills our happiness and enjoyment of life.

God gives each of us important work to do.

God wants our work to give us pleasure.

Our witness to God's glory brings fulfillment.

Let us celebrate the past and anticipate the future.

Let us rejoice that God is present with us now.

There is a season for every matter under heaven.

This is a time to heal and build up.

“Be Unto Your Name” (Praise Book #7)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal #579)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.*

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURES

Ecclesiastes Page 1034

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE “The Problem with Having it All”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

“Our God to Whom We Turn” (Hymnal #278)

POSTLUDE

USHERS: Rod and Kay Soulek
MUSIC ACCOMPANIST: Tim Schoessler
WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonene Geile and Wendy Corr
Pastor Pat Montgomery

ECCLESIASTES

Unlike the animals, who seem quite content to simply be themselves, we humans are always looking for ways to be more than or other than what we find ourselves to be. We explore the countryside for excitement, search our souls for meaning, shop the world for pleasure. We try this. Then we try that. The usual fields of endeavor are money, sex, power, adventure, and knowledge.

Everything we try is so promising at first! But nothing ever seems to amount to very much. We intensify our efforts - but the harder we work at it, the less we get out of it. Some people give up early and settle for a humdrum life. Others never seem to learn, and so they flail away through a lifetime, becoming less and less human by the year, until by the time they die there is hardly enough humanity left to compose a corpse.

Ecclesiastes is a famous – maybe the world’s most famous – witness to this experience of futility. The acerbic wit catches our attention. The stark honesty compels notice. And people do notice - oh, how they notice! Nonreligious and religious alike notice. Unbelievers and believers notice. More than a few of them are surprised to find this kind of thing in the Bible.

But it is most emphatically and necessarily in the Bible in order to call a halt to our various and futile attempts to make something of our lives, so that we can give our full attention to God – who God is and what he does to make something of us. Ecclesiastes actually doesn’t say that much about God; the author leaves that to the other sixty-five books of the Bible. His task is to expose our total incapacity to find the meaning and completion of our lives on our own.

It is our propensity to go off on our own, trying to be human by our own devices and desires, that makes Ecclesiastes necessary reading. Ecclesiastes sweeps our souls clean of all “lifestyle” spiritualites so that we can be ready for God’s visitation revealed in Jesus Christ. Ecclesiastes is a John-the-Baptist kind of book. It functions not as a meal but as a bath. It is not nourishment; it is cleansing. It is repentance. It is purging. We read Ecclesiastes to get scrubbed clean from illusion and sentiment, from ideas that are idolatrous and feelings that cloy. It is an exposé and rejection of every arrogant and ignorant expectation that we can live our lives by ourselves on our own terms.

Ecclesiastes challenges the naive optimism that sets a goal that appeals to us and then goes after it with gusto, expecting the result to be a good life life. The author’s cool skepticism, a refreshing negation to the lush and seductive suggestions swirling around us, promising everything but delivering nothing, clears the air. And once the air is cleared, we are ready for reality – for God.

[“Ecclesiastes” is a Greek word that is usually translated “the preacher” or “the Teacher.” Because of the experiential stance of the writing in this book, giving voice to what is so basic among men and women throughout history I have translated it “the Quester.”]

~ Eugene H. Petterson

PLEASE INCLUDE THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW IN YOUR PRAYERS:

(Please notify us if specific prayer concerns need to be extended beyond two weeks)

Carolyn Kearns
Jim and Tina Roberts
Rene Wardell
Joe Seufferer
The Scott Clow Family

Dennis Walker
Brent Wardell
Craig Leach

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 2

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN September 9th

Classes will begin at 11:00 am.

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH CLASS | “All Together Now” Pre-K through 5th**

Please join us for an *all in one* classroom this fall with a focus on Exodus. We will joyfully learn about God’s message and each other. We will also grow in our relationship with Jesus and each other. Taught by Stacey Skoric and Karen Anderson with the help of other volunteers.

- **ADULT, SENIOR HIGH, and MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CLASS**

“A Bible Survey, Reading Bible Literature from Genesis to Revelation” led by Pastor Pat.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES BEGIN September 12th

- **Dinner:** Please join us for dinner beginning at 5:30 pm. (If you know you will be running late from practice or work you can phone the office *before 3:00 pm* and ask to have a plate set aside for you.)

Classes will begin at 6:00 pm.

- **Youth class:** for grades 1 through 5 curriculum “13 Most Important Bible Lessons for Kids about God” taught by Kathy Reed.

- **Youth Group:** Middle School and High School.

- **Adult:** A Historical/Archeological Survey of Israel led by Pastor Pat.