

# Courier Newsletter

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Butte

A special edition of the Courier since July and August were combined... too much going on to wait for September!

## August | 2023

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**Church Office Hours**

**Office:** T, Th, F 8-12  
Days/Hours may vary

**Pastor's Drop-In Hours**

Monday & Wednesday  
1:00-4:00

Please call the church office to set up another meeting time if needed.  
(406) 782-6595

**Pastor Karolee will be out of the office August 7-13**

**Worship Sundays 10:30 am**  
**Next Communion August 6**

You are invited to join Rob Hagen from the Presbyterian Foundation on Wednesday, **August 2**, for lunch at Sparky's Garage and a discussion about how to invest in the future of First Presbyterian Church in Butte. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Karolee or the church office.



Missionaries from So. Sudan, Bob & Kristi Rice, will be our guest speakers on Sunday, August 6, with a lunch following the service. The main course will be provided, please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Lets have a big showing for this special event!

### Annual Picnic

**August 20**, the annual picnic will look a bit different this year. It will still be held at the Sheryl & Larry's home (13 Bittersweet Dr.) but at 5:00 pm with our worship service at 10:30 am at the church. Sheryl will provide the main dish (backyard B-B-Q, hamburgers and hotdogs). Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share.,



### Roundup Sunday!



Sunday September 3 we will hold our annual "Roundup" as folks are returning from summer activities. We have enjoyed 2023 as our Jubilee Year of rest, and now as we prepare for 2024, where is the Lord calling you to serve?

**Pastor's Ponderings** Isaiah 58:13-14\*

I'm sure you must be thinking, "How crazy to hire a new pastor only to have her leave for vacation!" It is a little crazy if you think of it as just a vacation, but a *sabbatical* can be a confusing concept as well. Most people think of an academic sabbatical, where one takes time to research and write, but I went on a religious sabbatical for rest and rejuvenation.

In Leviticus 25:1-7, the LORD instituted a period of rest every seventh year for the land, for slaves, and for animals. During this time, the people were to trust God for their provisions. The key word is trust. One must stop routine work and simply trust that God will provide.

In Genesis, chapter one, we see a pattern of rest instituted for us to follow. At the end of each creative experience, we read, "And there was evening and there was morning." Our bodies are designed to rest every evening. We go to bed, trusting that we will be safe throughout the night. We don't often think of how important trust is to our nightly routine because most of us live in protective structures; but think of how the ancient world would go to bed every night with the hope of awaking safely. What kinds of dangers lurked outside their tents or homes?

We also see a weekly command in Genesis 2:1-3 to observe the Sabbath. God set an example of rest on the seventh day and then called it holy. While the actual day of Sabbath does not matter (many people are unable to take Sundays off from work), doing Sabbath as a community does matter. When done as a community, whether as a family unit or as a church body, Sabbath becomes a time of total rest with an "unplugging" from daily routines (Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest by Ruth Haley Barton). As we stop our work, we learn to trust God.

Through sabbath, our minds are given time to rest and rejuvenate. Constantly feeding information into our brains hinders creativity. We need time to unplug and allow our minds to wander. At night, our minds wander into dreams which may indicate we have too much stress in our lives. Once a week during sabbath, we allow our minds to wander as we reflect upon God and the week ahead of us. But every now and then, we need a longer period of time to detach from prolonged stress so we can hear the creative voice of the Holy Spirit. This is sabbatical.

The past six years of my life have been filled with seminary studies, internships, and the ordinary stresses of family life along with the death of my parents. I needed a lengthier time to de-stress so I could once again hear the creative voice of God. I began my sabbatical by meeting with a spiritual director who gave me questions to reflect upon. What is my purpose and calling? Where is God at work in First Pres and how can we participate? What will the rhythm of my work schedule look like?

To answer these questions, I attended other PC(USA) churches, visited with pastors, journaled, read books, listened to podcasts, and allowed myself to be enveloped in silence. In the silence, I allowed my mind to meditate upon all that I had learned; and as I pondered, I found new ministry ideas beginning to form and I found a weekly rhythm beginning to take shape.

I also found a need for community. I am not called to do this alone. Your participation is vital if we want to make First Pres an important part of Butte. You also need to develop rhythms of rest and rejuvenation to be fresh for ministry. You also need to listen to the creative voice of God to determine your calling to First Pres. Over the next few months, opportunities will arise for you to become involved in ministry. I encourage you to start praying now about how God will use you when those opportunities arise, so you will be ready to say, "Yes!"

Grace and peace,

Karolee

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,<sup>14</sup> then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. **Isaiah 58:13-14\***

# Etcetera

## **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Food Pantry is getting lean! We need proteins, things that can be eaten in a car and money for gas. There is a basket in the foyer for food donations as well as a box for monetary donations.



## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Sunday, October 1** following the worship service we will hold the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off. Dust off that chili recipe and join in the competition.

Traci Ruschetti holds the championship from 2022. Who will dethrone her in 2023? A sign up sheet will be in the parlor in September, or call the office for joining in the fun. Not competitive? Bring a side dish or something that goes well with chili such as cheese, onions, crackers, hot dogs, etc.

## **Butte Rescue Mission Banquet**

**Wednesday, October 11.** The church is a recipient of a sponsored table with 6 more seats available. To reserve a seat, call the church office. First come, first serve. If you would like to sponsor your own table or purchase your own seat, contact: BSW at <https://butterescuemission.org/>, call 406-782-0925, or contact church office for the form.



## **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**



The theme for August is "Boys Will Be Boys" (all things boy).

We are focusing on ages 2-4 and 10-14.

Check the "Tree" in the Parlor for other items still needed. We will also be accepting cash donations all year for the shipping costs.

Please note on check or envelope: OCC.

**Donations have been low this year. Any items you give will be greatly appreciated.**

## **Church Contacts:**

Pastor | Pastor Karolee Larson

Administrative Assistant | Carole Meltzer | FPCButte@gmail.com

Financial Secretary | Cecelia Helming | FPCButte@gmail.com

Choir & Bell Choir Director | Jean Peterson | jean@bresnan.net

Bulletin/Courier | Carole Meltzer | FPCButte@gmail.com

Prayer Chain | Traci Ruschetti | FpcButtePrayerChain@gmail.com

Organist | Linda Nutter

Pianist | Janet Shuttlesworth

Session Members | Gus Wilkins, Dixon Robison, Traci Ruschetti, Kathy Murray, Kevin Shuttlesworth

Deacons | Janet Shuttlesworth



- Website | [www.FirstPresbyterianButte.com](http://www.FirstPresbyterianButte.com)
- Facebook Public Group | [www.facebook.com/FPCButte](http://www.facebook.com/FPCButte)  
See our Live Stream of Sunday Worship & More
- Facebook Private Group & Prayer | [www.facebook.com/groups/FPCButtePrayer](http://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCButtePrayer)
- YouTube | [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbcj3AJHXlxXRldL1AUj4qQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbcj3AJHXlxXRldL1AUj4qQ)
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