



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

123 Fourth Avenue SW

CONRAD, MT 59425

(406) 278-3043

www.conradfirstpres.org

April 2020

NEWSLETTER

FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

During this challenging time dealing with the COVID-19 virus outbreak, our church's financial obligations must still be met. While the church is closed to Sunday worship, there are several ways that you can continue your giving to the church. You may mail your checks to the church, drop your check off at the church office, place in the mail slot near the outside door of the church office, or payments may be made directly to the church with online banking through your banking institution. Thanks to all the faithful givers that have sent or dropped off checks to the church.

Greg Kellogg, Treasurer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHURCH SCHOOL

As you no doubt know by now, Church School has been suspended for the year, due to the health emergency that exists in our country at this time. It is sad to end the year so abruptly and I will miss those of my students that are moving up into the Logos program next year. I truly want to thank the staff for working so hard this year: Wendi Dayrider, Abby Hutton, and Nathan Sanders. I would like to say an extra thank you to Nathan for using his musical talents to enhance the program. We owe a great thanks to the Presbyterian Women for providing funds for our snack program. I would also like to thank the parents who provided snacks, and for giving us the opportunity to work with your children each Wednesday.

Looking ahead to summer, there are currently plans in the work for Vacation Bible School. The dates currently set aside for the VBS program are June 29th through July 3rd. It will be held in conjunction with the Pondera Valley Lutheran Church and will be held at the First Presbyterian Church. In the ever changing situation, this may change, and we will let you know of any changes.

With regards to Summer Camp and Glacier Camp and Conference Center, I believe that they are still planning for Camp. Be sure and check the camp website, glaciercamp.org, for any changes and updates. Remember, camp scholarships are available through the church and camp for those who may need one.

I send you all peace and well wishes during our time apart. Please, stay safe and healthy, and we will see you in the fall.

With Love in Christ
Carol Day Rider



From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

May God's blessing and protection be upon you!

I first want to thank you for a wonderful first month serving with you here in Conrad at First Presbyterian Church. I've been blessed by a number of you in various ways including through help in unloading upon arrival, being oriented to Conrad and places beyond, serving with you in various ways, and being guided through your comments and encouragement. Thank you!

I've joked with a couple of you in saying that I worry I've scared the people of Conrad. I arrived and about 2 weeks later, the entire city seems to be locking themselves in their homes. Actually, I think it's even state-wide, but I haven't made it out of Conrad recently.

We live in extraordinary times. I had the blessing of worshipping with you twice before we had to move worship online due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping the world and is now in at least two bordering counties of Montana. I've generally had positive feedback regarding the online services and plan to continue those. If you haven't accessed these services, please do so on the church website: <https://www.conradfirstpres.org>. If you struggle to access them, please let me know. I want to provide you an effective way of worshipping God in this unusual time.

I know some of you do not have the ability to join us over the internet, and I've been working on a solution. I've been able to setup a conference call system with which I will play the recording to those who join on Sundays from 11:30 am. It will play announcements, the Gospel reading, and the sermon before disconnecting. You may access this from your regular phone by dialing 978-990-5110. When requested for the access code dial 749966# (do make sure to enter the #-sign). We'll mail the bulletin to people we think might struggle with access, but please do call the church office to make sure you're on the list if you need this.

We've also collected some resources you might find useful on the website for your personal or family spiritual development, maintaining social connections, and keeping your children (or yourselves) busy at home. These are available in a couple pages under the Resources page on the website.

Periods such as these can be anxious times. A world that once seemed in many ways tamed now seems out-of-control. This has impacted our health, our financial well-being, and our ability to remain socially connected. I invite you to follow the guidance our health and political leaders have given so that we can limit the impact to our healthcare system and limit the time we are at greatest risk. I, also, invite you to take time to nourish yourself spiritually and mentally.

The most basic confession in the Christian church is "Jesus is Lord" and comes from Romans 10:9. It speaks to the authority and deity of Jesus. Jesus, though, is not just a lord or king from an earthly sense. Matthew 28:18 informs us that "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [Jesus]." Our Lord remains in control, and he is a loving Lord. As I shared in my recent sermon, Jesus remains concerned about our well-being. It is right for us to look to state and national leaders to find a solution to our current circumstances, but one more powerful and more knowledgeable and more skilled is already at work to bring the Kingdom of Heaven into being here on earth. A place where we will have no need to be anxious. I invite you with the Lord's Prayer to continue praying "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

I look forward to a day when we can worship in person together again, but let us remember what we celebrate on Easter. Jesus has risen, and he will come again. He remains in power even today from heaven. He was crucified, but death could not hold him. Jesus, our Lord, triumphed even over death, and we will see his triumph over COVID-19.

*Continue on the next page

That does not mean there will not be hardship. It does not mean we may not lose loved ones in this world. It does mean, though, that hope remains and will always remain. Jesus, also, invites us to join him in further establishing the Kingdom of Heaven here, and I invite you to look for ways to support your family, friends, neighbors, and community.

May our Lord provide his protection and blessing upon you in this time.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Andy

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to David Arends, Gary Klette, Sara Branom and Amy Zimbelman for filling our pulpit these last several months.

We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people to nurture us in our time of need.

We were blessed to have Greg Smith for five months.

Welcome to Pastor Andy Smothers! May God's face smile upon you!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women met on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30 AM with Elsie Lamma as hostess. The meeting was opened with prayer. Roma Lee reported on the 2020 Birthday offering. The Birthday Offering is used to support projects that touch the lives of women and children. This year's recipients are: Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family and Children in Davydovo, Russia, GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia, Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona and Liberty community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Correspondences from the Chancel Choir and Glorioso Ringers were read, thanking PW for the monetary donations. Minutes were read and approved; the treasurer's report was presented and accepted. There was much discussion with regards to the Lenten luncheons. Martha has the new booklet to proofread. There are five shawls available. Under new business the website is up and running. The URL for the website is conradfirstpres.org. There is also a Facebook page for the church. A cleaning project is in progress to update the look of the church. The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting would be held on April 9th with Esther and Arlene as hostesses. There may be changes to this scheduled meeting; we will let you all know as soon as possible. Please, all of you keep safe and well. Hopefully we will be able to meet in fellowship soon.

CONRAD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WEBSITE



Conrad First Presbyterian Church now has a website, which can be found at www.conradfirstpres.org. Viewers can find information about our church and what we have to offer, which is great for folks new to our community or who may be interested in learning more about our church. For our church members, there is a church calendar which can be updated as events come up and/or are changed, but even more importantly since we are not able to currently meet in person, Pastor Andy has posted at-home worship options for individuals and families to use whenever it is convenient.

Also, if you are a Facebook user, please search for and like the Conrad First Presbyterian website page. Updates and information will also be posted there, as it is available.

Feel free to call the church office if you have any questions, calendar updates, etc. Enjoy!

LOGOS NEWS

Unfortunately our Logos program ended early due to the coronavirus pandemic. Thank you to our students for attending. We pray for all of you during these difficult times. We are so thankful to all of you who have helped by praying for this ministry, giving of your time, talents, money, making dessert, serving the meal for Black Tie Night and for sending your children to Logos. Thank you. We are most grateful.

We especially want to thank our staff:

Pat Keil and Martha Orcutt, family time coordinators

Sue Carlbom and Carol Lea, decorations

Bonnie Flesch, Arlene Newmiller, Amy Zimbelman and Val Kellogg kitchen helpers, set-up and clean-up

Elsie Lamma, laundry

Pam Wittmier, Anna Walters, Jodi Habets and Nikki DuPree, craft and recreation leaders

Monica Taylor, Vanessa Bucklin, Pam Wittmier and Dale Keil, Bible study teachers

Dale Keil, Jodi Habets, Jay Taylor and Nikki DuPree, table parents.

Without them we could not have a Logos program.

Karen Burditt, Director

NOTES FROM PNC (PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE)

The PNC is in the beginning phase of the search for a permanent pastor for our congregation.

Two important primary goals of the committee are 1) to keep members and friends of First Presbyterian apprised of the progress of the search and 2) to involve the congregation's input into the search process.

Soon, the committee will be having occasional informal discussion groups during coffee hour to gather your thoughts and considerations for this search process.

Watch for PNC Notes in the monthly newsletter. As committee activity increases, periodic reports may also be presented during our regular worship service.

Our committee asks all members and friends to stay in prayer for this search so that we might find the pastor that God has intended to serve here in our church.

Gary Klette, Chairman

Jan Carter, Recording Secretary

Karen Burditt

Martha Orcutt

Carol Day Rider

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for May's newsletter is Friday, April 24th.



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD

Session Highlights

March 2020

1. Pastor Smothers met with Pastor Nelson from Pondera Valley Lutheran Church and it was decided that due to the COVID-19 concerns the Lenten Luncheons would be canceled for two weeks (March 18th & 25th).
2. Glacier Presbytery has required congregations to develop a COVID-19 response plan, and the session of FPC has formed a task force to make rapid decisions during this time. This Task Force will help with decisions, coordinate communication and invite people into service as the circumstances require. This Task Force consists of two elders, Jay Taylor and Marla Bruner and one deacon, Della Kellogg, along with Pastor Smothers.
3. It was decided by the Session that Pastor Smothers would mail a letter to the members and friends of the congregation telling what decisions the Session has made regarding COVID-19, how we as a church family will hold services in a different setting and remind everyone that although some things have changed the need to tithe has not.
4. With sad hearts the Session made the decision to suspend Wednesday Church School and Logos Youth Group for the remaining program weeks and to hold Sunday Church Services in an alternate way for the next two Sundays (March 22nd & 29th). The newly formed Task Force will assess the COVID-19 situation and extend the church service alternative additional weeks as necessary.

The Finance Committee reports:

February 2020:	Operating Income:	\$ 9,079
	Operating Expenses:	\$ 15,935
	Balance:	\$ -6,895
	Year-to-Date Balance:	\$ 5,074

The Property Committee reports:

1. The new carpet has been installed in the entryway and pastor's office and all looks very nice.
2. A new faucet was installed in the sink in Room 3 of the Christian Education Building.

The Worship Committee reports:

1. Communion was served on Sunday, March 15th, 2020
2. Scheduled events on our church calendar include:
 - a. Palm Sunday – April 5th
 - b. Easter – Sunday, April 12th

The Christian Education Committee reports:

1. Vacation Bible School held with Pondera Valley Lutheran Church will be June 19th – July 3rd

The Membership Committee reports:

1. The Committee is working on updating the membership list.

The next Session meeting will be Sunday, April 19th at 12:30 PM.

Kids Corner for Easter



Unscramble the letters to find the word in our

Easter Anagram

Word List:

alive, crucify, donkey, forgiven,
Gethsemane, hosanna, risen, rooster,
sacrifice, thorns

aeeghmnst _____

deknoy _____

einrs _____

aeilv _____

accefiirs _____

coorrst _____

ccfiruy _____

efginorv _____

hnorst _____

aahnnos _____

John 3:16, 17 (NIV) tells us that God in his great love gave his son to die for us.

Read those verses and fill in the blanks below to see why.

"For God so _____ the world that he _____ his one and only _____ ,
that whosoever _____ in him shall not _____ but have
_____ life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to _____ the
world through him."

April Birthdays

3 Martha Orcutt

6 Karla Wittmier

7 Joanie Brown

10 Jennifer Baringer (Dixon)

12 EASTER

16 Jim Meier



17 Don Perry

20 Todd Mellinger

21 Patti Mellinger

Dana Ahmed

23 Helen Elliott

26 Claudia Martin

Ernestine Olson

28 Claire Bucklin

30 Brittney Rauscher

April Anniversaries

4 Bernard & Patty Ries

15 Jerry & Velda Cowie

17 Allen & Delores Wittmier



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