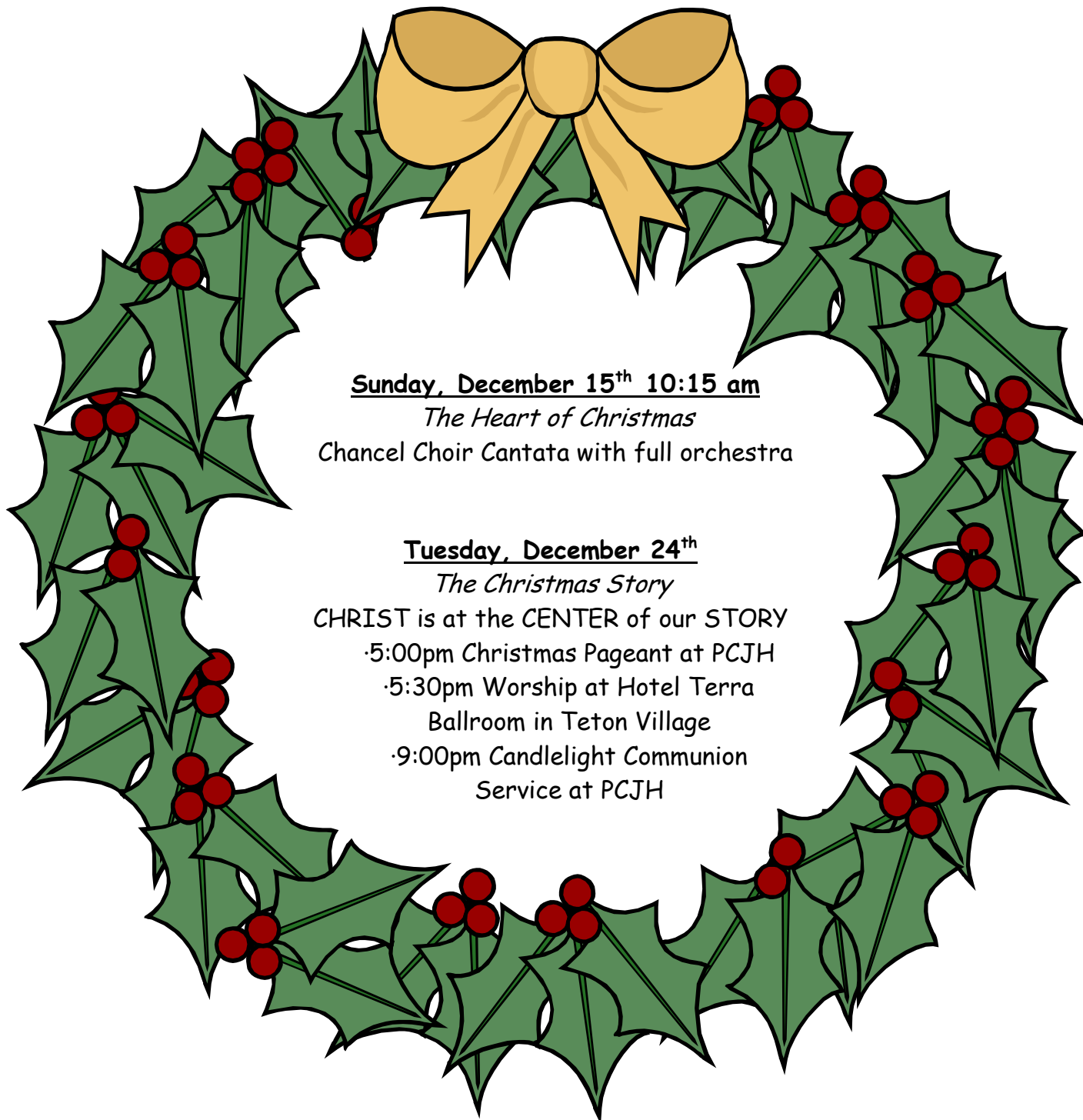


December, 2013



The Pinnacle

Not your Ordinary Newsletter. . . Not Your Ordinary Church



Sunday, December 15th 10:15 am

The Heart of Christmas

Chancel Choir Cantata with full orchestra

Tuesday, December 24th

The Christmas Story

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our STORY

·5:00pm Christmas Pageant at PCJH

·5:30pm Worship at Hotel Terra
Ballroom in Teton Village

·9:00pm Candlelight Communion
Service at PCJH

A WORD FROM PASTOR PAUL HAYDEN

Howdy Everyone.

Advent. The Season of Preparation. During Advent we prepare our hearts and minds and souls once again for the coming of Jesus into our lives...into our world.

For some of you, this is the first year you have even considered Jesus coming into our world. You are new to the faith and as a result, new to considering what Jesus' birth means to you and to our world. I simply want to say "welcome". Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, was told he would be called 'Emmanuel' which means God with us. As a result, when we prepare for Christmas we are preparing for God to come to us once again, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For some of you, Advent is a new event in your spiritual lives. I did not grow up in a tradition where Advent was celebrated. We certainly believed in Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. We believed he was born of the Virgin Mary, born in a manger, visited by Magi and Shepherds, etc. However, I cannot remember an intentional process by which we prepared our hearts for his coming, then or now.

For some of you, this is the repetition of a long tradition, part of your preparation for the Christmas process. You have your Advent devotional guides (available at the church), you light your Advent candles (also available), you begin to think once again about what it would have been like to not have Jesus in your life...in the world...

...And what would it be like to not have Jesus in the world, in our lives? From the earliest of times, people have believed in a greater being in some way, shape or form. It might have been viewed as the natural powers of wind, rain, thunder, lightening, heat, fire, etc. Sacrifices of various sorts were made in the attempt to appease the gods and win some sort of favor. God was big, mighty, mysterious, but one could not know this God and many wondered if God cared to know people.

As the understanding of God grew, people began to synthesize nature gods into religions and systems of belief. There was always the sense that God was to be feared. In our Old Testament the phrase, "The not uncommon. Because the fear of God was real, the

door was opened not only to those religious leaders who loved God with all they were, but also to people of power who could use fear as a manipulative tool to control people. In most if not all religions, you find people of both leadings.

Enter Jesus!! The God who is so big, so powerful, omnipresent, omniscient, holy; this God who demands obedience and love and yet would not allow even his closest followers to look upon him; this God who is separate from us, transcending us in every way; this God entered our world, becoming one of us, not as a king or ruler, but as a pauper, a commoner.

And why did God become one of us in Jesus? God wanted to replace fear with love and remove those things that separated us with a relationship through the One who would save us. God not only wanted us to 'Love God with all we are,' but God also wanted us to know that he loves us as well. At Jesus' birth, God's desire and humanity's need were equally fulfilled. Hallelujah!!

And so we prepare. Even though we know the love of God, we prepare for a new experience of that love being active in our lives. And so we pray with St. Paul "*that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*" And

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:17-19

May the Lord be with you as you prepare once again for his love growing in your heart.

Pastor Paul

Pastor Ben's Page

Associate Pastor Ben Pascal

Dear PCJH Family,

During the month of December we will take a break from our Romans study in order to focus on preparing our hearts for the advent (or coming) of our Lord Jesus.

We call the four weeks leading up to Christmas *Advent*. It is a time to center and focus our lives on Jesus Christ. It is also a time when our secular culture pulls us in other directions. We can often find ourselves focused on other things like... buying gifts, throwing parties, decorating our homes, putting up lights and Christmas trees, eating, drinking, and... the list goes on. Not all of these things are bad things, but they aren't at the center of what Christmas is all about. These things might help put us in the "Christmas spirit," but they don't necessarily prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have the honor of leading us through this time of preparation and celebration of our Lord. I have the opportunity to preach and teach during the month of December. I have developed a sermon series entitled, "A Christ-Centered Christmas" to help keep ourselves focused on the reason for the season. Here is a brief overview of the sermon series...

A Christ-Centered Christmas

Sunday, December 1st

Watchful Waiting

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our WAITING

Sunday, December 8th

Hopeful Longing

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our HOPE

Sunday, December 15th

Joyful Patience

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our JOY
Special Christmas Cantata at 10:15am

Sunday, December 22nd

Loving Presence

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our LOVE

Tuesday, December 24th

The Christmas Story

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our STORY

- 5:00pm Christmas Pageant at PCJH
- 5:30pm Worship at Hotel Terra Ballroom in Teton Village
- 9:00pm Candlelight Communion Service at PCJH

Sunday, December 29th

Intimate Worship

CHRIST is at the CENTER of our WORSHIP

I hope you make a commitment to come and center your heart on Jesus each Sunday as we prepare and celebrate his coming into our world. Jesus is Immanuel... God with us!

In addition to the sermon series, we will also have Advent devotional books and candles available in the lobby with a suggested donation.

I will also be teaching our adult education classes on Sundays at 9:00am and Wednesdays at 5:15pm. These classes will focus on a few spiritual disciplines that will help us to reduce the noise and clutter of our lives so that we can center our hearts on Jesus Christ during this very important time of year. The spiritual disciplines we will explore together on Sundays at 9:00am and Wednesdays at 5:15pm are:

- Thanksgiving - 12/1 & 12/4
- Solitude and Silence - 12/8 & 12/11
- Simplicity - 12/15 & 12/18
- Hospitality - 12/22
- Celebration - 12/29

I pray this journey through Advent and Christmas will be powerful and joyful.

Faithfully,

~Pastor Ben





CYF

December Events

December 1st:

No Youth Group

December 4th:

Wed. Rendezvous

December 8th:

Youth Alliance Youth
Group Gathering at
River Crossing
@ 5-7pm.

December 11th:

Wed. Rendezvous

December 15th:

Ice Lantern sale @
before and after
10:15am.

Youth Group

Christmas Party
(MS: 4-5:30pm,
HS: 6-7pm)

December 18th:

Wed. Rendezvous

Little Lambs Christ-
mas Concert at
5:30pm.

December 22nd:

No youth group

December 24th:

Christmas Pageant
5pm.

December 29th:

No Youth group

Children, Youth & Family Newsletter

December, 2013

Wednesday Rendezvous Activities

At the church making
Pizzas!



Our poster that we have been making



Advent Countdown Candles and Ad-
vent Devotional Readings will be
available in the church lobby for you
and/or your family to help in the
preparation of the Christmas Season.
Suggested donation is \$10 for the
candle and booklet set or \$1.00 for
the devotional only.

These were so positively received by our congregation last
year that we hope many of you take advantage of this oppor-
tunity. Joyous Noel to you all !!

Wednesday Rendezvous Update!

Elohim: Strong Creator, El Shaddai: God Almighty, Jehovah, Yahweh, I AM: Self-Existent, Unchanging...

These are some of the names that we have learned for God this year in our Elementary Wednesday Rendezvous Program. In the Bible, there are more than 200 different names used to describe God! This year, our children are on the fantastic journey of learning some of those names.

In addition to learning God's names, we are learning about the person and character of God. We are also learning about the beautiful place that we live in, how to love others in our community, and how to love each other! Every Wednesday afternoon is a joyful time filled with energy and fun.

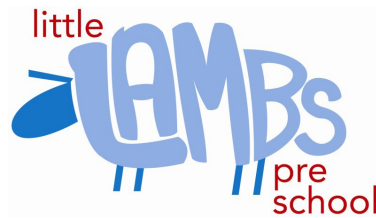
Enjoy a few pictures from the past couple of months!

Our Harvest Party



Our visit to River Rock





November was a month filled with learning
"God is with you wherever you go," Joshua 1:9.

We learned what animals do to prepare for the winter and about some of the ones that hibernate. We went to the library for story time and Ms. Debbie Schlinger came to read to us, too!

Our Pre-K groups went to the Craig Thomas Center in Moose and explored bear furs with the park rangers there.



Our annual Little Lambs
Christmas Concert will be
Thursday December 19th,
at 5:30 in the sanctuary.



We look forward to this month as we'll be heading to River Rock Assisted Living to sing to the residents, and we'll be celebrating Christmas with lots of fun crafts and activities.

May you have the peace of Christ as we enter this holiday season!

Merry Christmas everyone! Erin

PCJH Agros Team Recap - November '13

The "All Inclusive" Team

The term "all inclusive" is a bit of a word play for our team. At the end of the week we had two days to "decompress" at a hotel which was all inclusive i.e. lots of food at the buffet. But much more importantly, from the 1st day and growing throughout the week, we all felt a level of closeness with the people of Las Cuarentas that was much greater than we expected going into the week. It was more like getting together and sharing life with dear friends than stopping by to visit distant acquaintances. Here are a few highlights:

On Saturday we learned that God takes care of the small details when needed. Our plane was stuck on the Jackson tarmac for 2 hours while they defrosted the brakes. Our connection in Denver was at risk. But our plane arrived at the gate directly beside our departure gate. It just seemed too much to be a coincidence. This is also the day when we learned that Jordan is a sound sleeper. Towards the end of our two hour wait in Jackson, he awoke to ask us "are we in Denver"?

On Sunday we went from Managua to Matagalpa. This is when we learned that God had blessed us by having our translator Adrian join us. He turned out to be much more than a translator. He quickly became like a team member, going out of his way to help us understand the "real" Nicaragua. His love of the people we were visiting was obvious, and he was able to help us build relationships with many villagers during the week.

On Monday we arrived at the village, and it was obvious that God was bringing us back for good reasons. From the moment we left the van, we were surrounded by heartfelt friendship and love. After going through a welcoming ceremony and introductions, we had an opportunity to share our lunch with a family in their home. We had never done this before, but it became the norm for us for the rest of the week. To have the opportunity to share our lunch in a home, and to also share details about our lives was a beautiful gift for all of us. This was also the day we learned that harvesting and shucking corn can be great community fun, but you do need to watch out for blisters on your thumbs! We also learned a great Nicaraguan word, "Tuani", which means everything's great!

On Tuesday we were responsible for the morning devotional with the village. Our team was blessed to have Pastor Steve Shive with us, and he brought a message as passionate and engaging as any of the local Pentecostal pastors. As Pastor Steve said, he was 'in the groove of the Spirit'! This was also the day we started sitting side by side with the villagers during devotions, vs. up front. A small thing perhaps, but a great moment for us. After harvesting and cleaning some coffee plants in the morning, we lead sports activities with the village in the afternoon. Part of our team led games with the children, while a few of us sweated profusely while trying to keep up with the young men in soccer. Fortunately, there were no fatalities! In the evening the team sat around the table after dinner for a couple of hours sharing life stories. It was at this time we knew we had "arrived" as a team.

Wednesday was very busy, and productive. After morning devotionals we all helped the community to clean up and fill in some old trash deposits, and dig two new ones. Hard, sweaty work, but when you are working side by side with villagers, a great opportunity to talk about many things. One memorable conversation was how at 1st our PCJH team members "all looked alike", but as we come back again and again, we now look different! This was also the day which Kathy, Robyn and Katie along with Adrian led craft projects for more than seventy children and also a number of very interested adults. Perhaps best described as "very happy managed chaos" where flexibility and smiles were keys to success. God really showed up big time today both in the digging and in the crafts.

Thursday was a tremendous day. After leading morning devotions, the team was treated to a demonstration of how the village provides supplemental food to the children. They took us to a family's kitchen area, and let us participate in the preparations. It was hot in the kitchen, and one memorable comment from a village woman was that "you guys sure do sweat a lot"! In the afternoon, the culmination of the week's visit was the cultural exchange program. The villagers shared two engaging dramas and a lovely song. On our part, we were fortunate to have Jordan share a beautiful guitar solo, followed by Shawn and Kathy sharing their family history of homesteading via a photo album, explaining how similar this was to what the villages are doing today (with perhaps a bit more snow?). And as a grand finale, Katie and Shawn demonstrated western swing dancing to the delight of the villagers. Then came the hard part... leaving the village for the last time. There were lots of hugs, handshakes and salty kisses, and tears from many of us.

Friday and Saturday were days of travel, food, beaches, pools, more team building, a bit of Cipro, and a lot of reflection. Going from the hard life and simple delights of the villagers to the abundance of a beach resort shows the stark contrasts that confront many people everywhere, not just Nicaragua. But as a number of team members noted, in many ways the simple lives of the villagers, and their tremendous faith in God and each other, causes us to think hard about who is really making God's Kingdom a reality here and now.

In summary, words cannot adequately capture the blessings that God gave to each of us during this week with the villagers, and with the team. We may be in different places in our faith journey, but all of us felt God at work around us and within us. In our partnership with the people of the village, we saw many glimpses of His Kingdom, and as a result we grew tremendously in our faith.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
YEAR END "PUSH"
Unfinished Business for 2013

Each year, about a third of our annual offerings budget is received in December. Such is the case again this year. In addition, as Pastor Paul mentioned in his presentation on Stewardship Sunday last month, our offerings this year have been running behind last year's.

As of the middle of November, we were \$375,000 short of achieving our offerings goal for the year.

The good news is: If we do just a little better this year than we did last year, we will achieve our goal. The challenge is obvious - we need to do well! We very much appreciate all of your support.

We will provide weekly updates in the Sunday bulletins on our progress as we approach year end.

Submitted by your Stewardship Team

THANK YOU PCJH !!

In these times of so much need, and so many places to think of when we consider sharing our talents and treasure, the Mission Team is so pleased to thank you all for your generous donations to the Special Peacemaking Offering received on October 13. Our total was \$1056.00. We are invited by PC (USA) to keep 25% of the gift. The Mission Team will decide next month where to send our 25%.

Of the four special annual offerings of The Presbyterian Church (USA), received during World Communion Sunday, 25% will be used to support Presbytery and Synod peacemaking and 50% will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly (the national level of PC(USA) for their work.

Thank you, again! Your generosity is very much appreciated – especially in this time of so much need at home and abroad!

The Mission Team

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

will be received again this year on Christmas Eve, and on the Sundays surrounding Christmas. One of the four Special Offerings of PC(USA), it has been a part of the Christmas tradition in the Presbyterian Church since 1933.

Half of this offering is distributed through the **Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs**, recognizing the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

The other half supports **Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges**: *Barber-Scotia College, NC *Cook College and Theological School, AZ *Knoxville College, TN *Menaul School, NM *Cook Native American Ministries, AZ *Stillman College, AL *Presbyterian Pan American School, TX

Please glance at the poster and bulletin insert about the JOY OFFERING to understand its implications for our Mission work throughout the nation, and use the envelope provided to participate in this extremely worthwhile work of the Church.

We are grateful for our always-generous congregation!

Thank you!

The Mission Committee

December Deacon — Terri Hayden



Merry Christmas to all... I'm Terri Hayden. I am honored and humbled to serve as a Deacon for the Presbyterian Church of JH. In this season of giving I want to share a gift I received from one of my flock members. I had a voice mail one day from this wonderful woman asking me if I wanted to have breakfast. We got together at the Wort and had a great time. We caught up on kids, work, lives, and life goals. It was a true gift and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for this hour! Take time this season to get together with someone; for coffee, lunch, a walk - It is totally refreshing!

Remember if you need anything, you can call on your deacon. They are there to provide support, love, and above all prayer! I keep the following quote at my desk, "Do not ask God to make your life easier, ask him to make you a stronger person." I might add that deacons are there to help when "life is not easy!"

PCJH Sunday Cross Country Ski Group—2014



Ready, set, ski! For wonderful fellowship and winter outdoor recreation, you are invited to participate in PCJH cross country ski outings which are held weekly each Sunday afternoon from January through mid March. Each week we meet promptly at 1:30 p.m. at a designated location or at the green Forest Service building on North Cache to car pool to a predetermined location where we ski on easy to moderate terrain for approximately 2 hours. Anyone who likes to ski is encouraged to participate. Following each ski the group is invited to Après Ski held at a participant's home or at a restaurant for added time of fellowship, fun, and food!!

A tentative schedule for January is listed below. Please check the weekly PCJH email for changes that may occur due to weather or whim! If you do not receive the newsletter and/or would like to be added to the X-country Ski email list: please contact: June Nystrom at Junenystrom@gmail.com or Debbie Schlinger at debbieschlinger@gmail.com

- January 5** Whitegrass Ranch, meet, depart from Forest Service Building, North Cache—1:30
- January 12** Granite Canyon, meet, depart from Granite Canyon parking lot 1:30 p.m., ski Snake River Dike
- January 19** Taggart Lake parking lot, meet, depart from Forest Service Bldg, N. Cache—1:30 p.m.
- January 26** Phelps Lake, meet, depart from Granite Canyon parking lot—1:30 p.m.

Dec. Birthdays 2013

Donna Slayton	Dec 2
John Shipman	Dec 4
Dean Berg	Dec 6
Debbie Iobst	Dec 6
Olivia Rigsby	Dec 6
Trip Wilson	Dec 6
Cameron Foster	Dec 7
Cammy Lawson	Dec 7
Warren Myers	Dec 7
Kyra Jordan	Dec 8
Marsha Nickell	Dec 8
Charlie Allen	Dec 10
Sarah Beninga	Dec 10
Sydney Meyers	Dec 10
Heidi Somers	Dec 11
Michael VanHatten	Dec 11
Stephen Spare	Dec 13
Karen Ford	Dec 14
Kathy Johnson	Dec 14
Brenda Roberts	Dec 14
Maddy Wigg	Dec 14
Carol Poole	Dec 15
Shannon Smith	Dec 15
Isabella Womack	Dec 15
Jo Lynn Conrad	Dec 16
Bob Benz	Dec 17
Andrew Lewis	Dec 17
Shirley Piper	Dec 17
Peter Stalker	Dec 18
Jack Dillon	Dec 19
Greta Mae Larsen	Dec 19
Sarah Zender	Dec 19
Chris Arrasmith	Dec 20
Blake Lewis	Dec 20
Chad Weiss	Dec 20
Marija Cirkovic	Dec 21
Samantha Soper	Dec 21
Rich Viola	Dec 21
Jodi Emlyn	Dec 22
Bill Fox	Dec 22
Emily Poole	Dec 22
Kris Smith	Dec 22
Isaac Hayden	Dec 23
Yvonne Henze	Dec 23
Barb Huhn	Dec 23
Isaac Reed	Dec 23
Robyn Jones	Dec 24
Karen Colclough	Dec 25
Patty McDonald	Dec 25
Ben Brennan	Dec 26
Nancy Dunlap	Dec 26
Kim Schnagl	Dec 26
Faith Shaw	Dec 26
Sean Sonderman	Dec 28
Grace Berg	Dec 29
Anna Deland	Dec 30
Jerry Tapp	Dec 31
Travis Thompson	Dec 31



VIEW THE
PINNACLE
IN COLOR
BY
GOING TO
PCJH.ORG



Advent Countdown Candles and Advent Devotional Readings will be available in the church lobby for you and/or your family to help in the preparation of the Christmas Season. Suggested donation is \$10 for the candle and booklet set or \$1.00 for the devotional only.

These were so positively received by our congregation last year that we hope many of you take advantage of this opportunity. Joyous Noel to you all !!

December Anniversaries 2013

Ralph & Meta Sternberg	December 3	Married 64 Years
Fred & Linda Walker	December 18	Married 26 Years
Dave & Cindy Leinonen	December 24	Married 20 Years
Larry & Barbara VanGendren	December 28	Married 52 Years
Mark & Yara Pommer	December 29	Married 3 Years
Steve & Katie White	December 29	Married 15 Years

SAVE THE DATE

*Ice Lanterns sale

December 15th before and after 10:15 am service. The youth will be selling them to raise support money for their International Mission Trip this spring!

*Youth Group Christmas Party!

Dec. 15th. Come celebrate the holidays with us! Middle School: 4:30pm to 5:30pm. High School: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

*HS Mission trip in June! Details coming mid December.

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Bible Class 9:10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Children's Sunday School No Youth Group	2	3 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff	4 After school-6:15pm Midweek Rendezvous 5:15 Adult Classes 6:15pm Dinner 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Koinonia	5 12:00 Noon Men's Group at E. leaven	6	7 8:00am -3:00pm Annual Christmas Bazaar
8 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Bible Class 9:10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Children's Sunday School 11:30am—Church Info Class 5-7:00pm— Youth Alliance @ River Crossing	9	10 7:30 Stewardship 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff 4:00pm Finance Mtg. 5:30pm Session Mtg.	11 After school-6:15pm Midweek Rendezvous 5:15 Adult Classes 6:15pm Dinner 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Koinonia	12 12:00 Noon Men's Group at E. leaven	13	14 8:00am Men's Discussion Group Matthew Room
15 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Bible Class 9-am-12pm Ice Lantern Sale 10:15am Christmas Cantata 10:30am Children's Sunday School 4:-5:30pm MS Christmas Party	16	17 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff	18 After school-6:15pm Midweek Rendezvous 5:15 Adult Classes 6:15pm Dinner 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Koinonia	19 12:00 Noon Men's Group at E. leaven 5:30pm—Little Lamb's Christmas Concert	20	21 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
22 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Bible Class 9:10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Children's Sunday School No Youth Group	23	24 5:00pm—Christmas Pageant 5:30pm—Service at Teton Village 9:00pm—Candlelight Christmas Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed No Wednesday Night Programs	26 12:00 Noon Men's Group at E. leaven	27	28 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
29 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Bible Class 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Children's Sunday School No Youth Group	30	31				

*The Presbyterian Church
Of Jackson Hole*

P. O. Box 7530
1251 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, WY 83002
December 2013

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The Mission of The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole is

PASSING ON THE FAITH

as we GATHER to love God;

GROW to know and follow Jesus; and

GO and make a difference.

*All are welcome and all are needed as we advance this significant mission for the
21st Century.*

www.pcjh.org