



This fall, you are invited to join Deborah Buckingham & Nancy Erwin for another community women's Bible Study.

Where: Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole located at 1251 South Park Loop Rd.

Dates: Wednesdays - September 13th - November 1st. (8 weeks)

Time: 9:30-11:30 am

The study is called EQ Nourishments. What is EQ? EQ stands for Emotional Quotient and simply refers to our emotional capacity to deal with life or our emotional maturity. EQ determines whether we are living wisely or foolishly.

We can't grow spiritually if we are not growing emotionally. This study is a must for all believers. Why do so many grow old in the church and never grow up spiritually? I believe it is because they are stuck emotionally. Our emotions are powerful tools given to us by God, but we must learn how to manage them in a God honoring way.

Please join us as we unpack how to grow emotionally and spiritually!

Last fall many of the ladies said their time at Bible Study was like a retreat every Wednesday. Come worship with the best talent in Jackson, be nourished in the Word, and enjoy a time of fellowship within a safe and loving small group setting.

All are welcome, feel free to invite a friend and for planning purposes please R.S.V.P. to jhwomensbiblestudy@gmail.com if you plan to join us and if you need childcare for children 5 and under.

Every Member a Minister



Dear PCJH Family,

As part of our vision process earlier this year we took the REVEAL spiritual assessment survey as a congregation. Many of us were surprised to hear that we were labeled as a “complacent church.” One of the aspects of a complacent church is that its members do not have a firm grip on the basic beliefs of Christianity. For example, of the 103 people surveyed from PCJH...

50% believe in salvation by grace alone;
63% believe in the Trinity;
48% believe in a personal God;
27% believe in the authority of the Bible;
PCJH congregants also rated below average in personal spiritual disciplines such as: daily prayer, daily reflection on Scripture, and tithing.

These percentages and statistics are below average compared to the 1,500 churches surveyed over the past 10 years by REVEAL.

In response to this, starting on Sunday, September 17th, I am going to begin a ten-week sermon series entitled “Back to Basics” as we take a close look at the basic tenets of our faith as Christians, and more specifically, as people of the Reformed tradition... as Presbyterians.

This Fall marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Europe when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to a door at the University of Wittenberg in Germany in October 1517. That moment marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a schism in the Catholic Church throughout Europe that changed the world forever. Some of the key people associated with the Protestant Reformation during the 1500’s were Martin Luther, John Calvin (the grandfather of Presbyterianism), Huldrych Zwingli, John Knox, William Tyndale, and many others.

As we commemorate this historical event and time period in the church, my prayer is that we gain a deeper understanding of our theological and historical roots as Presbyterians and that we continue to renew and reform our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We will spend ten weeks looking at the ten doctrines of the Reformed faith as outlined by the PCUSA Book of Order. Here is an overview:

THE TEN DOCTRINES OF THE REFORMED FAITH

The Two Shared Beliefs of the Church Catholic

- 1.) **The Trinity** – this is the belief that God has made God self known to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is one yet three persons.
- 2.) **The Incarnation** – this is the belief that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, God in flesh, dwelling among us, fully human and fully divine.

The Two Shared Beliefs of the Protestant Reformation

- 3.) **Salvation through Grace and Faith Alone** – this is the belief that we are saved not by works, but by grace alone and through faith alone because of what Christ did on the cross.
- 4.) **Revelation through Scripture Alone** – this is the belief that God speaks to us through the written word of Scripture and that this is the way the Living Word (Jesus) is revealed to us.

The Six Focal Beliefs of the Reformed Tradition

- 5.) **The Sovereignty of God** – this is the belief that God is ruler over the entire universe.
- 6.) **Election for Salvation and Service** – this is the belief that we did not choose God, but that God chose us, and we are called to use our gifts to serve the Lord.
- 7.) **Covenant Life Together** – this is the belief that God has called us to be in relationship with the Lord and with one another. This covenant relationship is expressed through the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
- 8.) **Faithful Stewardship** – this is the belief that everything we have is a gift from God and we are not owners but caretakers (stewards) of our time, talent and treasure. We are called to be good and faithful stewards over all of God’s creation.
- 9.) **The Reality of Sin** – this is the belief that sin is a reality of life. We miss the mark and have a tendency towards idolatry and tyranny. Jesus addressed sin directly on the cross.
- 10.) **Working for the Transformation of Society** – this is the belief that we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ who live in obedience to God’s word in order to work for the transformation of the world.

I look forward to this Fall as we take a close look at who we are as Presbyterians. As we do, may we grow deeper roots in Christ Jesus our Lord, and may those roots give us the ability to reach out in love to those around us.

On the journey with you, Ben



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that participated in supporting, organizing, and volunteering in our 21st Annual Peach Sale! Due to the lower crop harvest in Palisade, Colorado, because of a late spring frost, their delivery was smaller than usual, and once again we completely sold out! It was such a great day to invite the community to PCJH and also the fellowship of all the volunteers. Thank you all!!



A review for Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole on Google My Business

I moved to Jackson 8 months ago after leaving my family, friends and a job of 18 years. I needed a change and all of my kids had left the nest. One of the best decisions I made was to visit PCJH! I feel so welcomed every time I enter the doors of this beautiful church. I feel the love of God and acceptance by the Pastors and the congregation. Thank you Pastor Ben and Pastor Tammy for being vessels of God's love and reaching out to ALL of us who need a Savior! Thank you for all that you do, even the wonderful things you do when no one is looking!

Blessings to you and PCJH!!



Please let us know if your family has welcomed a new baby into your life. We would love to share in your celebration by placing a rose on our Sunday Worship Table and announcing the news in our Sunday bulletin.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kicking-off for Fall on September 10th.

Current 6th - 8th grade students, come join us for yummy doughnuts, fun conversation & study. Meet at 9am in the YARD Room, off Hayden Hall.

HIGH SCHOOL "LUNCH ON US"

Did someone say free lunch? Yes! If you're a 9th - 12th student, let's go out for lunch. Meet our youth leaders & other high schoolers at PCJH. Meet in the Lobby at 11:45am, on September 17th & 24th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

No school on September 22nd. Looking for some fun? Join for bowling Friday evening, followed by a lock-in at the church on Friday night. Details at pcjh.org.

CONTACT

Liz Collins
lcollins@pcjh.org



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is partnering this year with PCJH to offer Upward Basketball and Cheer.

Upward Basketball and Cheer is now open for registration

Register at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW64579>

Here are the important dates:

Registration starts August 14th and ends after the last evaluation on the 15th of September.

Evaluations: The week of September 12th. Teams will be created on the 15th.

Coaches Meeting on the 15th.

Clinic: September 16th or 23rd (Optional) more to follow.

First Practices will be the week of the September 18th.

First Games are on September 29th.

Last Game is on November 4th.

Celebration TBA on the best day the week of November 6th.

1st and 2nd Graders will practice then play on Saturday afternoons.

3rd through 6th Graders will practice during the week and play on Friday nights.

Coach Lunz the JHHS Boys Head Basketball Coach is helping again this year!

Questions? Email or call Jim Hamilton at jhamilton@fca.org or text or call [417-827-1979](tel:417-827-1979)

Jim Hamilton
Wyoming FCA
Green River Basin Area Director
3 Dimensional Coaching Certified Presenter
417-827-1979
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Transforming the lives of coaches and athletes and in turn the culture of sports, their teams, campuses and communities.

Children's Ministry Corner

Dylan Wade



Volunteerism Part 2: Shaping the Culture of Children's Ministry at PCJH

What if on Sunday morning, your children woke you up in bed and wanted you to take them to church? What if when you all arrived, your children were greeted by their Sunday School teachers (more than one) and they knew your children's names? What if when you picked them up from Sunday School you were handed a pamphlet that shared what Bible verses they just covered in class as well as strategies to deepen their understanding at home? Or what if you were a Sunday School teacher and you couldn't wait to get to church? **What if you arrived to a Sunday School teacher meeting before church on Sunday morning to discuss the plans for teaching a lesson that day or the following week?** What if you went home filled with the Holy Spirit and growing in your faith after helping with a Sunday School lesson? I think any of these scenarios can and will be possible at the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole. It is the mission and vision along with the Children's Ministry Team to make it so.

At its present state, however, our Sunday School ministry is falling well short of this vision. We as a congregation have been too complacent with this important aspect of our Children's Ministry. Why? Because we are too comfortable letting others do the work for us rather than taking the responsibility ourselves. I admit that I am biased being a father of three children as well as the children's ministry coordinator in the belief that the children of our church should be a very big priority for our congregation. Yet it seems it is not for the vast majority. I apologize for sounding harsh but I feel that is the current reality. There could be several reasons for our expectation that it is someone else's job to help grow our children's faith and teach them Biblical truths. Regardless, I think it is about time we shifted this expectation to ourselves, to all of us.

Recently, our Children's Ministry Team met to tackle this issue and we first decided to look at how we can create and implement a fantastic, top notch Sunday School program where children and their parents get to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are blessed to have such an amazing facility that has an enormous amount of resources to use just for Sunday School. I would bet most churches could only dream of the resources we have. Yet that alone is not enough. We realized that the best way to share Christ and his message is to make a meaningful connection between a child and their teacher. Once those connections are made, powerful and deep conversations can be had, seeds are planted, and growth in their faith can occur.



The next question posed was in what conditions and situation can meaningful connections be made? We determined that connections occur when ratios of children to teachers are at reasonable levels or better. We also discussed how current Sunday School student to teacher ratios are downright deplorable and characterized this as our number one need to turn things around. In short, we want your help in the classroom.

Finally, we also understand that we need to do a much better job as leaders in this church of supporting and affirming our volunteers. As I said in my last Pinnacle article from June that volunteering is difficult, time consuming, and requires an uncomfortable level of commitment. Those that take this leap of faith need to know they are appreciated and loved for doing so. We want to create a situation where both the children and the volunteers they connect with leave with an overflowing bucket. We are hoping to shape a culture that makes volunteering a rewarding and fulfilling endeavor for all involved. This is a process and won't necessarily happen overnight but it is our vision and we hope you can see it too.

Don't miss out!

A WORD FROM PASTOR TAMMY MITCHELL



On September 1, 2016, I arrived in Jackson, WY as a new associate pastor for the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole. It's hard to believe a year has already passed. On that first Sunday in September, I'll never forget arriving at worship and being greeted with such warmth, kindness, well wishes, and good coffee. I'm home.

So on this personal anniversary, I have spent some time reflecting on what the Lord has taught me and offer them as words of encouragement.

First, saying goodbye is part of saying hello. According to author Joyce Rupp, "goodbyes create a certain space in us where we allow ourselves to look at life in perspective...Goodbyes can draw us into a great reliance upon the God of love." Saying goodbye to friends and a congregation whom I had come to know and love was quite difficult, to be honest. Many people questioned my decision to return to the cold and snow country. Yet, the goodbye allowed the "empty space" to be filled by God's great love. I knew I was relying on God's providence to bring me to this place. I came face-to-face with the one who calls us to follow Him. I clung to Isaiah's words, "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine...You are precious in my eyes..I love you...for I am with you (Is. 43:2,4). "Goodbye" was necessary to be able to say "hello" to all that God had (and continues to have) in store!

Second, prayer is a lifeline. I had a spiritual director say, "God is more interested in proximity than He is in geography." I know change (whether a new location, a relationship, or job) can be disruptive, unsettling, and even troublesome. Yet in the practice of prayer, a renewed sense of purpose and peace has blanketed my transition. I do not pretend to be any expert in prayer. I just know that intentional prayer, connecting with God in intimacy, silence and solitude has carried me this year. I believe that as we cultivate the regular practice of prayer, we will definitely experience God's gracious presence grow in our lives.

Thirdly, God is good. Simple enough, right? Every day I've shared with PCJH has been another confirmation of God's goodness and faithfulness. That doesn't mean there haven't been sleepless nights, or times of real struggle. It just means that God's goodness, even in the darkest of darkness, has been evident. God is always at work creating us to be new creatures in Jesus Christ. "For everything God created is good." I Tim. 4:4.

So thank you PCJH for being you. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving our Lord among such a faithful, loving community.

Thank you for being my new family.
And thank you, God, for bringing me home.

**Adult Christian Education
Opportunities at PCJH
August , 2007**



Sunday Mornings: 9:00AM

Starting September 10, **Body and Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism** - a 6 week DVD series with Rev. Dr. M.Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Seminary. The Heidelberg Catechism was written to address life's big questions. Its answers are as compelling today as they were then. Come join us for this new groundbreaking study in celebration of the catechism's 450 anniversary. Led by Rev. Tamara Mitchell

Wednesday Evenings @ 5:15PM

Starting September 13. **The Jesus I Never Knew** - This six-session study by Philip Yancey uses film portraits of Jesus and contrasts them with the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus I Never Knew gives you fresh, uncluttered perspectives on history's central figure — his radical claims, his challenging teachings, and his effect on others . . . including you. Come join us for lively discussions and rediscover our Savior Jesus Led by Rev. Tamara Mitchell

Bible Studies for All!

We invite anyone interested to continue to grow in faith as we explore the scriptures together and learn how to apply God's life-giving Word to our lives.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 12noon-1:00PM in the Matthew Room. Discussions are on the upcoming sermon text. Led by Pastor Ben Pascal.

Men's Lunch Bible Study

Thursdays, 12noon-1:00PM in the Community Room at Jackson Whole Grocers. Discussions are on the upcoming sermon text. Led by Pastor Ben Pascal.

Men's Morning Bible Study

Saturdays, 8:00AM-9:00AM, in the Youth Room. Discussions are varied. Led by Ron Stevens.



Agros Mission Trip

The next Agros mission trip to our village of Tierra Nueva in Nicaragua is scheduled for November 4th -12th, 2017. There are still several openings on the team and we hope you will consider being part of this great PCJH mission initiative.

If you are interested please contact
Bob Kopp at
bkopp@waldenasset.com
or Addie Pascal
at addiepascal@gmail.com.





Where People Divide, God Brings Unity

I've heard that from a genetic standpoint humans are about 98% similar to apes. We tend to think the other 2% is what makes us special, different from all the rest, some might even say better. But does God love our uniquely human qualities more than God loves those essential qualities of life that we share with all other beings? I don't

identify with the fact that I have a spine, for example. I share that trait with thousands of other species, so I take it for granted. Rather, I identify with my sense of humor, or my musical talent, or my work ethic. But consider this question: would I be less myself if I lost my musical ability or if I lost my spine?

Our personal identities are usually tied to those experiences or qualities that set us apart, and in many cases those qualities are forged through suffering and pain. Suffering feels important, defining. We say things like: I am who I am because I lost my mother when I was young, or because of my disability, or because of my families poverty. Suffering builds character, and the way we triumph over suffering becomes the lens through which we see ourselves. That "strength in the face of adversity" narrative that we love to tell about ourselves overshadows the truth that the world is filled to the brim with extravagant beauty and blessing, and this is something we all share. In this way, the human worldview is skewed toward those exceptions that make life hard, rather than the reality of abundance in our lives.

The drive to forge a personal identity through differentiating ourselves from others has practical consequences, and is showing itself in ugly ways in our world today. In order to feel justified and powerful, people are elevating themselves and degrading others – not just in terms of their ideas and beliefs, but in terms of their basic moral worth. The Christian view opposes this unequivocally: God, before whom *every knee shall bow*, has already justified us through Jesus Christ, and through Him, God has empowered us to love others with the same unimaginable love that He has shown us. We can never, by our own effort, be more justified and powerful than God has already made us.

The struggle for identity – and all the suffering it causes – is a uniquely human problem. The birds of the air and the lilies of the field don't worry about setting themselves apart. And God has never struggled with our identities either. In God's eyes, my identity is clear: what makes me special is that God knit me together in my mother's womb and breathed life into me. I am God's beloved. It doesn't matter that everyone else is special for the same reason.

-Kenny Hadden, Worship Coordinator

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**September Birthdays
2017**

09/01 Meg Womack
09/02 Jeff Hanson
Ken Thomasma
09/03 Louise Deland
Dennis Holton
09/04 Paula Jorgenson
Judy Scarborough
09/05 Bob Copyak
Matt Faupel
Carol Taylor
09/07 Owen Orchard
09/09 Mary Neal
09/12 Meta Sternberg
09/13 Shirley Cheramy
Scott Smith
Laura Soltau
09/14 Brandie Orchard
09/15 Duane Schneider
09/16 DeeDee Sorsby
09/17 Ruth Ann Petroff
09/18 Aaron Nydam
09/18 John Hanlon
09/20 Larry VanGenderen
09/23 Lynn Friess
Mitch Lewis
09/28 Lynn Finkel
09/29 Deb Keenan
Frank Scarborough



**SEPTEMBER, 2017
ANNIVERSARIES**

September 1
Mike & Liz Jorgenson
15 years

Peter & Deb Keenan
10 years

Kerry & Sue Murphy
27 years

September 2
Kraig Kobert & Julie
Birr
22 years

Tom & Kris Thompson
39 years

Steve & Cindy Weber
38 years

September 4
Billy & Kathy Robertson
41 years

Guy & Robin Evans
12 years

September 5
Warren & Sue Myers
19 years

September 8
Ed & Shirley Cheramy
31 years

Joe & Julie Whitlock
56 years

September 19
Alan & Irene Lund
36 years

September 21
Phil & Betsy Stevenson
26 years

September 25
Jeff & Sandra Zender
12 years

September 30
Glenn & Karen Ford
14 years

GET TO KNOW US

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Ben Pascal
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Rev. Tammy Mitchell
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Effie Edwards
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x111

Liz Collins
Interim Youth Coordinator lcollins@pcjh.org
x0

Dylan Wade
Children's Ministry Coordinator dwade@pcjh.org
x103

Ruling Elders

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

Class of 2017	2018	2019
Patty McDonald* Personnel	Pat Wright Stewardship	Alan Lund* Finance
Katie-Chloe Stock Missions	Barb Andrews Youth Ministry	Barbara Carlsberg Worship
Ken Blount Clerk of Session	Peter Keenan Buildings & Grounds	Meg Womack Congregational Life
Kerry Murphy Nominating/Member Assimilation	Warren VanGenderen Adult Ministries	Aaron Nydam Children's Ministry

Deacons

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

Class of 2017	2018	2019
Nancy Brumsted Jackie Montgomery Carol Poole Sandra Zender Karen Brennan* (Moderator) Joanie Shipman* Julie Whitlock* Randy & Robyn Reedy*	Jen Baki Dylan Wade Paula Jorgenson Erin Rosenberg Deb Keenan Yvonne Henze* Tena Webb* Barb Huhn*	Liz Jorgenson Annie Mueller Marge McCallister Tom Deltz Dorothy Neckels Alicia Neathery Susan Hawkins Kenlyn Long*

*serving second term

Facilities

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8am Saturday Morning Men's Group
3 Communion Sunday 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed	5	6 5:30 pm CHOIR POTLUCK 7:00pm FIRST CHOIR PRACTICE 7pm ASCENT	7 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room	8	9 8am Saturday Morning Men's Group
10 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 9:00 am Middle School Sunday School in The Yard 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School 11:45 Childrens' Choir BEGINS	11	12 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew ALL DAY PCJH Staff Retreat	13 PCJH Staff Retreat until 12 Noon 3pm AfterSchool Begins 5:15 pm Adult Study *6:15pm Community Dinner Returns * 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir Practice	14 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room	15 Last Day of UPWARD REGISTRATION UPWARD COACHES MEETING in The Yard Classroom	16 8am Saturday Morning Men's Group UPWARD Basketball Clinic in Hayden Hall
17 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 9:00 am Middle School Sunday School in The Yard 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School 11:30 Deacon Meeting 11:45 High School Lunch 11:45 Childrens' Choir 5pm PCJH Neighborhood & Congregation BBQ	18 MUSIC ACADEMY BEGINS AFTER SCHOOL	19 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew UPWARD PRACTICE 5:30pm Session Meeting	20 3pm AfterSchool Adventures 5:15pm Adult Study Dinner 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir Practice	21 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room UPWARD PRACTICE	22 Little Lambs Closed	23 8am Saturday Morning Men's Group
24 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 9:00 am Middle School Sunday School in The Yard 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School 11:45 Childrens' Choir 11:45 High School Lunch	25	26 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew UPWARD PRACTICE	27 3pm AfterSchool Adventures 5:15pm Adult Study 6:15pm Community Dinner 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir Practice	28 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room UPWARD PRACTICE	29 UPWARD Basketball Games BEGIN 5-8pm	30 UPWARD Basketball Games 1-4pm

*The Presbyterian Church
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P. O. Box 7530
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SEPTEMBER, 2017*

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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