



# *First Presbyterian Church*

123 FOURTH AVENUE S.W.

CONRAD, MT 59425

(406) 278-3043

September 2021

Dear Church Family,

It's a New Year and a New Program and we're excited to invite the Adults of our Church Family to join the Youth on Wednesday Nights starting September 22, 2021.

**Our new Wednesday Night Program will start with Open Seating Dinner from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

Before we divide up into Age-appropriate Bible Lessons we'll have a short worship time.

**Our goal is to finish the evening by 7:15 PM**

We are excited for our Youth and Adults to get acquainted in a Family Dinner setting.

**Our first night is September 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be an evening of getting acquainted with our new format, dinner, followed with worship and an introduction to your Bible Lesson.**

**Also, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have the drawing for the two winners of our Raffle that is being held to raise funds to pay for the new flooring in the education building.**

The regular scheduled program will start at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Family Night each Wednesday at the Church.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call:

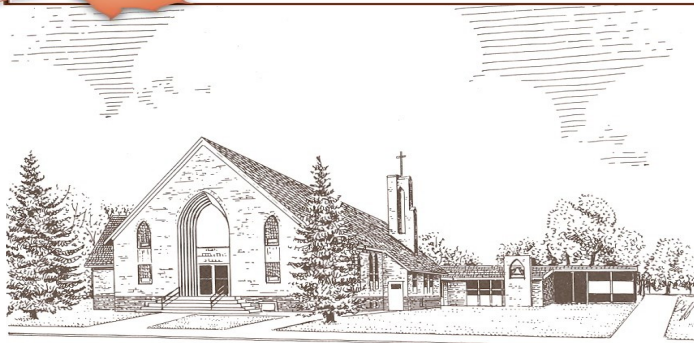
Marla Bruner @ 406-271-5713  
Director

Pastor Andy @ 406-278-3043  
Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Conrad

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

123 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Conrad, MT 59425  
(406) 278-3043

September 2021 Newsletter  
[www.conradfirstpres.org](http://www.conradfirstpres.org)  
[conpres@3rivers.net](mailto:conpres@3rivers.net)



Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM  
Presbyterian Women Workshop Wednesdays  
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM



Office Hours are Monday through Friday  
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

## WORSHIP NEWS

Worship service will be at 11:00 AM, beginning Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.



## OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day, but Office Hours, starting September 13<sup>th</sup>, will resume back to Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM until Summer of 2022.

## GLORIOSO RINGERS

Due to the rise in COVID cases again we will revisit our first rehearsal at a later date. With the will of God we will be meeting before very long.

Another monkey wrench is that I am having my second knee replacement August 19<sup>th</sup> so I will need some recovery time. I hope all of you are well and I look forward to meeting in the not too distant future.



Peace to all of you,  
Jan Carter

## CHOIR POSTPONED DUE TO UPTICK IN COVID

I had hoped to have the choir singing for Sunday services beginning in September. I consulted with the medical community about this possibility, and the consensus was that it would be better to wait until COVID numbers in the community are much lower. I brought this information to the August Session, and we agreed to wait. I will bring this question to the Session every month until we get the OK.



In the meantime, Jan, Carol, and I, along with other choir members will continue to lead the hymns and occasionally provide special music. If you are vaccinated and are interested in joining the choir when we do start up again, please either text or call me at 503-387-5298, or you can give your information to Wendi at the church, and she'll pass it along to me.

Yours in Christ,  
Susan Emrick

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for October's newsletter is Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you have any articles or information you would like to submit, please send them either by email to [conpres@3rivers.net](mailto:conpres@3rivers.net) or mail to:

First Presbyterian Church  
123 4th Ave SW  
Conrad, MT 59425





## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I write this before the last Sunday of August. As we enter September, we'll begin reading the Epistle of James as one of our readings in worship.

This letter was written by the brother of Jesus probably around the mid-40s A.D., so shortly after Jesus' crucifixion, rising, and ascension. James is unlike many books of the New Testament in that it contains a fair amount of proverbs as its literary genre. It challenges us to live according to God's intentions.

With reformers such as Martin Luther, it has a challenging place. Luther wrote, "St. James' epistle is really an epistle of straw, compared to these others, for it has nothing of the nature of the Gospel about it." He wrote elsewhere that this letter offers much trouble as the Roman Catholics embraced it as a primary authority and ignore many other parts of the New Testament.

This was written in a time when reformers accused the Roman Catholic Church of expressing a works-based Gospel — that it is our works that earn our place in heaven. The reformers generally found more theological meat in Paul's letters and tended to emphasize passages such as Ephesians 2:8-9 (*NRSV*): "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast." Here Paul establishes with little question that it is God's grace and free gift of faith that enable us for salvation — not what we do of our own will.

So how do we reconcile these perspectives for James states "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? **Can faith save you?** If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead (James 2:14-17, *NRSV*)."

Paul does in his letters discuss works that should be exhibited by a Christian. In the Reformed Faith, we accept both perspectives. We are most surely saved by grace through faith and NOT by works. Experiencing this grace and having this faith and trust in God leads us to perform good works in thankfulness to God. Works are a response to God's grace and free gift of faith. As we learn of God's incredible gift to each of us, the work of Jesus on the cross, and God's plan to re-new this world into a perfect world, we join God in his work. We love God and neighbor, we share God's good news with people throughout the world, we gather together as a fellowship in this work and to worship God regularly. If we don't see these and other qualities as identified in scripture, we are left wondering whether we are really saved at all. We find a faith that is dead, unproductive, essentially non-existent. This is particularly obvious when we consider that faith is not only intellectual acceptance but, also, trust — trust that God's ways and expectations are right and just — even when they conflict with our desires and conclusions.

You'll find other mentions of our Wednesday evening program this fall beginning at 6pm with a meal, with worship, and with our discipleship program. I invite our adults to join us, which is different from previous years. We're adding an adult discipleship program so that members and friends of all ages can grow in Christ and be transformed for this is God's call to even one of us. For some of our youth and for our adults, we'll be using the Alpha Course, which has been offered across the world and in many denominations to teach the basics of the Christian faith. My hope is that it will fill in gaps in your own understanding and encourage your faith significantly as it did for me several years ago as I was invited to help lead it in a Roman Catholic student center.

Please come, enjoy a meal and fellowship, worship God, and learn about becoming modern disciples of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAM**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and All Adults**

**NEW YEAR ~ NEW PROGRAM**

**This year we are inviting the Youth AND the Adults  
to get to know each other**

**What better way – Sharing a meal together**

**Our Open Seating dinner will be from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

**(Don't worry we'll have plenty to eat for those sport  
enthusiasts when they get out of practice)  
(Just come down stairs and there will be a plate of food  
and a chair waiting just for you!)**

Following dinner, we will all share in a short time of worship  
And then divide up into age-appropriate Bible Lessons

Parents – Please come and share dinner with your children.  
We welcome you to stay for the Adult Bible Lesson but also  
Know the demanding lifestyle of working parents  
And understand if you choose to leave.

Our goal is to finish the evening by 7:15 PM

**We are looking forward to seeing all the Youth & their parents  
and all the Adults of our Church Family  
Joining together on Wednesday evenings**

~ ~ ~

**Our first night will be September 22, 2021**

~ ~ ~ ~

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call  
Marla Bruner @ 406-271-5713  
Or Pastor Andy @ 406-278-3043



## FALL PROGRAMS START UP

WE'RE BAAACK!!!!!!!

After a year off our Wednesday Night Church School, Youth, and Adult groups are ready to resume. There will be a kick-off program on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM to introduce the programs. A meal will be served. The new programs will be introduced to those in attendance. The winners of the raffle will be drawn, and registration forms will be available to fill out. There will be activities and games for everyone. It will be important for families to attend this introductory program, as there are some changes in store, and it is important that you learn about those changes.

On Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the program will begin in earnest. Families with children ages 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade will see little change to Wednesday Night Church School. The program will run from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Carol Dayrider will be teaching the preschool and kindergarten students. Nathan Sanders will be teaching the first through fourth grades. The children will be served a snack; there will be a Bible Lesson with appropriate activity, and a short music time, led by Carol. If you are interested in providing snacks for an evening, there will be a sign-up sheet by the nursery door. Parents, you are invited to stay for dinner and Adult Bible time when you drop your children off.

If you have any questions, the best thing to do is attend the kick-off program on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you know of any young people who might be excited to participate in the Church School program, feel free to call the office and leave their name and address so that a welcome letter can be sent to them.



## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

As we get ready for our Fall Christian Education offering, we're seeking donations of 2 flatscreen TVs of 32" or greater, 2 DVD players, and 2 sets of computer speakers. The TVs should be the newer LCD style TV (no Cathode Ray Tubes/CRTs), and the speakers should connect with a standard headphone jack. If you have one of these items sitting around, please contact the church if you'd be willing to part with it.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUMMER ACTIVITIES



The Christian Education Committee managed to keep busy during the summer months. In order to bolster the funds needed to purchase the carpet for the Education Building, it was decided to sell Tacos-in-a-Bag during

Whoop-Up Days. We set up in front of Keil Law Offices and, with a plethora of help, sold out of the tacos by 1:00 PM. The carpet has been laid in the Education Building, and it looks terrific. If you haven't seen it already, stop by and take a peek.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, we held a Summer Round-up at the park in Conrad. Hamburgers and hotdogs were served, along with some delicious contributions from those who attended. There were approximately 40 people in attendance. The weather was pretty near perfect (except for some wind) and it turned out to be a perfect opportunity for members to reconnect, and the evening was spent in fellowship and making up for time lost during the pandemic.



The week of June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Presbyterian Church and Pondera Valley Lutheran Church co-sponsored Vacation Bible School at the Presbyterian Church. The day camp was staffed by counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp and ran from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Due to restrictions from FLBC, we were only allowed to have 30 participants; we had 15 young people at the Presbyterian Church. Our preschool class was held at Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. It went from Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and also had about 15 participants. On Friday, the children presented a short program, and we concluded the week with a picnic on the lawn.

Six of our youth signed up to attend Glacier Camp this past summer. Three of the young people were able to attend the camps that they had signed up for. Unfortunately, there was an incident with a Covid-19 exposure. This incident made it necessary for camp leadership to make the painful decision to cancel the last two weeks of camp; much to everyone's disappointment this meant that the other three campers would not be able to attend the camps they had signed up for.

# Presbyterian Women Page

Presbyterian Women concluded their spring program with a salad potluck on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During the business meeting, it was decided to make a donation to the Camp Scholarship Fund. First Presbyterian Church had 6 young people signed up for Glacier Camp. It was also decided that PW would hold a Bazaar/Luncheon on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, if circumstances allow. To prepare for the Bazaar, the women have been holding work meetings. These meetings occur every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Everyone is invited to come. Bring a project to work on or just come for the fellowship. On Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, the PW held an ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall. Approximately 13 people attended. Our first meeting for the fall will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

## BAZAAR & LUNCHEON

**Calling all crafters, sewists, wood workers, quilters, candy and cookie makers and cake, bread, pie, and cinnamon roll bakers! Men, you are included, too.**



The Presbyterian Women are planning a Bazaar and Luncheon on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will reopen the Bazaar from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM for those who were unable to attend in the afternoon.

Proceeds from this event will help pay for camperships for our youth attending Glacier Camp, kitchen supplies, programs within the church and other projects as designated by the PW.

Several women have been getting together every Wednesday morning from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM to work on projects. Please come join us and work on a craft or to have a cup of coffee and enjoy some fellowship. All are most welcome.

Remember the Bazaar is only 1 1/2 months away so it's time to get those projects done at home or on Wednesday mornings. We will continue working on projects through the month of September and then will start pricing in October when we will need several to help. We will be needing many

volunteers, men, and women, as we set up for the Bazaar and Luncheon. Sign-up sheets will be put up as the time gets closer.

There will be two raffle baskets this year. If you have any ideas for themes please contact Karen Burditt, 271-5295 asap. We will do one for the men and one for the ladies or families. We are looking for new items to fill the baskets.

There is some jewelry left from 2019 but all other items should be new. There will be more information in the October newsletter so be watching for that or you may call Helen Stordahl, 278-3830 with questions about the craft day, Karen with questions about the Bazaar or Martha Orcutt, 868-1890 with questions about the Luncheon. We will be having a pie baking day at the church in October.

We would love to have all of you help in whatever ways you can. You are so appreciated. Thank you.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Presbyterian Women's Retreat was held at Glacier Camp and Conference Center's Spruce Lodge August 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Four women from our church attended: Kim Cooney, Carol Dayrider, Roma Lee Fuson, and Marie Ahmed. The retreat began at 1:00 PM with registration. Over the next day and a half Rev. Tim Lanham, Glacier Camp director, presented a study entitled "*Fierce, Flawed, and Forgiveness: Women Used by the Lord.*" This study concentrated on four women named in the genealogy presented in Matthew 1:1-17: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, and how their stories connect with the story of the Messiah. In between sessions, there was plenty of time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Friday evening a book study on the book "*Lessons Learned From a Sheepdog*" was presented. On Saturday, there was the business meeting and a session of "*Chair Yoga.*" As usual, the camp offered beautiful scenery and, despite the smoky skies, the lake and camp was a peaceful place to pause and reflect on the glory of the Lord's creation. We were treated to delicious food prepared for us by Lori and Megan Newbury. Each morning we were treated to amazing, blood-red sunrises, again thanks to the smoky skies, and its reflection off of the lake waters was spectacular. Sunday morning the retreat concluded with a worship service and communion led by Rev. Tim. Goodbyes were said and everyone returned home to their respective churches, having been renewed and enriched by the two days spent at the camp. Next year's retreat has already been scheduled and will occur the second week of August, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## PLEASE

Stop in the Education Building and admire the new flooring in the hallways.

Then PLEASE buy a raffle ticket to help pay for it.

### First Presbyterian Church "What's to Eat" Raffle

Tickets  
\$5 Each or  
5 for \$20

Includes: 2 Drawings

*\*\$635 worth of Food Certificates*

*\*\$100 Conrad Chamber Gift Certificate*



Wednesday Church  
School and Youth  
Group



*Proceeds will go to pay for new flooring in the Church School Hallways.*

*Drawing will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.*

*You do not have to be present to win!*

Call Marla Bruner @ 406-271-5713

OR

Buy a ticket at Coffee Hour from Carol DayRider or Marla Bruner

We thank you in advance for buying a Ticket

And we say a Big Thank You to all those who have already made generous donations.

### SEPTEMBER LAY READERS

### DEACON'S LIST



Sept. 5	Martha Orcutt
Sept. 12	Bella & Carol Dayrider
Sept. 19	Barb Perry
Sept. 26	Carol Bain



Sept. 5	Della & Elsie
Sept. 12	Jeanne & Bonnie
Sept. 19	Dale & Amy
Sept. 26	Karla & Carol



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD



## Session Highlights - August 2021

1. The Wednesday Evening Prayer group completed the book *Kneeling with Giants* and concluded the program with a discussion with the author Gary Hansen via Zoom.
2. Everyone has enjoyed spending time together at Coffee Hour following worship now that it's being held in the Fellowship Hall.
3. Pastor Smothers has moved into the Tonra Apartments after his rental was sold.
4. Pastor Smothers' will take study leave October 11<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>.
5. Besides the glass in the door on the west side of the church being broke, there have been a couple other acts of mischief reported. The Conrad Police Dept has been by to visit about these incidents and other reports of vandalism in the community. After hearing these reports, the Session requested the Technology and Property Committee to investigate the cost of installing security cameras on the church building.

### The Church Finances:

#### July 2021:

<b>Operating Income:</b>	<b>\$ 10,142</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 10,056</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 86</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 3,920</b>

### The Finance Committee reports:

1. The Committee reported that more donations have been received to cover the cost of the new carpet in the hallway of the education building.
2. The Session named Greg Kellogg and Patricia Keil authorized traders for the church's funds held in the Presbyterian Foundation New Covenant Funds.
3. The Session made a recommendation to the Pastor Nominating Committee setting a minimum and maximum effective salary for a new called pastor.

### The Worship Committee reports:

1. Communion will be served Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. The Session suggested that due to the rise in COVID cases in Pondera County the choir not start practicing and singing during worship during the month of September.
3. September 5<sup>th</sup> - Worship begins at 11:00 AM.

### The Christian Education Committee reports:

1. It was the consensus of the Session to dissolve the Christian Education Committee. Carol DayRider was named Superintendent of the Wednesday Church School and Marla Bruner the Director of the Wednesday Youth and Adult Education program. They gave these two individuals the authority to select teachers, curriculum and set schedules.

### The Membership Committee reports:

1. Signing up to serve Coffee Hour seems to be working quite well so the Committee will continue with that format through the rest of the year.

### The Pastor Nominating Committee reports:










1. They have been setting up Zoom meetings with candidates.

**The next Session meeting will be Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7:00 PM.**





# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop	2	3	4
5 Worship 11:00 AM 15th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	6 OFFICE CLOSED 	7	8 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop 2:00 PM Nominating Committee	9 10:30 AM PW Meeting 	10	11
12 Worship 11:00 AM 16th Sunday after Pentecost	13 11:30 AM Worship Committee 2:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	14 9:30 AM Finance Meeting 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	15 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop	16	17	18 
19 Worship 11:00 AM 17th Sunday after Pentecost Communion 	20 7:00 PM Session	21	22 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop	23 	24	25
26 Worship 11:00 AM 18th Sunday after Pentecost	27 	28 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	29 9:00 AM PW Bazaar Workshop	30		

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**123 Fourth Avenue SW**  
**Conrad, MT 59425-2302**  
**[www.conradfirstpres.org](http://www.conradfirstpres.org)**  
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**406-278-3043**

### *September Birthdays*

3 Val Kellogg

5 Jesse Kallstrom

6 **LABOR DAY**

Peggy Floerchinger

Barbara Perry

7 Stephanie Keil

Bridger Russell

8 Bobbi Yeager

9 Kay Severtson

Lourdes Russell



11 Clifford Paulsen

14 Zoe Yeager

17 Douglas Banka

18 Pearl Severtson

George Mellinger

20 Ron Prewett

Collette Stinar

Allison Broesder

26 Greg Kellogg

Bill McFarland

27 David Arends

29 Margaret Rigby



### *September Anniversaries*

1 Ron & Juanita Prewett

12 Don & Amy Zimbelman

25 Robert & Betty Nelson

26 David & Jane Brown



***Was your birthday or anniversary not on the church list? Please contact the office, so your information can be inserted in future Newsletters!***