

Yellowstone Currents
A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery
March 2019

Gracious God, my heavenly Father, just to be quiet in your presence is to know peace of soul.
When I forget you, life runs out into the desert.
When I turn to you, the healing streams abound and life is fresh and good once more.

Deepen my trust. Strengthen me for the Christian way. I pray in the words of the old hymn. .
“Take from my life the strain and stress, and let an ordered life confess the beauty of thy peace.”

I see the forest grows from both the sunshine and the storms.
May I thank you for all goodness, and praise you amid all hardships.

Forgive my foolishness for thinking I could grow, while forgetting your directions for the soul’s good.
Keep Christ daily in my thoughts.

And where I can help others today, grant me grace so to do. For your love’s sake to me. Amen.

--A prayer by the Rev. Dr. Joseph E. McCabe, summer minister for many years at St. Timothy’s Chapel,
from his book *Strength From St. Timothy’s Chapel*

Yellowstone Presbytery gathers March 8 – 9 at First Presbyterian Church, Billings

The theme of our presbytery meeting is **“What does it look like to be a follower of Jesus today?”**
We will look at how we are to arrange the priorities, patterns, and practices of our lives so that we can
deepen our walk with Christ.

In addition, there will be a Board of Pensions workshop preceding the Presbytery meeting on Friday,
March 8 from 10:30am-noon. The workshop is entitled “Serving the Servants of the Church: Caring for
Your Church Employees”.

More information is available on the presbytery website. We hope to see you there!

Youth Ski Retreat 2019 held at First Presbyterian Church in Butte

Wow! What a wonderful Winter Youth Retreat! We were fortunate to have a bit of a break in the weather so it was not too cold and the roads were not too rugged. We were thankful for safe travels. Thirty-seven retreat participants enjoyed a lovely day of skiing and snowboarding at Discovery and fun times for those who relaxed and played and enjoyed fellowship in the lodge. Thanks to Dickson and Elise for extra help on the slopes and in the rental shop. Inspirational talks were presented by Missy Turner, Dave Thompson and Kristin Kochner. Amazing snacks and meals were provided thanks to the folks in Butte and especially Bill and Jo and Traci. A great band provided music thanks to Jon, Dave, George, Jim and Jessica. We appreciated the wonderful hospitality from Lanny and Missy and the entire Butte congregation!

Yellowstone Presbytery is blessed with so many wonderful young people and leaders who work with youth groups. The Holy Spirit is working in our churches and youth groups and in the lives of our young people with power and grace and love. It is such a blessing to be with young people as they come together in God's presence and deepen their faith as they discover the peace and love and joy of living in Christian community. Thanks be to God!

--thanks to Curt Kochner for this report!

Mission trip to Africa

We have been asked to share the following letter from Sara Thompson as plans for a mission trip to Africa are being made:

Hi all,

I am so excited to begin the planning process for a mission trip to Africa the summer of 2020! Obviously, with a trip of this magnitude, there will be a lot of planning that goes into this. This will be a presbytery-wide mission trip for young adults (college freshman through 25 year olds). We are planning for a group of 20 max, but depending on the amount of interest, there are several ideas if we have more people wanting to go. Of this 20 people max, 4 will include chaperones (2 male and 2 female would be ideal). These can be pastors or church members. We are still looking at several different locations, organizations, and dates that won't be nailed down until those who are interested in going meet/give input. This is an exciting trip that is only in the beginning phase, but I am hoping that this notice will get the ball rolling. Going forward, please start spreading the word among people from your church that may be interested in this! This trip will be furthered discussed at Presbytery and that is when the logistics will begin being planned.

Best,
Sara Thompson
FPC Billings
406-696-5380

Upcoming Events

March 7 Preaching, Teaching, Spiritual CoHort Meeting FPC Billings 6pm – 9pm
March 8 Mark Frey Board of Pensions Workshop FPC Billings 10:30am – 12pm
March 8-9 Presbytery Meeting FPC Billings
March 14 Pastoral Ministry Team FPC Billings 10am – 3pm
April 9 Leadership Cabinet FPC Bozeman

Presbytery Meetings for 2019:

March 8-9 FPC Billings

Yellowstone Presbytery Clusters

Our clusters typically meet each month. If you have not been a part of a cluster and would like to explore the idea of joining in, please contact one of the following coordinators.

Miles City Cluster - Neva Rathbun (msrev@midrivers.com)
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson (pastordave@fpcbillings.org)
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall (teresakendall@mac.com)
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke (funkepastor@yahoo.com)

Remember our Round of Prayer as we keep our churches, ministries, and leaders in prayer:

Friday, March 1: World Day of Prayer
Sunday, March 3: Sheryl Hallin, Yellowstone Presbytery Treasurer
Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday
Sunday, March 10: First Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Presbyterian Women, Merry Lee Hooks, Moderator
Sunday, March 17: Rev. Brent Long, Pastor At-Large, Billings
Sunday, March 24: First Presbyterian Church Butte, Pastor Lanny Rounds
Rev. Sally Ralston, Honorably Retired, Philipsburg
Sunday, March 31: Rev. Kathy Goodrich, Yellowstone Presbytery Co-Presbyter

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at ckochner@mcn.net.