

Ash Wednesday Service

We will begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday by worshipping together in the Chapel on February 10th at 7:00pm after our community dinner. Our Ash Wednesday service is a time of prayer and worship as we prepare our hearts for Lent and the journey to the cross.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following people as new members of PCJH...

1. Amy Dahmen
2. Sheila Weitz
3. Kate Kool

Membership at PCJH is a way for people to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to the ministry and mission of the local church. Once someone becomes a member of PCJH, they are assigned a deacon who prays and cares for them. Members are also allowed to vote on important matters in the life of the church, serve as deacons, elders, and committee chairs. There are other perks and discounts related to our children, youth, and family fee-based ministries.

In order to become a member, we ask people to attend one of our quarterly church information classes. After attending the class and having any questions answered about their personal faith and the church, the individual attends one of our Church Council meetings where they are asked four questions of faith in front of the Ruling Elders and then accepted into membership. If you are interested in becoming a new member, our next Church Information Class will be held on Sunday, April 24th from 11:30am to 2:00pm (lunch and childcare provided). Please RSVP with Cindy Dahlin at cdahlin@pcjh.org if you are interested in attending.

Worship at the Summit of the Gondola

Join Pastor Ben for our next worship at the summit of the gondola on Sunday, February 14th at 9:30am. Complimentary sight-seeing tickets are available in the ticket office for those who are seeking to worship but don't plan to ski. For those of you who are planning to ski, enjoy a time of fellowship as we take a few turns afterwards with Pastor Ben and others.

A WORD FROM PASTOR BEN PASCAL

Every Member a Minister

Dear PCJH Family,

Do you remember the first time you came to PCJH? Do you remember who greeted you or how you felt when you entered and when you left that first Sunday you came to church? Did someone or something make a positive impression on you? Did someone stop to say "hello"? What made you come back?

I remember my first Sunday at PCJH. It was January 2001... 15 years ago! I was new to Jackson and didn't know anyone. I remember the warm smiles, the lively music, the coffee, and the couple who sat next to me and made me feel welcome. They engaged in conversation with me after church and invited me to return. The following week I came back they were there to welcome me again and invited me to their house for dinner. If it wasn't for that couple (who don't even live in Jackson anymore, and whose names I don't even recall) I may have never come back to PCJH. It is strange to think what might have happened to my life if that couple hadn't greeted me warmly that Sunday morning in January of 2001. Would I be where I am today?

May we never lose that welcoming feeling at PCJH. Sometimes I fear that we have lost it as we all settle into our comfortable groups of friends or as we sit down in the same seats week after week. May we never forget to look around the room as we sing "Let There Be Love Shared Among Us" in order to acknowledge our old and new friends around the sanctuary. May we never be in a hurry to leave and thus miss the opportunity to welcome someone who is new or who has been here for several weeks but hasn't yet met anyone.

Let's refocus our efforts in 2016 to get back to our roots and be a church that welcomes people well. I will do everything I can as your pastor to create a welcoming environment from up front and to greet people before and after the service, but that's my job. I think what really impacts people is when members or regular attendees voluntarily take the initiative to greet and welcome people.

Please remember to wear your nametags and to do whatever you can do to welcome people into the life of the church. It can be as simple as a smile, a hand-shake, and saying, "Good morning, my name is Ben, I'm glad you are here." It may be that the Spirit inspires you to invite them to lunch. May we never underestimate the power of a warm welcome.

The author of Hebrews wrote...

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." -Hebrews 13:2

I have asked the Session (our Ruling Elders) to talk with all of their respective committees in order to generate ideas of how we can be a church that welcomes people well with the intent of capturing their hearts for Christ so that they will find a place in the exciting life of the PCJH family as a disciple of Jesus.

I realize that welcoming people is not the end goal... it is the first crucial step towards a life of discipleship. The end goal is to make disciples of Jesus... but first we must build a trusted relationship with people by welcoming them into the life of the church.

To aid in this initiative, we are planning a "Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday" on February 21st. Kenny is getting together some special musicians on that Sunday and I am going to lead us in worship in such a way as to welcome our friends and guests in a refreshing and fun way. We will also have a potluck afterwards in the fellowship hall. My hope is that we will all invite at least one friend to join us that Sunday for worship.

**February 21st, 2016
Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday!
Potluck to follow!**

I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do as we reach out in love to our friends and neighbors around Jackson Hole.

I am reminded of the amazing growth that took place in the early church as they focused on the core principles of their faith through fellowship with one another. This is what the Scripture says....

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." -Acts 2:42, 46-47

May we add to our numbers those who are being saved as we focus this year on welcoming the stranger and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It's not enough just to welcome people... let's connect them to the amazing and transforming love of Christ as they seek a life of discipleship. That's one of my many hopes and dreams for us in 2016 and beyond.

Faithfully,

~Pastor Ben

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to the PCJH family for your generous and gracious tithes and offerings in 2015.

As we closed the year, we faced a significant shortfall in giving. Special thanks to the Friess family for a generous matching gift and to many other individuals and families for coming together in the final hours of the year to allow us to make our budget goal. Your prayers and your gifts will allow us to continue PCJH's work in 2016.

Thank you for being part of the miracle

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship Team PCJH

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

We were able to send \$2,357 to Presbyterian Giving for use in supporting retired ministers and helping with tuition for students to attend racial ethnic Schools and colleges related to PC(USA). Your generosity is much appreciated.

Thank you!
The Mission Committee



Debbie Schlinger, our new Congregational Life Elder, is seeking some fun, creative, active members who would like to be on her team to plan large and small group events for the congregation. Team meetings would be quarterly.

If you have exciting ideas and love church activities, you're the one!

Call her at 733-9300 or email at debbieschlinger@gmail.com.

faith
family
friends



Sundays @ 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend one of our two Sunday offerings of adult classes

The Story - It is never too late to join in on the weekly discussion and study of our reading of The Story. This class meets in the Genesis Room and includes a video teaching by Pastor Randy Frazee. The weekly topic follows the teaching of the Sunday sermon of that week.

The Letter to the Ephesians - Get in on the ground floor of a new study as Pastor Steve leads a study on this important New Testament book. This class will begin on Sunday, February 14, in the Matthew classroom.

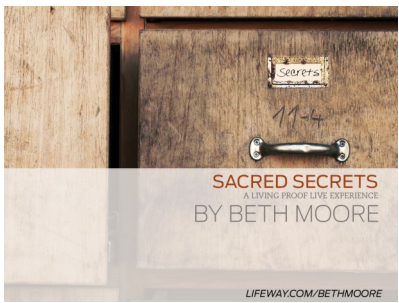
Wednesday Evenings Our winter lineup of groups and classes is heating up. Take a look at all that is happening on Wednesday evenings and make plans to join us for a scrumptious dinner and great food for thought.



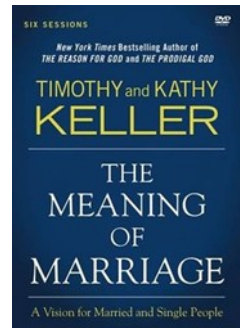
5 p.m. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - All moms and dads of elementary-aged children encouraged to get in on the fun of reading this great C.S. Lewis book from the Chronicles of Narnia series with your kids. Melissa Snider and Nancy Brumstead lead this pre-dinner parent/child group in the Luke classroom.

Beginning February 17 - 5 p.m. The Parenting Book Club - This group will be reading helpful books for parents of young children at 5 p.m. Come and find support, encouragement and insight for the raising of your children. Childcare will be provided. Then stay for our delicious dinner before heading home for bedtime. Mandy Hadden will lead this new group.

6:45 p.m. The Story - See above description.



Sacred Secrets - Women's Bible Study - A new group is forming to study and discuss the Beth Moore study on the secrets of theology. This group will meet in the Matthew classroom from 6:45-8:30 p.m. with Kenlyn Long, Mary Walton, and Sandra Zender facilitating.



The Meaning of Marriage - A Vision for Married and Unmarried People - Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean 'til death do us part, but merely for as long as my needs are being met; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

All of these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about. In The Meaning of Marriage—a six-session video-based study—Timothy Keller, along with Kathy, his wife of forty years, draws a profound portrait of marriage that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution but points us back to the relationship between God and humanity. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.

This six-session video study is for anyone from singles to couples considering marriage to those who have been married recently or for a long time. The six sessions are: *Service: Marriage Isn't about You; *Covenant: Created to Make Promises; *Roles: Loving through Mutual Submission; *Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family; *Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal; *Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon.

Join Pastor Steve and Cindy Weber for this course on Wednesday @ 6:45 p.m. (after dinner).

Lent Devotional Book - Lent is a holy journey with God, but what does it mean exactly to be “holy”? In *Be Holy, Presbyterians Today's* new Lenten devotional for 2016, pastor and author Brian Coulter has penned a series of brief daily reflections, paired with a short, ancient form of praise and petition called a breath prayer, to explore what holiness means for Christians today. He invites us to receive from God this blessed gift that makes our lives more compelling, more enjoyable, and more faithful. Bess Reynolds's original artwork brings this holy Lenten journey to life. *Be Holy* provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Lent. A copy is available in the PCJH lobby beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 10.

January was filled with snow play, learning all about animals, visiting the Wildlife Museum and the Teton Raptor Center. We are so blessed by God's abundant nature and beauty!

In February, we will explore imaginations, celebrate Valentine's Day and focus on God's love for us. May you know and remember the hope and love we have in Christ, not just this month, but throughout each day of the year.

Love, Miss Effie & The Little Lambs Team

No Little Lambs: February 5th, 15th or 26th



Hope you all are having a great start to the year!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP IS BACK**

Every Wednesday

We will meet every Wednesday, **6:45-7:45pm**, except during Spring break (March 30 & April 6). We will then have Youth Group every Wednesday during the rest of the school year, except our last one will be on June 1st.

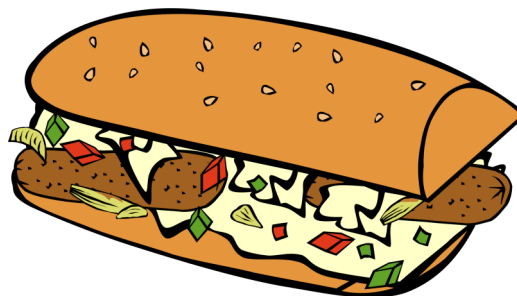
If anyone needs rides home we are glad to provide that!

Wednesday Night Schedule 6:00-6:40 Community Dinner at PCJH

6:45-7:45 Middle School & High School Youth Group — Youth Lounge



Pick up your Super Bowl
Sub Sandwiches on
Sunday, February 7th.



Middle School Lock-in
Thursday, February 26th, 8pm
Through Friday, February 27th, 7am

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

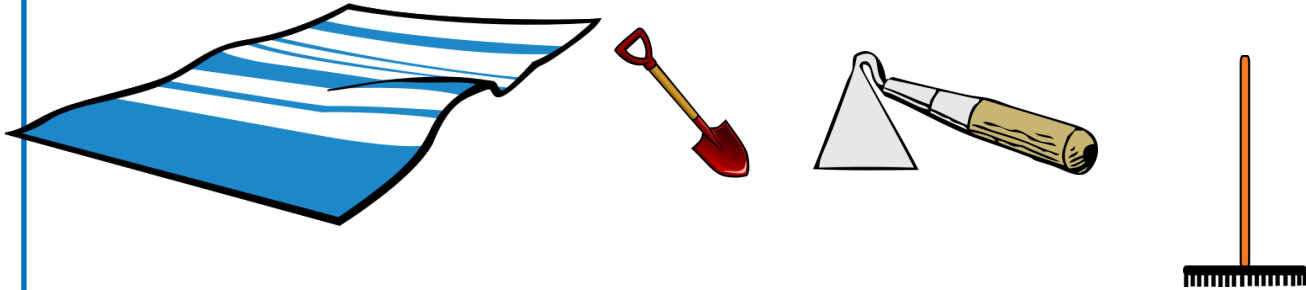
June 18th through the 26th, PCJH will be taking a group of about 15 middle school and high school students on a mission trip to San Francisco! Our goal is to expose participants on the trip to a holistic approach to ministry in San Francisco. We will work as a team to share God's love with everyone we interact with through our words and our actions. We will be staying at the YWAM Base in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco, where we will be doing our outreach. YWAM San Francisco hosts groups for short-term outreaches through their City Outreach Department. COD aims to create an impact both in the city of San Francisco and in the lives of outreach participants through opportunities to go on prayer walks, participate in service projects, and share the Gospel with the people of San Francisco, all with the guidance and training of their accompanying YWAM staff. We are extremely excited about this opportunity and can't wait to see who the Lord calls to go on the trip and what He does while we are there!



BLANKET SUNDAY
February 14, 2016

"Tools of Hope—BLANKETS
A Rainbow of Caring to Children and Families the World Over"

One Blanket for \$5 --- Two for \$10 --- Five for \$25!!
\$15 can provide a hoe, shovel and rake for a rural family!



Your TOOLS OF HOPE AND BLANKET GIFTS make a world of difference for millions of people at home and around the globe who find themselves without basic necessities due to a natural or man-made disaster. CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, of which Presbyterian Church (USA) is a member, uses Tools of Hope and the Blanket Program funds to purchase and quickly ship blankets and other relief aid to areas of need. When possible, the tools and blankets are purchased closer to the scene of a disaster to speed delivery AND to spur local economics. Blankets not only keep people warm, they also provide shelter, privacy and are a means of carrying children, or transporting meager household goods. Tools of Hope can help a family help itself, and include family shelter kits, emergency medical supplies, food, water, cooking utensils, gardening tools, health and school kits, and other essentials.

We invite you again this year on FEBRUARY 14th, to participate in this one of four special offerings of PCJH. You may designate this gift of love "IN APPRECIATION OF" or "IN MEMORY OF" a loved one. We enclose a special envelope for your offering in the Sunday Bulletin. You may fill out the form attached to the envelope if you wish to dedicate your gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one. (Donations may be made payable to PCJH). Later the names of donors and those honored will be printed in our bulletin; the list will appear again in our PINNACLE.

To read more about this mission to those in dire need, see churchworldservice.org.

Given by....

Donation Form:
In Appreciation/Memory of...
(circle one)

Checks may be payable to PCJH

One Blanket for \$5.00____
Two for \$10.00____
Five for \$25.00____

Thank You
The Mission Committee



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Feb. 7 - Phelps Lake. Meet @ the Forest Service Building. A host is needed.
Feb. 14 - Two Ocean Lake. Meet @ the Forest Service Building. A host is needed.

We are having Saturday events the last 3 weeks because of the longer driving distance.

*Sat. Feb. 20th - This is a Saturday instead of Sunday. Turpin Meadows. Meet @ the Forest Service building. The trail costs \$15.00 per person for day use. The hosts are Tom and Jan Segerstrom at their cabin on Buffalo Valley Road in Moran, on the way back home.

*Sat. Feb. 27 & 28 - White Pines Ski Area in Pinedale. This is a Saturday and Sunday ski event, with an overnight stay at The Log Cabin Motel, 307-367-4579, or Sundance Motel, 307-367-4789 (offering 10% discount to our group). Either motel is between \$60.00 and \$70.00 for one night. Each person should call for their own reservation soon!! The trail is free. Meet @ the church parking lot at 9:00 am sharp to carpool. We might take a church van down depending on our numbers. Your choice of day ski or staying overnight.

*Sat. March 5 - Alta Tracks, by the school, with our own Steve and Cindy Weber hosting après ski. Meet @ the church parking lot at 9:00 am sharp to carpool.

Dress appropriately. ... it's always a surprise!

Group size ranges from 8 to 28

We ski about an hour to two depending on the conditions and terrain. We try to vary the terrain and areas so all levels can enjoy the adventure with a guide in front and helper in back. Flexibility, diversity, mobility name of the game!

Bring your gear and any dish/drinks you'd like to share for our after ski fellowship at one of our skier's homes. This is optional and goes from about 4-5:30 with soup provided by host and potluck of "whatever" by those who join. A great time of fun, food, and fellowship.

Weekly emails will be sent to inform of ski destination, meeting place, directions to host's home, and pictures from previous week's ski. All outings are free except @ Turpin Meadows and overnight @ White Pines cabins in Pinedale. Those are incredibly groomed trails with restaurants and lodging.

Please invite friends too - church attendance not required...just a love for cross country and being outdoors with good folks. We are still looking for some host homes for afterwards. Any homes are great! The gift of hospitality super appreciated!

If you are not on our email list from past years and would like to keep informed in case any of the week's plans, call June Nystrom at 733-0117 or 690-9396 for more information.

World Day of Prayer March 4, 2016

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4

12 Noon

@ The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole

Enjoy a short worship and luncheon celebrating and praying for Cuba.

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

For online information go to: info@wdp-usa.org or www.wdp-usa.org
Or you can email this year's organizer, Nancy Brumstead at nancybrumstead@gmail.com

The World Day of Prayer promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, celebration. Each World Day of Prayer worship service has a special theme and is prepared by a specific country.

This year's country is:



ABOUT THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER OFFERING

Through their World Day of Prayer offerings, women share their resources with women and children around the world. Since the first WDP worship service, celebrated worldwide in 1927, offerings have been collected at each WDP worship service annually. As women unite in prayer with women around the world, asking God to relieve their suffering, bring healing, mend brokenness, overcome barriers and bring peace, justice and well-being, they put together whatever they can give as their offering. It is the responsibility of each WDP national committee to determine the use and distribution of these offerings.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Seeks Congregational Feedback



Thank you for your prayerful support of the APNC this past month. We are happy to report that we've made a lot of progress, and that the Ministry Information Form has been approved by PCJH Session and is moving through the approval process in the Committee on Ministry at the state level. As soon as they've given it their blessing, the form will be posted on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website, and a full job

description and further information will be available on the PCJH website under the employment tab. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, or have connections to other folks in ministry who could pass it along, we ask for your help "networking" and advertising the position!

Now, a note about the process in relation to your involvement as a member of the congregation. Some of you may be wondering when you'll have a chance to give feedback about the qualities you'd like to see in our new Associate Pastor. The answer is...now! The committee's function is to represent the church congregation as a whole as we nominate our next Associate Pastor. All candidates will be screened by the committee until a final candidate is nominated for approval by the entire congregation. In order to protect the privacy of the candidates, as well as to protect the committee members from outside influences, the committee members will not discuss any specifics about the candidates until the end of the process.

How do we, the committee members, represent your voices? How can we know what you feel is important in the future life of the church? We are soliciting your comments so that we can keep everyone's ideas in mind as we work through the nominating process. The job description will be available on the church website under the employment tab and can help inform your understanding of the role the new pastor will play. Now is the time to submit your thoughts, as we will begin to receive applications as early as the beginning of February.

You are welcome to speak directly with any member of the committee, submit written comments to our mailbox in the church office, or to e-mail your feedback to: pcjhnominating@icloud.com. There will also be a chance to offer comments during the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31st. Anything you share with us will be kept confidential. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful feedback to our committee! It is our honor to represent the congregation as we move forward.

Yours in Christ,

Warren Myers, Sue Unruh, Irene Lund, Melissa Snider, Tom Jordan, Karen Brennan, and Aaron Nydam

The Pinnacle
The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole
Box 7530
1251 South Park Loop Road
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February Anniversaries 2016



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Larry & Paula Jorgensen	February 4	49 years
Robert & Katie Carr	February 6	11 years
Jeremy & Delanie Johnson	February 14	19 years
Paul & Shirley Piper	February 14	23 years
Richard & Tracy Mulligan	February 16	8 years
Bob & Vickie Jones	February 19	50 years
Lloyd & Trudy Funk	February 23	23 years
Al & Dee Schoonover	February 28	40 years

*** Please let our church office know your wedding anniversary date so we can be in prayerful celebration with you !*
office@pcjh.org or 734-0388**

SAVE THE DATE

 **THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**
August 11-12, 2016 | willowcreek.com/summit

Meet the PCJH Staff & Ruling Elders

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Ben Pascal – Senior Pastor
Rev. Steve Weber – Temporary Associate Pastor

Worship Staff

Kenny Hadden – Worship Coordinator
Keith Phillips – Pianist

Administrative Staff

Cindy Dahlin – Operations Manager
Lindsey Parr – Communications Coordinator
Pam Flores – Congregational Life Coordinator
Barb Huhn – Pinnacle Newsletter Publisher
Kim Bogen – Bookkeeper
Sanchez Family – Custodial Crew
Bill Fox – Maintenance Specialist

Kitchen Staff

Christine Goodman – Wednesday Fellowship Dinner Chef

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Ricky Emlyn – Director of Children, Youth and Family
Jordan Shive – Intern
Aubrey Hoffman – Intern
Grant Wright – Intern
Darla Jackson – Nursery
Whytlie Adams – Nursery
Renee Knutson – Wednesday After School Teacher

Little Lambs Preschool

Effie Edwards – Director & Teacher
Amy Dahmen – Teacher
Martha Davila – Teacher
Mrs. Cho – Teacher
Barb Huhn – Teacher
Pat Wright – Teacher
Bailey Larson – Teacher

J.O.Y. Summer Camp

Upward Basketball

Linda Hanlon – Upward Basketball Director

PCJH Church Council (Ruling Elders)

Debbie Schlinger - Congregational Life
Warren VanGenderen - Adult Ministries
Alli Lane - Small Groups
Nancy Dunlap - Worship
Barb Andrews - Children, Youth & Family
Larry Huhn - Buildings & Grounds
Larry Jorgenson - Clerk
Alan Lund - Finance
Patty McDonald - Personnel
Peter Keenan - Nominating Team
Katie-Chloe Stock - Mission
Pat Wright - Stewardship

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 No Little Lambs Offices closes at 1pm	6 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
7 The Story Chapter 20 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes & Confirmation Class 10:15am Intergenerational Worship Service	8 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	9 6:45am Men's' Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:15pm Staff Meeting	10 After School Program 5pm Family Classes 5:15 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00m Fellowship Dinner 6:45-7:45 Programs for all ages 6:45 Adult Choir 7pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN CHAPEL	11 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7pm Young Adult Fellowship	12 Office closes at 1pm	13 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
14 The Story Chapter 21 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes & Confirmation Class 10:15am Worship Service w/ Children's Sunday School BLANKET SUNDAY	15 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	16 6:45am Men's' Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:15pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm Finance Meeting 5:30pm Session Meeting	17 After School Program 5pm Family Classes 5:15 Praise Band Rehearsal 6pm Fellowship Dinner 6:45-7:45 Programs for all ages 6:45 Adult Choir	18 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7:00pm Young Adult Fellowship	19 Office closes at 1pm	20 8:00am Men's Discussion Group
21 The Story Chapter 22 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes & Confirmation Class 10:110:15am Worship Service w/Children's Sunday School BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY	22 PRESIDENT'S DAY 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	23 6:45am Men's Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:15pm Staff Meeting	24 After School Program 5pm Family Classes 5:15 Praise Band Rehearsal 6pm Fellowship Dinner 6:45-7:45 Programs for all ages 6:45 Adult Choir	25 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7pm Young Adult Fellowship 8pm Middle School Lock-in	26 No Little Lambs Office closes at 1pm	27 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
28 The Story Chapter 23 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes & Confirmation Class 10:15am Worship Service w/ Children's Sunday School 11:45 COMBINED ELDER/ DEACON POTLUCK in Genesis	29 8:45am Women's Covenant Group				Middle School Lock ends 7am	X-Country Ski Trip to Pinedale

In Full Pursuit Pastor Steve Weber

Not long ago I fielded an e-mail request from my alma mater to serve on the Bicentennial Reunion Steering Committee. It sure sounded important. I said, "Yes," complying with a previous decision to help out when people ask me. (Don't get any big ideas.) Soon I was involved in a conference call with other members of my class, one or two whose names I even recognized. The alumni director gave us our orders: invite people to the reunion and ask them to participate in a class gift. Ugh! I should have known this was about money.

My list of 16 former classmates to contact loomed before me most of that first month. I shouldn't have been concerned though for very few people answer their phone or respond to e-mail, especially when they hear it is from their former institution of higher learning. They know what it is about. I left voicemail messages, sent carefully composed e-mails, talked with secretaries, spouses and kids. Much of my volunteerism on this project turned out to be about sleuthing. I combed Facebook looking for contact information and discovered things about my classmates they probably don't know about themselves. I Googled them in hope of a phone number or e-mail address. I called former work sites. I got my Columbo on.

In short, I pursued them. I'm not sure if some of the people on my list were aware I was pursuing them but I was. Some of them eventually relented and contacted me. Some never did. The whole process has me thinking about the heart of God which Scripture says is in full pursuit of us.

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
If I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139)*

One poet refers to God as the "hound of heaven" and the "long pursuit." It's a good poem. Accurate. Sometimes we are so focused on what we are running toward that we don't see who is running after us. The poem opens with these lines:

*I fled Him down the nights and down the days
I fled Him down the arches of the years
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind...I hid from him.*

My pursuit of my classmates has concluded. I'm thankful to know God never stops pursuing me. Jesus promised to stay the course with us, "until the end of the age," and that, too, seems like the pursuit of God. I admire that about God. I grow weary of pursuing people. People are fickle. They run hot and cold. They are spotty at best about responding to the "call". It just makes sense to let the chase go. Chalk it up to the way we people function and move on to the next project.

Not our Lord. When we read in Scripture that God is "faithful," this is what it means: God is not and will not give up the pursuit of his beloved creation. "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you" (James 4:8). If ever we sense we are distant from God I have discovered if we only turn around (in our thinking, attitudes, praying), God is close, pursuing us, as the "hound of heaven."



*The Presbyterian Church
Of Jackson Hole
P. O. Box 7530
1251 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, WY 83002
February, 2015*

Address Service Requested

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Jackson, WY
83002



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.pejh.org