



CELEBRATE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives. ~Tracy Chapman

God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through. ~Author Unknown

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. ~William James

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. ~Author Unknown

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. ~Eric Hoffer

There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. ~ Edith Wharton,

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. ~Mother Teresa

Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth. 1John 3:18

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1Corinthians 12:27

A WORD FROM PASTOR BEN PASCAL

Every Member a Minister

Dear PCJH Family,

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” - Ephesians 3:17b-19

We recently celebrated Confirmation Sunday on March 20th, 2016. It was a wonderful day! Confirmation is a time when we celebrate the lives of our teenagers who have recognized God’s deep love for them in Jesus.

Some of our students were baptized when they were young, which was a decision made by their parents in order to proclaim God’s love for them. Confirmation is an opportunity for the student to make their own decision and proclaim their faith as a young adult, thus *confirming* their baptism.

Other students had never been baptized and they too had the opportunity to proclaim their faith as a young adult and be baptized. We had five students who took the step to either be confirmed or baptized, and in so doing, proclaiming faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Hallelujah!! Please pray for these students. It is not easy being a believer these days, especially in high school.

Our confirmation students committed to ten weeks of classes on Sunday mornings at 9:00am in order to dig deeper into God’s word and to discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The classes were taught by Pastor Ben and Ricky Emlyn.

On Confirmation Sunday each student presented a personal statement of faith to their family and fellow classmates. It was a very moving experience to hear how God has impacted our students. I reminded them that being baptized and/or confirmed is not the finish line, but it is the beginning of a new life in Jesus.

The Presbyterian tradition, similar to most Protestant and Catholic churches, encourages parents to have their children baptized at a young age as a sign and seal of God’s covenant love for them. It is a beautiful proclamation of God’s sovereign grace that before they were able to choose God, God had chosen them. Before they were able to be faithful, God was faithful through Christ. Jesus told his disciples in John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you.”

Confirmation has its roots in the Jewish faith, from which our Christian faith was born. Jewish boys were circumcised on the eighth day to mark them as a child of the covenant. Then, when the child turned 12 years old they had a barmitzvah. In a similar fashion, Presbyterians encourage infant baptism and then confirmation around age 12. Just a little bit of Historical context for you. :)

◆ If you are a parent of young children, I would encourage you to consider having your child baptized. At PCJH we believe in partnering home and congregation. We have developed various milestones in the life of a child we call the “Milestones Ministry.” One of the very first milestones is baptism. Our hope is that your child grows up to understand their baptism in a deeper way when they are at the age for confirmation (about 12 years old and up).

I am always inspired when I read the book of Acts in the New Testament and discover that the first century church baptized entire households, which most certainly included children and adults of all ages.

Regardless of how one comes to faith or when someone is baptized, I rejoice in the fact that God’s grace is a free gift that no one can earn. It is the gift of new life through Jesus Christ!

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” - Ephesians 2:8-9

I wanted to share the story of one of our students who has recently found new life in Christ through the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole’s youth ministry. I will call her “Lisa.”

This is Lisa’s story... *Hi, my name is Lisa and I am 14 years old and in 8th grade. In my life I have been pushed around a lot and bullied by people. I have felt alone and because of this I have made bad choices like cutting, doing stuff with boys, drinking, and drugs.*

As a little girl I went to church with my mom. Then my mom stopped believing and wouldn’t let me go anymore. Then I started coming to the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole in 7th grade for Wednesday night dinner and youth group.

Since I have been here my life has been changing. I started to become more open to God and stopped doing things that I was doing in the past. And it’s all because of JESUS.

Jesus is my anchor and my hope. I love Him and He is there for me no matter what. I am excited about my life with Jesus. This summer I’m going on the high school mission trip to San Francisco to tell people my story and to love them with God’s love.

What a powerful story of transformation!! Jesus changes lives. That is what we are all about here at PCJH. Our Children, Youth and Family Director, Ricky Emlyn, plays a huge role in the lives of these students so be sure to thank him for his ministry to our youth.

Please continue to support PCJH’s ministry through your time, talent, treasure, and prayer! It works!!

With gratitude,

~Pastor Ben



Church in the Tetons – Chartering Celebration

Our sister church, Church in the Tetons, a PC(USA) church in Driggs is officially being chartered on **Sunday, May 15th at 3:00pm** at the Wildwood Room at 7705 Lupine Road in Victor, Idaho. It is no coincidence that May 15th is Pentecost Sunday as we remember the movement of the Holy Spirit in growing the church. PCJH was instrumental in the planting of this new church development over seven years ago and it is now officially being chartered. There will be a worship service at 3pm and then a grand celebration with lots of food and drink. Let's gather to celebrate with our Presbyterian friends in Victor/Driggs!!



BLANKET SUNDAY 2016

Your Mission Team gratefully acknowledges your generous gifts to the Tools and Blankets: A Rainbow of Caring Offering of \$2450.00. You warm our hearts with your generosity just as the blankets warm those in need in 80 countries around the world. The tools provide food for some of these same people. THANK YOU! Your MISSION TEAM!



Welcome New Members

1. Scott and Kacy O'Hare
2. Dorothy Neckels

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 Session 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.



Financial Peace University

Join Ben & Addie Pascal in the next Financial Peace University class taught by Dave Ramsey and facilitated by Colter & Alli Lane. It is a nine-week class on Sundays at PCJH from 4:30pm to 6:30pm starting April 17th and going through the first part of June. This is a great class for those who want to gain a biblical understanding for the role of money in their lives and how to use it to glorify God and bless others. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Alli at lli.lane603@gmail.com for more information or to reserve a spot in the class.



New Sunday Bulletin Format

As many of you know, we have introduced a new bulletin format on Sunday mornings. Our hope is to provide better communication to visitors and regular attendees about all the happenings within the life of PCJH and to give a clearer understanding of who we are and how to get plugged in. If you have any suggestions or feedback please pass it along to Lindsey at office@pcjh.org.

March was amazing!!!
 Our First Jog-a-Thon was a blast and a huge success! The kids were champs running their little hearts out. We also enjoyed going to gymnastics, doing Holy Yoga, Zumba, working out with Mr. Evan & going to the grocery store.
 We hope everyone had a Happy Easter!
***Little Lambs Spring Break March 28-April 8**
 We look forward to learning all about Nature & how to love other's like Jesus, in April.



**2016-2017 Little Lambs
 Registration
 Register at pcjh.org
 Contact Effie Edwards with
 enrollment questions.
eedwards@pcjh.org or
 307.739.9591**



**PRE-REGISTRATION BETWEEN
MARCH 4 - APRIL 15**

TO RECEIVE 1 WEEK OF **FREE** AFTERCARE



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
JACKSON HOLE**



**JUNE 15TH - AUG 26TH
9:00AM - 3:30PM
BEFORE/AFTER CARE
8:00AM - 5:30PM**



**\$50
REGISTRATION FEE
PER STUDENT**

AGES 2 THROUGH ENTERING 6TH GRADE

FIELD TRIPS | OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES | BIBLE DEVOTIONAL | MUSIC/WORSHIP | CRAFTS

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

GO TO PCJH.ORG TO REGISTER TODAY!

JORDAN SHIVE, JOY COORDINATOR
JSHIVE@PCJH.ORG | 307-734-0388 | WWW.PCJH.ORG
1251 SOUTH PARK LOOP ROAD JACKSON, WY 83001

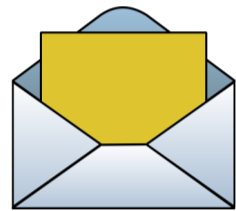


Stewardship Update



Our target for PCJH's 2016 budget for tithes and offerings is \$930,735, or \$22,701 more than our target for 2015, which we met through your generosity and prayers.

We're currently \$16,953 below where we were in gifts to the church at this time last year, which, when added to our increase in target from last year, puts us \$39,654 behind goal. God's character is one of generosity — of the overflowing of His love and of our blessings. Giving back to the Lord is a cornerstone of our tradition and essential to our spiritual practice as a faith. There are many ways to give in addition to the moment of contemplation when baskets are passed in worship ...



*You may mail a check to the Church office (please don't send cash through the mail).

*You may contribute by clicking on the yellow Donate button on the bottom right of the screen on our Church's website PCJH.org.

*You may arrange for periodic contributions to be made from your checking account by contacting your bank and asking about "recurring bill pay" or ACH.

*You may contribute by texting a dollar amount to 307 200 2175. (You will be asked to provide billing information the first time you send a text.)

*You may arrange for one-time or periodic contributions to be made from your credit or debit card accounts by contacting Kim Bogen through the Church office at KBogen@PCJH.org.

Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Yours in Christ, Stewardship Team PCJH

Sunday Morning Adult Classes



The Story - Our journey through the Bible will conclude on April 24. Be a part of the final chapters of The Story as Kathy Robertson leads a small group discussion of each week's chapter with the DVD insight of pastor and Bible scholar Randy Frazee. The group meets in the Genesis room at 9 a.m. each Sunday.

The Character of Paul - Who was the Apostle Paul? Come join PCJH Intern Grant Wright in discovering the man behind the letters and how he taught and lived out a life transformed by Christ. In particular, we will focus on how Paul met the challenges of the early Church and how we can use those same techniques and principles to resolve conflicts today. The class will meet in the Matthew room at 9 a.m. each Sunday during the month of April.

Wednesday Evening Adult Classes

The Story - Our journey through the Bible will conclude on April 24. Be a part of the final chapters of The Story as Ken Blount leads a small group discussion of each week's chapter with the DVD insight of pastor and Bible scholar Randy Frazee. The group meets in the Genesis room at 6:45 p.m. each Wednesday.

Being Mortal - Join oncology nurse Carol Poole and nursing instructor Cindy Weber for a timely and important discussion of the best-selling book **Being Mortal** by surgeon Atul Gawande. The book helps us reflect on the inescapable realities of aging and death and how the world of medicine helps and hinders in this season of life. **Being Mortal** shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life - all the way to the very end. The class will help us in thinking about end of life decisions, having hard conversations, letting go and grappling with our own mortality. The group will meet in the Luke room at 6:45p.m. from April 13-May 11. Books will be available at the first session.

CHOOSE GENEROSITY—"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways, it can change someone else's life forever." M. Cho

coming in June

**GET
RID OF
YOUR
STUFF**

PCJH BIG

**Rummage
SALE**

**Think BIG, Think FUN, Think SHARING:
Think PCJH BIG RUMMAGE SALE**

What: Annual event, open to the community,
Pre-sale open to those in our community most in need
When: Saturday, June 11, 8a.m. to noon
Where: Teton County Fair Building

Think big but start small. In every household, just a small search finds:

Garage: duplicate tools, rarely-used sporting goods and bicycles;

Kitchen: small appliances, cookware, and dishes that never get used yet take up valuable space;

Linen closets beg to be cleared out, renewed, and refreshed;

Children's room: clothing, toys, baby items, smaller furniture pieces that just collect dust.

Remember: YOUR clutter might be someone else's collectible

Your closets will feel so much bigger without extra coats, out of date clothing and accessories.

The BIG RUMMAGE SALE is the perfect place to choose generosity, in both time and treasure. We are so fortunate to have so many giving people involved with this mission. Dean Lewis, once again like in so many years before, has allowed us to use one of his semi-trailers to collect our generous donations from Monday, May 16 through the weekend before the rummage sale. Please start your collections now for delivery to Dean's trailer after May 16. You can also deliver to the Fair Grounds building the week of the sale until Thursday noon, June 9.

JOIN US: Clean-out begins with one item and can end with a new friend!
Volunteer for The PCJH BIG RUMMAGE SALE.

Call us; we would love to talk to you:
Diane Nichols 303 748 7138
Irene Lund 310 993 7485
PCJH 307 734 0388



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

2016 PCJH Budget

Presented below is the PCJH Budget for 2016 as compared to the actual results for 2012 through 2015.

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Offerings	920,495	884,483	885,268	908,204	930,735
Schools	303,281	346,080	332,032	354,703	356,214
Dinners	45,343	35,583	30,486	33,204	34,520
Other	88,565	100,711	125,111	71,084	66,054
Revenue	1,357,684	1,366,857	1,372,897	1,367,195	1,387,523
Pastors' Office	246,949	260,541	257,802	232,140	210,534
Administration	204,516	143,400	151,775	187,585	233,732
Bldg & Grounds	225,183	216,622	252,380	199,451	179,732
C Y & F	418,408	473,687	453,803	496,363	483,897
Adult Ministries	1,504	967	2,002	6,529	7,500
Congregation	6,053	28,344	35,027	32,463	19,095
Mission	135,641	132,504	128,459	124,387	136,320
Worship	91,517	91,563	78,079	70,364	99,641
PC-USA	14,204	14,493	16,599	17,783	16,687
Expenses	1,343,975	1,362,121	1,375,926	1,367,065	1,387,138
Net	13,709	4,736	(3,029)	130	385

As the chart demonstrates, the total revenue and expenses have been relatively consistent year over year, with the shortfalls or excesses in one category made up by others in different years. Remember we have the years of transition from Pastor Paul to Pastor Ben as our Senior Pastor in 2014 and 2015.



The same data presented as a percentage of total revenue in each year also demonstrates the consistency in PCJH revenue and expenses.

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Offerings	67.8%	64.7%	64.5%	66.4%	67.1%
Schools	22.3%	25.3%	24.2%	25.9%	25.7%
Dinners	3.3%	2.6%	2.2%	2.4%	2.5%
Other	6.6%	7.4%	9.1%	5.3%	4.7%
Revenue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pastors' Office	18.2%	19.1%	18.8%	17.0%	15.2%
Administration	15.1%	10.5%	11.0%	13.7%	16.8%
Bldg & Grounds	16.6%	15.8%	18.4%	14.6%	13.0%
C Y & F	30.8%	34.6%	33.1%	36.3%	34.9%
Adult Ministries	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Congregation	0.4%	2.1%	2.5%	2.4%	1.4%
Mission	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.1%	9.8%
Worship	6.8%	6.7%	5.7%	5.1%	7.2%
PC-USA	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Expenses	99.0%	99.7%	100.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Net	1.0%	0.3%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

PCJH made the decision years ago to focus on children. As demonstrated above, fully 1/3 of the budgeted expenses are in the area of Children, Youth & Family. This includes Little Lambs, JOY and Upward Basketball (for which we charge a fee, included in Schools) plus Sunday school and youth groups.

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



What is it? The Global Leadership Summit is an annual world-class training event for church, ministry and community leaders to sharpen their leadership skills. The Summit exists to transform Christian leaders around the world with an infusion of vision, inspiration, and skill development. Telecast live from the campus of Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, IL, this year's Summit will simultaneously reach more than 350 premier host sites across the United States. Once again, PCJH is thrilled to provide this training on our campus as a premier host site!

When is it? The Summit takes place on **Thursday and Friday, August 11-12, 2016 from 9:30-5:30** with morning, lunch, and afternoon breaks. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

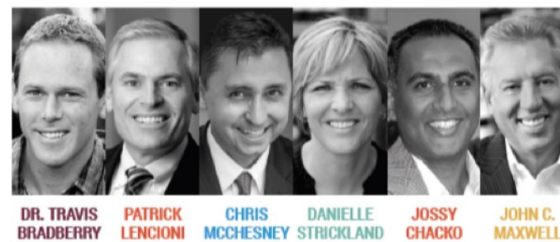
Who are the speakers? This year's experts in various aspects of leadership development include:

What are this year's topics?

Some of the topics include:

- Executing ideas that matter most
- Virtues that accelerate teamwork
- Navigating effectively through cultural differences
- Harnessing the power of emotional intelligence
- Ingredients of successful turnarounds
- Building cultures that value efficiencies

SUMMIT SPEAKERS



How do I register?

As members and regular attendees of PCJH, the easiest way to register is through our church website using the link below. Use the password/code you received in the church bulletin (or call the church office for the password/code) for our early bird host site rate until July 12. . Register soon as the event will sell out!
<http://pcjh.org/events/global-leadership-summit/>

Can I invite friends?

Absolutely! We are excited to provide The Global Leadership Summit for members of our extended community young and old alike. Extend invitations to family, friends, relatives, neighbors, coworkers, bosses, employees, and other community members. They may register to attend at our host site (#431) at <http://willowcreek.com/summit> with the public super early bird rate of \$189 until May 24. Thereafter, the public rate increases to \$199 until June 28. Students, faculty, and military may register at \$89 throughout the registration period. Group rates for 10+ are also available.

For additional information or registration assistance, please contact:
 Sue Unruh
 Email: sueunruh@gmail.com
 Telephone: 224-623-0109

“Everyone wins when a leader gets better.”
 Bill Hybels

Statement of Faith

Membership in the Willow Creek Association is intended to serve churches who hold to a historic, orthodox understanding of biblical Christianity.

- The Bible is God's unique revelation to people. It is the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the supreme and final authority on all matters upon which it teaches. No other writings are vested with such divine authority.
- There is only one God, creator of heaven and earth, who exists eternally as three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each fully God yet each personally distinct from the other.
- All people are created in God's image and matter deeply to Him. Central to the message of the Bible is that God loves people, and invites them to live in communion with Himself and in community with each other.
- Apart from Jesus Christ, all people are spiritually lost and, because of sin, deserve the judgment of God. However, God gives salvation and eternal life to anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ and in His sacrifice on his or her behalf. Salvation cannot be earned through personal goodness or human effort. It is a gift that must be received by humble repentance and faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross.
- Jesus Christ, second Person of the Trinity, was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless human life, willingly took upon Himself all of our sins, died and rose again bodily, and is at the right hand of the Father as our advocate and mediator. Some day, He will return to consummate history and to fulfill the eternal plan of God.
- The Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity, convicts the world of sin and draws people to Christ. He also indwells all believers. He is available to empower them to lead Christ-like lives, and gives them spiritual gifts with which to serve the church and reach out to a lost and needy world.
- Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. At the final judgment, unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation. Believers will be received into God's loving presence and rewarded for their faithfulness to Him in this life.
- All believers are members of the body of Christ, the one true church universal. Spiritual unity is to be expressed among Christians by acceptance and love of one another across ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, national, generational, gender, and denominational lines.
- The local church is a congregation of believers who gather for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability, and community with each other. Through it, believers invest time, energy, and resources to fulfill the Great Commission — reaching lost people and growing them into fully devoted followers of Christ.

BEING ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

HOST CHURCH: SHEPARD OF THE HILLS, CASPER, WYOMING



COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE PRESBYTERY OF WYOMING

May 6, 2016

4pm Presbytery Meeting
5:30pm Cookout
Bouncy House and Much More!!
7pm Worship and Praise
Commissioning of Triennium Participants
9pm Youth Overnight

May 7, 2016 (Childcare Provided)

9am Praise Band
9:30am Keynote Speaker
Small Group Breakouts
12pm Lunch

WHERE'S YOUR BURNING BUSH?

Great Entertainment Value
A Hotel Room for the Night
Dinner, Breakfast, Lunch

\$40.00

GODS NOT DEAD, HE'S SURELY ALIVE IN WYOMING

The Pinnacle
 The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole
 Box 7530
 1251 South Park Loop Road
 Jackson, WY 83002
 Published Monthly
 Issue #4 2016

April Anniversaries 2016



© Can Stock Photo

April 1	Kae & Kay Brockermeier	49 years
April 2	Mike & Marcia Taylor	22 years
April 4	Don & Fran Harger	52 years
April 4	Jack & Judy Swann	57 years
April 11	Aaron & Jessica Bilotta	7 years
April 16	Steve & Carol Poole	28 years
April 17	Dean & Grace Berg	52 years
April 20	Stan & Carol Pugmire	37 years
April 25	Mike & Mary Halpin	8 years
April 29	Tom & Jennifer Henninger	16 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**

GET TO KNOW US

Church Staff

Rev. Ben Pascal <i>Senior Pastor</i>	bpcascal@pcjh.org x 101
Rev. Steve Weber <i>Part Time Temporary Associate Pastor</i>	sweber@pcjh.org x104
Kenny Hadden <i>Worship Coordinator</i>	music@pcjh.org x123
Cindy Dahlin <i>Operations Manager</i>	cdahlin@pcjh.org x109
Lindsey Parr <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	office@pcjh.org x102
Pam Flores <i>Congregational Life Coordinator</i>	pflores@pcjh.org x107
Ricky Emlyn <i>Director of Children, Youth and Family</i>	remlyn@pcjh.org x103
Effie Edwards <i>Little Lambs Director & Teacher</i>	eedwards@pcjh.org x111
Jordan Shive <i>JOY Summer Camp & After School Coordinator</i>	jshive@pcjh.org x121
Aubrey Hoffman <i>CYF Intern</i>	ahoffman@pcjh.org x121
Grant Wright <i>CYF Intern</i>	gwright@pcjh.org x121

Ruling Elders

Ruling Elders are the spiritual leaders and overseers of the church. Session meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm.

Larry Jorgenson <i>Clerk of Session</i>	Katie-Chloe Stock <i>Missions</i>	Nancy Dunlap <i>Worship</i>
Barb Andrews <i>Children, Youth & Family</i>	Larry Huhn <i>Building & Grounds</i>	Patty McDonald <i>Personnel</i>
Debbie Schlinger <i>Congregational Life</i>	Peter Keenan <i>Nominating</i>	Pat Wright <i>Stewardship</i>
Warren VanGenderen <i>Adult Ministries</i>	Alli Lane <i>Small Groups</i>	Alan Lund <i>Finance</i>

Deacons

Deacons provide the ministry of compassion and service for those in need.

Co-chairs: Donna Barrett & Karen Brennan

Kenlyn Long	Michael Adams	Joanie Shipman
Barb Huhn	Yvonne Henze	Tena Webb
Jen Baki	Dylan Wade	Deb Keenan
Paula Jorgensen	Erin Rosenberg	Deb Kopp
Irene Lund	Julie Matzke	Kerry Murphy
Jennifer Wolf	Nancy Brumsted	Carol Poole
Jackie Montgomery	Sandra Zender	Julie Whitlock
Bob & Mary Walton	Randy & Robyn Reedy	

Facilities

Our facilities are available to rent for meetings, events, etc. Please contact Cindy Dahlin for details, cdahlin@pcjh.org.

Coffee Shop Nosyness Pastor Steve Weber

The other day I met two young mothers in a local coffee shop. It was clear they were mothers because at their feet and on their laps were two babies. Being the astute and, may I add, experienced father and "papa" (we baby boomers abhor the title "grandpa"), it appeared to me that the two bambinos were close in age, possibly twins. But the two-mother dynamic confused my analytic process. So I asked, "How close in age are they?" Nosy me. You know, I was once a reporter so I'm trained in digging for a story.

"One hour and twenty minutes," one of the moms offered up without even thinking. That's really close. "Are they twins?" I prodded, beginning to think that perhaps one of the moms was not a mom at all but a friend lending a hand. "We met in birthing class." See, there is a story here. Two moms, two babies, born 80 minutes apart, now inextricably linked by a shared birthday and the shared experience of their moms.

"That's pretty amazing," I said as I was taking in their story. "They have an automatic friend to start life with." Both of them nodded and smiled. They had already considered the long-term implications of their birth stories on their children. Friends from day one.

Lucky kids. Lucky moms. Friends can be hard to find. We should all be born with an automatic, assigned life friend. Friendship needs to be a birth right. I would vote for that platform. Just think of all the passages of life those two babies will potentially experience together. A comparison study of their movement through each life stage would be a good read.

The mom and babies departed for naps and their chairs in the cafe were immediately replaced by a retired couple fresh from Arizona's sun. We chatted a bit and I discovered the wife was interviewing a potential care giver for her husband. He had entered the shop using a walker wearing a dapper felt hat and looked like someone who had lived some adventures. Now, though, his mind was somewhere else and his attentive bride kept a watchful eye on him while she jotted interview notes. I observed her trying to determine if this care giver would be a good fit for her husband. It was a beautiful act of love really. It was a sweet scene and one of immense respect and dignity, friendship of the highest kind.

He's a lucky guy, I concluded. Even in this dire season of life, when he could no longer care for himself, in her he had a true friend.

I left giving thanks for the people in my life. Not enough, I realize, but I am thankful for being known and for the privilege of knowing others. In the waning hours of Jesus' earthly life he prayed (John 17) for his followers to be good friends to one another, to stay connected to one another, to care for one another, to know one another. To follow Jesus is not to be on a lonely venture but a joint endeavor with others who know us and invite us to know them.

Lucky us. We come to faith in Christ and have automatic friends. G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "There are no words to express the abyss between isolation and having one ally. It may be conceded to the mathematician that four is twice two; but two is not twice one; two is two thousand times one."

On a powder day last week I slid into the "singles" line not noticing the guy in front of me until he said, "Hey, Steve!" A friend! So we moved from the singles line to the regular line where we could ride the lift together. So much better than alone. Lucky us!

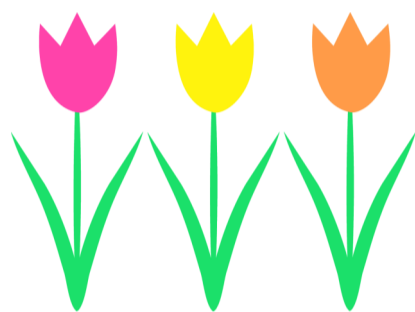
*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people
live together in unity!" Psalm 133*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	APRIL	2016				
3 The Story Chapter 28 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes 10:15am Worship Intergenerational Service	4 8:45am Women's Covenant Group SPRING BREAK Little Lambs Closed	5 6:45am Men's Breakfast at the Virginian NO 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting SPRING BREAK Little Lambs Closed	6 NO HOLY YOGA SPRING BREAK Little Lambs Closed No Fellowship Dinner or Classes	7 NO 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7pm Young Adult Fellowship SPRING BREAK Little Lambs Closed	8 Office closes at 1pm SPRING BREAK Little Lambs Closed	9 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
10 The Story Chapter 29 8am Worship Service 9:00am Adult Classes 10:15am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45-12:30 Children's Choir	11 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	12 6:45am Men's Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting	13 9:15am Holy Yoga 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	14 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7:00pm Young Adult Fel- lowship	15 Office closes at 1pm	16 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
17 The Story Chapter 30 8am Worship Service/9:00am Adult Classes 10:15am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45-12:30 Children's Choir 4:30pm Financial Peace Class	18 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	19 6:45am Men's Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Finance Mtg 5:30pm Session Mtg	20 9:15am Holy Yoga 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	21 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7pm Young Adult Fellowship	22 Office Closes at 1pm	23 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge
24 The Story Chapter 31 8am Worship Service 10:15am Worship Ser- vice w/Children's Sun- day School 4:30pm Financial Peace Class CELEBRATE our conclusion of THE STORY Bible Study in our lobby @ 11:30am	25 8:45am Women's Covenant Group	26 6:45am Men's Breakfast at the Virginian 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting	27 9:15am Holy Yoga 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	28 12 Noon Men's Group @ Jackson Whole Grocer Community Room 7pm Young Adult Fellowship	29 Office Closes at 1pm	30 8:00am Men's Discussion Group PCJH Youth Lounge

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