

**JANUARY
2026**

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First Presbyterian Church Dillon, MT



Worship

Gather God's People embodies worship ministry. We see the word, pray the word, preach the word, read the word, sing the word. Praises to God that our congregation was intentionally and professionally equipped to move forward this past year.

Since mid-February, we have truly been a community of amazing, dedicated volunteers. In particular, Shani deserves the credit week in and week out. She is our "super glue." Thank you to Ron Loge for his dedication in filling our pulpit with guest speakers, all the while tending his own flock through the pastoral care ministry. I have been deeply blessed to work, pray, laugh, and cry with the devoted members of session. We prayed for church unity, but God had even bigger plans. Our membership has increased and we have grown and stretched in ways we didn't anticipate! All glory to God!!

After tear-filled goodbyes to the Trillers, we carried on with the sermon series on John 13-17. March 30th, our dear

brother in Christ, Freeman McCall, was celebrated with a sendoff before he moved to Wyoming.

Easter was such a special service led by Ron's cousin, Dave Haven. His love for the Lord and gift of musical talent overflowed in our sanctuary!

May provided the opportunity to recognize our graduates at all levels of education and offer our much-deserved appreciation to our dedicated musicians. Especially vital in our quest for a new pastor, we held a special meeting to approve our mission study and elect the Pastoral Nominating Committee.



First Presbyterian resumed its summer practice of 9am worship and three outdoor services in the park.

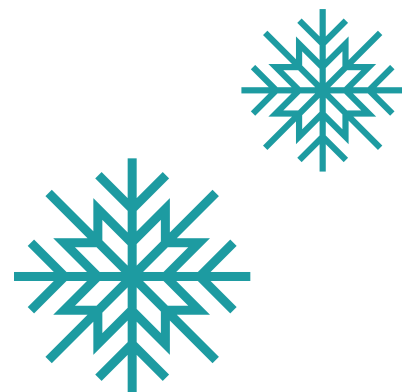
Karlie Paulbeck
Singing a Solo

We won't soon forget, early in the fall when God's Kids radiated our Sunday with the light of Jesus! Shine Jesus Shine! Our Kids', Chancel, and Bell Choirs sustain our church to worship through music. What a powerful ministry!

Our congregation embraced the advent season with hope, peace, joy, and love, culminating in a beautiful Christmas Eve service with a packed house. I believe God puts us where we need to be and where he needs us. For that I am grateful to have served as worship elder the past three years. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Blessings always,
Cathy Knox, Worship Elder

Service one another humbly in love. – Galatians 5:13



Christian Education

What a wonderful year it has been — God has shared abundant blessings & goodness! Every season of this year, our intergenerational church family has continued to make space to grow in our understanding of who God is, His great BIG story of redemption, and how to apprentice under Jesus through our daily rhythms and regular practices. We provided almost year-round kids & youth ministry programs, invested in new leaders, and offered seasonal adult opportunities to gather in small groups as peers, couples and friends. We built genuine community, shared deeply and desired more hope & joy for one another while hearing how God was moving in each other's lives.

Here is a brief recap of all that we have shared in 2025:

Kids & Youth Ministry | Winter and spring Homework Hour became Sunday School on Wednesday afternoons in the fall. This change was made after several thoughtful discussions over the summer with leaders and families to best serve our 1st-5th graders. Now, instead of removing young students from the pews on Sundays, we keep families together for worship and maximize our time together on Wednesdays. We began exploring The Biggest Story to learn the biblical meta-narrative tracing the storylines of God's creation, promises, partnership with humanity, the destructive affects of sin, and ultimately His plan of redemption for all. It has been a positive change for all involved and we are grateful to all those who adjusted in new ways.

Middle School Youth Group and High School Lunch Fellowship have continued weekly during school months. In the summer we added time

John Davis, Ellie Vinson,
& Quincee Martinez at
Summer Camp





to gather regularly around a campfire over s'mores, games, & crafts to stay invested in the lives of our teens. More than 20 attended Westminster Spires camp also! Our students ask the best questions about God, how we live as Christians, and the do's and don'ts of mastering the art of marshmallow roasting.

Brookelynn Ruckman,
Giving the Children's
Message

Adult Small Groups | In the spring and fall, we provided opportunities to explore faith formation through "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer — both the Introduction to the Practices with four

different intergenerational groups as well as one small group of adults going deeper into the Sabbath Practice. More than 50 individuals committed to growing in their spiritual practices in this way in 2025. Additionally, a summertime small group gathered at Jaycee Park to discuss "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin and thankfully there continues to be an open, committed group of women who meet Wednesday mornings to read a book of the bible while sharing their lives & prayers with one another.

Bible Reading Plans | For a few years now we have encouraged our church family to select and share a year-long bible reading plan. Last year, more than 25 folks committed to one of three plans: Psalms & Proverbs, The Bible in a Year, or the New Testament 5x5x5 Reading Plan. Connecting over text with insights and questions, many responded that the regular rhythm and group sense of accountability helped them grow in their biblical understanding this year. Many have recommitted or chosen to start one in 2026.

Servant Leaders | We are beyond grateful for those who have led our youth and adults in meaningful ways this past year. Thank you to everyone who has said "YES!" to stepping out of your comfort zones and prioritizing faith-forming

conversations, using your time & heart to serve others and allowing God to change us all as a family together.



Special thanks to Brookelynn Ruckmann (Youth Ministry Intern & Playroom Coordinator) & the varied parents & teens who served in the playroom; Tim & Nancy Crothers, Chris Longley, Ashly Cottom, Carol Simonsen, & Terry Johnson who served in the 1st-5th graders after school program alongside three new UMW college students this fall: Tayah Kovanda, Peighton Kenney, and Hayden Keintz; Suzanne Forrester & Natalie Paulbeck as well as Raquel Morast, the faithful accompanist, for their continued leadership of God's Kids Choir; John Davis and Brookelynn Ruckman who led Middle School Youth Group weekly; and Tammy Baker, John Davis, and many fine cooks who served our weekly High School lunch fellowship. Lastly, youth leaders John Davis, Brookelynn Ruckman and myself attended a youth discipleship conference in October hosted by TenX10 bringing new insights for investing in kingdom work with youth to our church and community.

A special thank you to Tara & Sky Jones, Joe & Maria Emmer-Aanes, Kolby Malesich, & Courtney Brown for hosting Practicing the Way groups in their homes and in the fellowship hall this year. Your hospitality and facilitation made it possible for many others to say "yes" to connection & spiritual growth.



Looking forward to 2026

- Spiritual practices will continue to be a focal point of our formation as followers of Jesus. This may include small groups exploring Prayer, Solitude, Fasting & Community.
- Daily bible reading in individual plans or small groups with community connection will be encouraged.

- Parents & grandparents raising children will be invited to share in a practical application study.
- Both men's and women's discipleship groups may bring a new expression of the intergenerational character of our church. Groups of 3 to 4 (high school age and older) coordinated into bi-weekly meet-ups will share life & faith, praying for & encouraging one another.
- Kids Ministry (ages 0 - 5th grade) and Youth Ministry (6th-12th grade) will continue to be prioritized and valued throughout the year, guiding our young people & their families to find a personal relationship with God, His Son and the Spirit.

The hope is that our Christian Education opportunities stretch us beyond head knowledge to heart change and soul health. That our very lives, even amidst troubles & sorrow, brighten to shine more of God's love & faithfulness to those He puts in our path. And that our commitments to grow alongside one another help each of us to continue our journey of faith no matter what age and stage we find ourselves & our families. We pray that the Christian Education opportunities offered at First Pres this past year have encouraged you & those in your circle. And we hope each of you will say "yes" to being stretched in new ways in community with others in 2026.

It is an honor & privilege to witness God's growth in you and our church. Peace & blessings as we enter 2026! I look forward to continuing to learn alongside you.

- Laura Malesich, Christian Education Elder



"I am certain that He who began the good work within you will continue His work until it is finished."
 Philippians 1:6



Outreach

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8

Thanking GOD for each of you and the work that we have done in outreach this past year. We exceeded our goal (to utilize 10% of our budget for outreach) and have listened to GOD's nudges throughout the year.

This year has been a full one for our outreach into our world. We have collaborated with the other leadership to meet needs as they arose.

Praying that each and everyone has a year full of love, mercy, blessings and that we take that and reveal God to our neighbors!

Prayer is the most vital part of what we do in outreach. Our Prayer Warriors Team continues to grow, and we need you. Our goal is to have at least 1 family member be a part of this vital mission. To become a prayer warrior please contact me at (406)223-6622. Join us!

Local mission: We contributed financially to following local ministries: Chi Alpha \$1,112.50, New Hope Pregnancy Center \$4,000, Food Bank \$4,000, BASS (Meals on Wheels) \$4,000, & Women's Resource Center \$4,000. We were able to give more than we budgeted because our church community gave so generously.

Good Samaritan: This fund supports the work our local Ministerial Alliance does. We contributed \$1,655.

Lunch Bunch: We support this service opportunity to provide a meal and a message to our high school kids and gave \$594.81.

One Great Hour of Sharing: An offering that unites us with PCUSA to provide funds for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

~Jim & Laurie
Hagenbarth~
Jan. 12

~David & Shelli
Schuett~
Jan. 20

~Bonnie & Gary
Gerth~
Jan. 21



*If we are missing your
anniversary or birthday,
please let us know!
Call: 683-2655
Email: office@fpcdillon.org



and Self Development of people. We made a difference where need is the greatest, sharing \$739.00.

Pentecost Offering: This offering unites us with PCUSA to support young people, nurturing their faith and growing their character in God. We collected \$761.00 and will keep 25% of these funds to work in our community for youth at risk.

Christmas Joy: This offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges

provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. We gave \$750.00 toward this cause.

Peace and Global Witness: This fund equips peacemakers in congregations and around the world. We raised \$150.00 for this offering. We will keep 25% locally to make a difference locally.

Knit for Kids: We provided over 300 items, which included hats, mittens, neck scarfs, baby and child size afghans as well as sweaters.

CASA: We provided quilts, bags and hygiene supplies for children 0-18.

Operation Christmas Child: We delivered 38 boxes for children in need around the globe. Thank you!

Food bank Sunday: We delivered over 80 pounds of food and over \$500 to our local food bank. That money will be doubled by the Town Pump foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Thank you, Sharon Anderson, for making this possible. It was a great success that united our community in service.

Local Mission Support: We sent \$2,000.00 to the Yellowstone Presbytery in support of mission work.

International Missions: We had Doug and Debi Banks here to share the work they are doing in Naklanda. We sent money to hire a nurse practitioner for the hospital and clinic as well as additional money for the school and food in Nakalanda, sending \$4000 toward this ministry.

Promise 686: We have continued to support Promise 686 financially and contributed \$1,000, this year.

Local Outreach: We assisted six community members with monetary support in the amount of \$3,812.17. Do you know of someone in need in our community? We would love to hear about it. Contact Marie or have the person apply online on the home page of our website.

Marie Hamilton, Outreach Elder



Pastoral Care

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."

-1 Peter 5:1-2

Mission Statement | The Pastoral Care Team ministry plays a vital role in supporting the spiritual and emotional well-being of the congregation, while notifying and assisting the pastor with specific parishioner welfare. They serve others with a caring, compassionate heart when responding to any specific call or purpose listed below.

Spiritual Support | The team provides spiritual guidance and counseling to members of the congregation, addressing individual needs and fostering a deeper relationship with God.

Visitation | The team often visits members who are homebound, hospitalized, in nursing facilities, or in assisted living homes offering companionship, prayer, and support during difficult times but also during good times to stay connected. The

Pastor is kept apprised of new or ongoing concerns with regular updates from team members.

Home Worship and Communion | Monthly worship services are provided at the BeeHive Assisted Living home. Monthly communion services are also provided at the BeeHive as well for homebound individuals in their homes.

Crisis Intervention | The team is available to respond to crises such as illness, loss, or family emergencies, providing immediate support and resources.

Grief Support | The team members help individuals and families navigate the grieving process, offering comfort and spiritual support.

Collaboration with Pastor | The team works closely with the church's pastor to ensure that pastoral care is integrated into the overall mission, activities and life of the church.

Prayer Ministry | The Pastoral Care Team is closely integrated with our church prayer ministry, encouraging congregation members to pray for each other and offering prayer support for various needs.

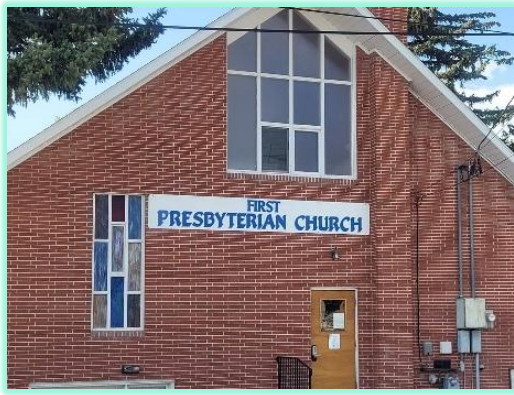
Overall, the pastoral care team serves as a compassionate presence in the church, helping to build a supportive and loving community where individuals can find hope, healing and the face of Jesus.



Interactive Sermon at BeeHive Worship

Led by Elder Ron Loge, this caring team comprises compassionate people whom you know well, namely, Barb Malesich, Sandy Rice, Cathy Cottom, Carol Kennedy, Chris Longley, and Betsy Tarrant. Please call on any of the ministry team if you or someone you know could use just a little extra TLC in Christ.

In His Service,
Ronald Loge, Pastoral Care Elder



Property

The year 2025 was very productive for your property committee. Several major projects were completed as well as the normal building maintenance items. Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to fix or improve several areas around the church both outside and inside. Again, I would ask you to get a hold of me when

you find things broken or in disarray around our church. I also encourage anyone to present projects you would like to see accomplished. We will look at all of them and prioritize them by importance and financial possibility. If you haven't heard from me after presenting your proposal, contact me again because I have probably forgotten. Here are a few of the projects that were accomplished in 2025:

January projects: In the basement women's restroom we installed handicap grab bars by the toilet, toilet paper holder. Put up a new motion light over the office exterior door.

February Projects: Put up the back door exterior handrail.

March Projects: Drew floor plans for the first floor of the entire building and floor plans for the basement of the entire building. Built a wooden frame for Laura's display board of the Books of the Bible

May Projects: Lined up Raigan Wright and Koen Malesich to do the mowing, weed eating, and picking up the grounds this summer. Ross Kelsey started the installation of the new audio/video system. Chris Longley started working the flowerbed: planting, weeding, watering, etc. Installed a door closure on the office exterior door. We also put a doorbell on this door for Shani's safety. She doesn't have to leave the door unlocked now during office hours. Made repairs to one of the outdoor frost-free hydrants that was constantly leaking.



June Projects: Started spraying weeds around the shed and parking lots and yard. Turned on the sprinkler system; found a leak in the main line that we dug up and repaired. Thanks, Darrin Morast for the help. Turned the yard sprinkler system back on. There were 8 bad sprinkler heads that we dug up and replaced. Matt Vinson got to work replacing all the heat registers in the basement nursery and youth room.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

~Jace Kuntz~ Jan. 2
 ~Darrin Morast~ Jan. 7
 ~Kathy Goodrich~ Jan. 9
 ~Marie Hamilton~ Jan. 9
 ~Don Copple~ Jan. 10
 ~Charlie Forrester~ Jan. 10
 ~Sharon Sawyer~ Jan. 12
 ~Brett Maki~ Jan. 15
 ~Austin Cottom~ Jan. 16
 ~Lindsey Clarke~ Jan. 18
 ~Tammy Meine~ Jan. 20
 ~Endee Jones~ Jan. 25
 ~Tracy Sawyer~ Jan. 26
 ~David Hooks~ Jan. 27
 ~Susan Berry~ Jan. 28
 ~Sharon Rice~ Jan. 30
 ~Elaine Davies~ Jan. 31

July Projects: Continued with the weed extermination process.

August Projects: Took down the sign on the back of the church for repainting. Tammy McGinley and Cathy Knox completed this project. Also took down the wooden cross on the north end of the addition. Sanded completely and coated with spar varnish. John Davis helped with the sign and cross removal. Barb Davis worked on painting the church sign on Pacific Street. Washed the balcony windows and frames. Painted all the trim and the cross on the window. Put bird spikes on the cross to keep the pigeons from roosting on it. While we had the lift, all the trees on the property were trimmed back. Cut all the branches that were hanging on and over the different roof areas. Ross Kelsey is still working on the AV equipment. Matt Vinson got back and completed the register project on the main floor of the addition.



September Projects: Put the church sign and the wooden cross back up. Hung curtains up on the windows in the upstairs youth room to cut down on the heat and sun glare. Cleaned up the carpet on the entry steps and porch. Turned the boiler back on and tested each of the zones to make sure we had heat throughout the church.



October Projects: Had the state boiler inspector in. This is done annually to check the operation of our boiler and have some of the electrical items inspected for insurance purposes. Got the sprinkler system blown out and put to bed for the winter. The youth group from the church provided yard cleanup this year. They raked leaves on

two different occasions. Several ladies of the church went through the pastor's office and cleaned out files, cabinets, etc. Then we removed and disposed of several items that were no longer needed.

November Projects: The opening mechanisms for the pastoral windows were broken, so new were ordered and installed. Preparations were made for the washing and painting of the pastor's office. Cathy Knox and Tammy McGinley washed all the walls and repainted the entire room. The room was then put back in order, ready for the new pastor. The weather stripping on the back door was replaced. Removed the first and basically the only snow that we have had this year. Ross Kelsey is still tweaking the sound and visual equipment.



There are always a number of little things that come up during the year that we address as well. This coming year we have a few larger projects planned: 1) remodeling the women's upstairs restroom, 2) have the front steps and porch recarpeted, 3) fill in the area from the back of the church to and around the storage shed. This will make a nice picnic area for our youth. I'm sure there will be other things that come up. Thank you for trusting us with this responsibility. It is an honor and privilege to work for you to the glory of God.

Mel Rice, Property Elder

Stewardship

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Dillon,

I write this with deep gratitude for your faithful tithes and generous giving. Your commitment to stewardship is a living expression of your faith, and it continues to strengthen both our church and our community.

Because of your continued generosity, we are blessed to share wonderful news: Your giving of time, talent, and monetary support—combined with lower pastoral payroll costs—has resulted in a budget surplus of approximately \$40,000 for 2025. This blessing allows us to:

- Maintain a financial cushion as we plan for future expenses
- Increase our 2025 local outreach support by an additional \$20,000

Our local outreach efforts include:

- Food Bank
- New Hope
- Women's Resource Center
- Early Childhood Coalition
- B.A.S.S. Meals on Wheels



This expanded support will allow us to respond more fully to the needs around us—caring for neighbors, strengthening partnerships, and extending Christ's love in tangible and meaningful ways.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Your faithfulness makes a real difference!

Trent Cottom, Stewardship Elder

Prospective Elders

Jack Bazemore – Prospective Outreach Elder



Jack is originally from Roswell, Georgia and has spent much of his life serving others through education and community involvement. He currently works for Montana State University Extension, partnering with local groups on agriculture and natural resources, community vitality, and youth development.

Jack is actively involved in several community organizations, including the Southwest Montana Stockmen's Association, Dillon Jaycees, Dillon Masons Lodge, the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department, and Beaverhead County Search and Rescue, living out his calling to serve others. As the Extension presence for Montana's Land Grant University in Beaverhead County, Jack is passionate about

supporting his neighbors, whether that means helping solve a problem in the garden or stepping up during an emergency.

Jack is an Eagle Scout and holds both a bachelors and masters degree in Agricultural Education.

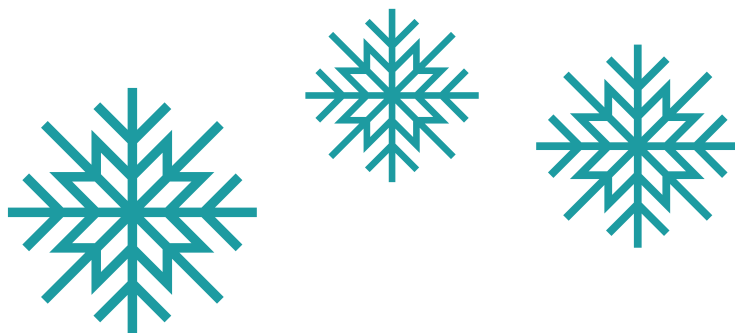
Betsy Tarrant – Prospective Worship Elder



I was born in Butte and raised in Ramsay...the 5th of 7 children. I spent 35 years in the fields of lands, rights-of-way, and appraisal working for the Forest Service, the former Montana Power Company, MT Dept. of Transportation, Spitzer Land Consulting, Boise, and the Bureau of Reclamation also in Boise. I retired in 2016. I earned a BS from Montana Tech after 17 years of classes while working full time.

At one point in time, I was a Deacon at the First Presbyterian Church in Butte, mostly providing pastoral care for shut-ins and hospital visits. I have a daughter, Carrie, who is an Elementary Principal in Helena, and a Foster daughter, Tina, who is an RN in Waldport, OR at the local Job Corps Center there. I have three grown grandsons, two who live in Prineville, OR and the youngest one who is in the Navy at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

And as you all know, I became a great grandmother twice in 2025...Graham Michael and Lorelai Lynn! My husband, Ed, passed away in 2021...the happiest 18 years of my life!





LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY



Office Manager	Shani Smith	(406)498-4227
Treasurer	MaryAnne Lyman	(406)925-0512
Clerk of Session	Tara Jones	(406)381-3591
Custodian	Courtney Brown	(406)925-1787
Stewardship	*Trent Cottom	(406)531-0871
Facilities/Grounds	*Mel Rice (elder)	(406)660-0408
Christian Education	*Laura Malesich (elder)	(720)281-1737
Outreach/Missions	*Marie Hamilton (elder)	(406)223-6622
Pastoral Care	*Ron Loge (elder)	(406)865-0525
Worship	*Cathy Knox (elder)	(406)925-1722
Youth Ministry Intern	Brookelynn Ruckman	(406)707-0408
Chancel Choir Director	Laurie Hagenbarth	(406)925-0039
God's Kids Choir Directors	Suzanne Forrester Natalie Paulbeck	(406)925-2459 (612) 670-0661
Bell Choir Director	Matthew Yetter	(406)925-3112
Organist	Charlene Loge	(406)865-0698



We welcomed 10 new
members in 2025!
Praise God!



JANUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10
~Worship 10am ~Ron Loge - Message ~Chancel Choir ~BeeHive Worship Service, 12:45pm			Bible Study, 9:30am ~High School Lunch, 12:00-12:40pm - God's Kids Sunday School 3:50-4:45pm ~MS Youth Group, 4:00-5:00pm ~God's Kids Choir, 5:00-5:30pm			~Bell Choir Rehearsal, 9am
Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17
~Worship 10am ~Matthew Yetter Leading Worship ~God's Kids Choir ~Communion ~Playroom	~Session Meeting, 6:30pm		Bible Study, 9:30am ~High School Lunch, 12:00-12:40pm - God's Kids Sunday School 3:50-4:45pm ~MS Youth Group, 4:00-5:00pm ~God's Kids Choir, 5:00-5:30pm			~Bell Choir Rehearsal, 9am
Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 20	Jan. 21	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Jan. 24
~Worship 10am ~Chancel Choir ~Bill Knox Leading Worship *Annual Congregational Meeting, after worship			Bible Study, 9:30am ~High School Lunch, 12:00-12:40pm - God's Kids Sunday School 3:50-4:45pm ~MS Youth Group, 4:00-5:00pm ~God's Kids Choir, 5:00-5:30pm			~Bell Choir Rehearsal, 9am
Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Jan. 27	Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31
~Worship, 10am ~Bell Choir ~Laurie Bartoletti Leading Worship ~Playroom			Bible Study, 9:30am ~High School Lunch, 12:00-12:40pm - God's Kids Sunday School 3:50-4:45pm ~MS Youth Group, 4:00-5:00pm ~God's Kids Choir, 5:00-5:30pm			~Bell Choir Rehearsal, 9am

~Please Join Us~

FPC Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, January 18th
Following Worship

Potluck to Follow!

Bring your favorite potluck dish



Last names - A-L: main dish M-S: salad T-Z: dessert

