

--- River's Edge Echo ---

Published by **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SARATOGA, WYO.** September 2022

Photo by
John Perue

John &
Linda
Perue
artists



Dedication of the recently installed stain glass window in memory of LeRoy Bush will be held during the worship service Sunday, Sept. 25. Watch the church web page and Facebook for complete details. (See the August "River's Edge Echo" for details of the window.)

Fall schedule to resume at church

As the calendar switches to September, we can anticipate the Fall season arriving. Traditionally, churches tend to ramp up programs that may have gone on hiatus during the Summer. For this church, the Sunday morning Bible study will resume after such a break. The Gather at the Table dinners, which started on August 2 will continue into the fall.

I am hoping that during the late Fall I may have received some inspiration for one last mid-week Bible study before the calendar reads 2023. (If you have ideas, please share with me.)

As for the September sermons, I will be doing a sermon series based on a suggestion by John Wickstrom. He suggested doing a series based on times when God delivered a person from danger. I have chosen two such stories and then, just to be different, I chose a passage where God told Paul the answer to his prayer to be delivered is no. In October, I have tentatively planned on doing a different series based on a subject another person has suggested by Lori Erhart.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone this church runs on volunteers. We are showing improvement on having people volunteer since the last time I wrote about the need for volunteers. However, there are still a few Sundays where we have no sign ups for fellowship or liturgists. There are also times when I "voluntell" a couple people to serve as greeters and ushers as they walk through the door on Sunday morning.

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to be the liturgist, I would encourage you to try it. You'll like it. If you cannot remember the last time you signed up to provide refreshments for fellowship (or if you never have signed up) it might be time to sign up for that task. It is perfectly acceptable to bring store bought cookies and set up some coffee and perhaps punch or lemonade (the church lemonade mix in the cabinet, and often has punch in the refrigerator.) As we enter the fall, let us resolve to never become weary in doing good.

—Blessings, Pastor Steve

Sermon passages for month of September

September 4—Genesis 50:15-21 (Joseph)

September 11—Guest Preacher

September 18—Daniel 3:8-30 (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)

September 25—2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (No, Paul)

SEPT. SCHEDULE

Sept. 3—Gather at the Table Bake Sale
Sept. 6—Gather at the Table dinner

Sept. 9-11—Pastor on vacation
Sept. 23, 24—Presbytery meeting at Sheridan

The Hungry, Lonely, Everyone is invited to

Gather at the Table for a Free Meal & Fellowship



Tues. Sept. 6th, 2022 5-7 p.m.

Sara. Pres. Church Fellowship Hall

Corner Third & Bridge Sts., Saratoga, Wyo.

“Down South Y’all” Menu of:

*Chicken Pastry/Dumplings <> BBQ Chicken
Deviled Eggs <> Hush Puppies <> Dessert <> Drink*

Bake Sale, biscuits & gravy, burritos Help raise ‘Gather at the Table’ funds

Cookies, cakes, pies, cupcakes, goodies of all kinds, plus burritos and biscuits and gravy will all be available Saturday, Sept. 3, at a Bake Sale sponsored by the “Gather at the Table” Committee.

Everyone is invited to drop by the Saratoga Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall any time after 8:00 a.m. to have a helping of biscuits and gravy, select a burrito, or purchase any of the baked goods available.

Proceeds from the event help support the “Gather at the Table” free meal and fellowship held monthly. (*See related story and adv. in this month’s “Echo”.*)

The first Bake Sale was a big success and paid for the food served at the first dinner in August.

The biscuits and gravy dish is being prepared and served by Kris and Cindy Kessler with one biscuit, gravy, coffee or juice for \$6. Add another biscuit for only \$2 more. Burritos will be available to eat at the hall, take home or both.

It was noted that all types of baked goods are needed and volunteers are asked to help with the event. A signup sheet is available on the table in the Fellowship Hall.—
compiled by Dick Perue, editor of “River’s Edge Echo”

Blessed Are the Merciful...

...*for they will be shown mercy.* To be merciful is to show forgiveness and compassion to those in need. Mercy is something God Himself displays. God’s mercy is the withholding of a just punishment; it is His compassion on the miserable.

So first, being merciful is to show forgiveness – not punishing someone as their deeds deserve. This is reflected, of course, in the line from the model (Lord’s) prayer in which we ask God to forgive **us** our debts, sins, or trespasses **as we** forgive **others**. We are to be merciful to those who have hurt us, wronged us, or sinned against us.

But second, we are to do more than merely forgive. We are to show compassion on the miserable, as God does. Deuteronomy 30:3 [NLT] says: “*The Lord your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you.*” If we are in a position to restore someone’s fortunes – provide them with or help them find a job, lend (or give) them money when they are short, buy them groceries, take them to the doctor, and so on – we are to do so. That is being merciful.

The beatitude says that we “will be shown mercy”. Future tense. That must mean that we will be shown MORE mercy – for *we have already received* God’s mercy! Romans 11:30 notes: “*You who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy*”. Paul repeatedly shows us that our very salvation was a display of God’s mercy. Titus 3:5 says quite plainly: “*He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.*”

Once we are saved, we are to reflect God’s mercy by being merciful ourselves. We can’t save others, but we can offer goodness to those in misery or distress. We can show compassion or forbearance to someone who truly deserves only justice. And as we are merciful, we will be blessed in the sense that we know God’s joy.

Bible scholar John MacArthur sums up mercy concisely and beautifully: “*Mercy is meeting people’s needs. It is not simply feeling compassion but showing compassion, not only sympathizing but giving a helping hand. Mercy is giving food to the hungry, comfort to the bereaved, love to the rejected, forgiveness to the offender, companionship to the lonely. It is therefore one of the loveliest and noblest of all virtues.*”
--submitted by Virginia Senne

Much of this article was taken from the website “Bible.org”, from the series: “The Bible Teacher’s Guide, The Sermon on the Mount: Experiencing God’s Kingdom on Earth.”

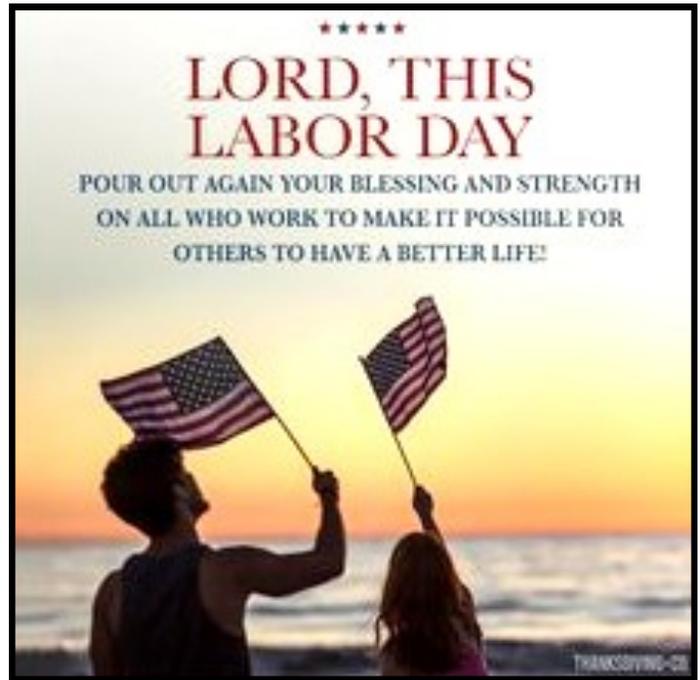
Blessed
ARE THE
Merciful
FOR THEY WILL
BE
Shown
-MERCY-

Financial concerns, Bible study head Session meeting agenda

The Session held its monthly meeting on August 18. A discussion was held after church treasurer Cindy Kessler reported that year to date general fund giving is at \$37,382.62. This is only just under 45.5 percent of our budget for this year. By comparison, giving to the general fund through July of last year was \$43,383.87. While the last quarter normally is when the church receives the highest portion of our income, there is cause for concern.

The Christian Education committee commented that the Sunday morning Bible Study is scheduled to resume in September. Pastor Steve also said that he would look at having another mid-week Bible study.

During the report from Worship and Music committee, it was decided to have a time to dedicate the recently installed stain glass window (See the August *River's Edge Echo*) during the worship service on September 25.—
submitted by Pastor Steve Niccolls



BAKE SALE



SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Saratoga Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall

Corner of Third & Bridge Streets, Saratoga, Wyo.

— *Everyone Welcome* —

All proceeds benefit newly organized
“GATHER AT THE TABLE”

Will be serving



*1 biscuit with gravy,
coffee or juice \$6.00*

*2 biscuits with gravy,
coffee or juice \$8.00*

New Item Available:



Take Home or Eat Here

All invited to Gather at the Table

Anyone who is hungry, lonely, physically limited or just wishing for companionship is invited to enjoy a free hot meal Tuesday, Sept. 6th, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the Saratoga Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, corner of 3rd & Bridge Sts., compliments of the newly organized "Gather at the Table" committee.

"Down South Y'all" is the theme of next month's dinner and the menu lists "chicken pastry/dumplings, BBQ chicken, deviled eggs, hush puppies, dessert and drink."

No reservations are needed and no restrictions apply. Folks just need to show up.

"Gather at the Table" is a non-profit charity extension of the First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga. Its mission is to provide a welcoming meal to anyone who desires fellowship in and around this community.

Meals are prepared and served buffet style by volunteers in order to provide families and individuals a free hot meal once a month in order to "fulfill a physical and spiritual hunger by reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ with love and openness through serving others," according to a recent press release.

Volunteers will also be available to serve those who are unable to serve themselves due physical limitations.

Persons wishing to assist with the dinner are asked to sign up on the pad available at the table in the Fellowship Hall.—compiled by Dick Perue, River's Edge Echo editor.

Prayer Chain No. is 326-3369

DEACONS' DOINGS

Following our Summer recess, the Deacons will be meeting after worship on Sunday, September 11th, 2022.

We will be discussing plans for the Fall and Winter months. If anyone has ideas and/or suggestions you'd like to see us address, please let us know.

Also, thanks to everyone for all your help and for your financial donations throughout the year. We really appreciate all your support!—submitted by Anne Wickstrom

Adult Bible Study

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study for Autumn 2002 will begin with exploring the Book of Acts at our regular time, 8:15 on Sunday Mornings, beginning Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022.

Please come join us, we like to hear other ideas and voices in our discussions. Hope to see you on September 11th!—submitted by Sonja Collamer

Ways to contact Pastor Steve

Normal drop-in office hours at Church are

Monday-Thursday 8:00 - 12:00

Meetings and Appointments at Any Time

Office phone is 326-5337, Home phone 326-3163,

Cell phone (510) 825-3721

srnicolls@att.net or 1pcsaratoga@union-tel.com

Or leave note on white board on office door or on desk



***First Presbyterian Church
of Saratoga***

P.O. Box 116—3rd & Bridge Sts.

Saratoga, Wyo. 82331

Ph. No. 307 326-5337

e-mail: 1pcsaratoga@union-tel.com