



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OF BERTHOUD

# Parish Sounds

*February 2018*

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Berthoud

"A TRADITION OF SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY"

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Be mindful of your  
mercy, O Lord, and of  
*your steadfast love...*  
According to your  
steadfast love,  
remember me.

~ Psalm 25:6–7  
NRSV

Adult Bible Study–8:30am  
Worship Service–10:00am

Nursery Available  
During Worship

Office Hours:  
Monday–Thursday  
9:00am–1:00pm

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(970) 631-3374 — Property

## PASTOR'S PEN



*Jesus "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him."*

~ Colossians 1:15–16

God loves paradoxes, and Scripture is filled with paradoxes. One such paradox is that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God." How can something that is invisible also be an image? We hold this in tension, knowing simultaneously that God cannot be seen, and yet that God was and is seen in Jesus Christ. If God is both seen and unseen, visible and invisible, what does this mean for how we grow in relationship with God? It's easy to imagine a relationship with the visible human Jesus, but how can we grow in relationship with the Father or the Holy Spirit, who remain invisible?

Historically, the Church has used two theological terms to describe ways to know God through what is visible and ways to know God through what is invisible. The words are *kataphatic* and *apophatic*. The kataphatic way might be expressed by hymns like "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.  
God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

In this approach to theology, we speak positively about who God is based upon what we can sense. Because God has revealed himself in human form in Jesus Christ, we can say, "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have *heard*, what we have *seen with our eyes*, what we have looked at and *touched with our own hands*, concerning the word of life" (1 John 1:1). More broadly, we can speak of who God is based on the goodness of creation. We see the sunset over the mountains and thank God that we live in such a beautiful place. We see the stars at night and ponder the brilliance of God's design of the universe. We eat a ripe peach and exclaim, "Thank you, God, for taste buds!" From these observations we speak about God in the positive: God is the Creator, God is generous, God is beautiful, God gives joy, God does all things well. From this it follows that if we want to know God more, we will pay more attention to the world around us. We will quite literally "taste and see that the Lord is good!" (Psalm 34:8).

The apophatic way, however, tells us who God is by simultaneously telling us what God is not. This is expressed well in the hymn "Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise." Think of the opening lines of the first two verses:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise.  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
  
Unresting, unhasting, silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.

Here we speak about who God is using negation: God is not mortal, God is not visible, God is not accessible to our eyes, God does not rest, God does not rush, God doesn't need anything, and God doesn't waste anything. God isn't like us (Psalm 50:21, Isaiah 55:8–9), or like anything in all creation (Isaiah 40:18–26), and we can speak most clearly about God by reiterating how *holy* and *different* from creation God is. From this it follows that if we want to know God more, we will turn away from the tangible things of the world and “look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). We will take to heart Ecclesiastes 5:2, “God is in heaven, and you are on earth, therefore let your words be few.” We will “be still and know that [God is] God” (Psalm 46:10). Practically this means choosing silence over noise, simplicity over complexity, solitude over crowds, and stillness over busyness. This spirituality is typified by the Christians who in the fourth to sixth centuries fled civilization to seek communion with Christ through solitary prayer in the desert. They are now known to us as the “desert fathers and mothers.”

These two ways of seeking to know are not mutually exclusive. Both are scriptural, both are part of the Church's tradition, both are even reflected in our own style of worship here at First Presbyterian Church. But there are seasons in life when we may gravitate more toward the kataphatic or apophatic. The seasons of the Church's liturgical year also sometimes lend themselves to these different ways of knowing God. Ordinary Time, Christmas, and Eastertide are naturally times to speak with confidence about who God is and how God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ.

Lent, by contrast, is a time to dwell in the apophatic. It's a time to own more deeply on our places of emptiness and longing, a time to ponder the mystery of God, and a time to dwell in the desert with Jesus alone. This Lent, I want to invite us as a church to try the apophatic way—to approach God through stillness, silence, solitude, and simplicity. One reason for extending this invitation now is that *the apophatic way gives us deep rest*. Learning to pray in silence and solitude may feel uncomfortable at first, but once we become acclimated to the desert, we discover that silence and solitude give a new form of rest to our bodies, minds, and souls. We're a busy church, and I truly believe that learning these practices will guard us against the fatigue and burnout that can so easily overcome our volunteers.

To help us grow in this direction, I will be preaching a Lenten sermon series on “Saying No.” It is hard in our culture to say no, and we often say yes in ways that lead us to burnout or regret. Jesus, by contrast, shows us how and when to say a holy no. During Lent, we will also be offering a Thursday evening gathering from February 22 to March 22 which will include both teaching and instruction about contemplative prayer and opportunities to pray and worship through reflective music and time in silence.

I pray that during this time we will all encounter God in a new way. Mother Teresa once said that “We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. . . . We need silence to be able to touch souls.” May our experience of God in the stillness and silence of this season indeed make us able to touch other souls with Christ's love.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Chris*

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our February luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 8 in the Perkins Restaurant private dining room located at 2222 W. Eisenhower Blvd. (across from Safeway). We have much to discuss regarding the planning of events for 2018. Marian encourages each of you to come with ideas for gatherings. Please call Marian Thrush at (720) 272-8213 or Ann Hughes at (970) 576-8687 if you have questions.



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The February Men's Fellowship Breakfast for everyone will be on Monday, February 5 at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to the breakfast. All men are welcome to join in the coffee fellowship on Monday mornings at 8:00 a.m. during the rest of the month.

## PRAYER CONCERNS



**Please keep these folks in your prayers:**

#### ***Our Homebound Members:***

Barbara Schaal	Natalie Austin
Flossie Barrowman	Lorena Lebsack
Lorraine Thompson	Jean Hardin

***Pray also for:*** Mike Salomonson; Mark Heim; the Lenz Family (Mission Family in Peru); Dale and Mary Ann Louis; our military serving around the world, veterans, government leaders; and local and national peacemakers and reconcilers.

## DATES TO CELEBRATE

February 2	Becky Smith
February 4	Edna Korth
February 12	Marge Knievel
February 13	Stephen Hagberg
February 17	Carolyn Kube
February 18	Nancy Smilinich
February 24	Jean Hardin



*If we have missed any birthdays or anniversaries, please call Marty Hyde at (970) 532-2192.*



## SESSION MEETING ~ January 8, 2017

- Katelyn Jenkins has been hired as our new nursery attendant. We welcome her and give thanks to God for His provision.
- A Lenten study and lecture on contemplative prayer will be held on Thursday evenings during Lent. More information will be presented as it becomes available.
- A new member's class will be held before Easter. See Pastor Chris if you are interested.
- Christian Education will be purchasing a movie dealing with grief in the wake of a suicide.
- The 2017 Annual Statistical Report was approved.
- Permission was given to begin changes to the choir robe room so that Neil Forsythe may have an office. Many thanks to Dianne Pollock for her thoughtfulness and hard work.
- Ordination and installation of new elders and deacons was scheduled for January 21.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Heim, Clerk of Session

Love is *patient*,  
love is *kind*.  
It does not *envy*,  
it does not *boast*,  
it is not *proud*.  
1 Corinthians 13:4

SESSION  
MEETINGS

7:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
the month

DEACON  
MEETINGS

6:00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of  
the month

Meeting times  
and dates may  
change to  
accommodate  
holidays and  
other schedules.

If you have a  
question, call the  
church office at  
532-2192.

## DEACONS MEETING ~ January 2018

Deacons did not have a formal meeting in January. We will have a combined meeting with Session on January 27. Visitations were made, and cards were sent during December. All business has been handled by email or phone.

Thank you to all who helped bake, package, and deliver cookies in December.

Please remember to stop and take the time to visit or call a friend or homebound members. If you have a need or know of someone in our church or in our community who has a need, contact a Deacon. We count on ALL of you to help keep us informed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vivian Downing, Deacon

**LENT — February 14 through March 29***BEGINNING OF LENT AT FIRST PRES*

*The Sanctuary for Lent 2018*, by Katie Z. Dawson, will be available beginning Sunday, February 11.



Wednesday, Feb. 14 **Ash Wednesday Service** at 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, Feb. 18

**Communion**

**Preparer** Judy Allshouse  
**Servers** Bettie Dinsmore  
 Ann Hughes  
 Dorothy Kurlander



Thursday Evenings, February 22 through March 22

**Contemplative Prayer Evenings** led by Pastor Chris and Liz Hartman  
 Special Guests Rick and Betsy Haskins on March 15

Sunday, Feb. 25

**Communion**

**Preparer** Duane Pond  
**Servers** Karin Sommers  
 John Prock  
 Joy Woodruff

**RESTORE INNOCENCE — TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

**T**ruckers have long been the eyes and ears of the road. The trucking industry and Colorado lawmakers want to officially put that perspective to use as the state continues its growing battle against human trafficking.

A proposal this year would do that through state legislation requiring all new commercial driver's license candidates in the state to go through a course teaching them how to identify the telltale signs of trafficking and what to do if they spot it.

Please pray for state lawmakers to be given wisdom to act in a way that protects the vulnerable and fights human trafficking.





## VERSE BY VERSE by Jerry Groves

*Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said,  
"Now is the Son glorified, and God is glorified in him."*

~ John 13:31

The context of this verse is the Last Supper, just before Jesus faced the agony of the Cross. Judas Iscariot had decided to betray Jesus, and he had gone out into the night to meet the men who would arrest Jesus and soon thereafter put him on the Cross. It was at this time that Jesus spoke of his soon to come "glorification." (v. 31).



What does it mean to be glorified? For Jesus it meant a changed body form that would allow him to return to heaven, and be once again with his heavenly Father. The Bible teaches that "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50), and the very next verses speak of a change coming in order that flesh might enter that Kingdom at all. Jesus lived in the flesh while on this earth, and though he lived a sinless life in the flesh, still his flesh would be changed in order for him to dwell in heaven with his heavenly Father.

He would be "glorified." He would be changed into a spiritual body that he once had with the Father before he came to this earth. The context of the passage suggests that Jesus was really looking forward to his coming change.

To gain a better understanding of what the glorified body looks like, read about Jesus' Transfiguration in Mark 9:1–6. This passage gives a good description of it.

Question: Will you and I ever be "glorified" and have a change of body form that will allow us to enter heaven?

See: 1 Corinthians 15:48–52, Philippians 3:21, and 1 John 3:1–2.

## APPRECIATION and THANKS

Wonder about the power of prayer? About prayer, cards, and calls? I believe they had a purpose for me to thank God, to thank the doctors, to thank the medical staff, and to thank my church friends.











There was a spirit of Christmas love in the operating room when the staff was playing Christmas hymns and songs—an unusual display of our Christian faith.

Blessed with the on-going positive results and encouragement by my doctor to "go out and enjoy your mountains," I thank God, and my church family and friends.

Janice Gibb

## February 2018 ~ Activity Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> – 8:30am Adult Sunday School – 10am Worship 				<b>1</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Study	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> – 8am from FPCB to go Snowshoeing in RMNP 
	<b>5</b> – 8am Men's Breakfast 	<b>6</b> – NO Deacons Mtg. – 6:30pm AI-Anon	<b>7</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Leaders – 7pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Study – 11:30am Women's Fellowship Luncheon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> – 8:30am Adult Sunday School – 10am Worship	<b>12</b> – 8am Men's Fellowship – NO Session Mtg.	<b>13</b> – 6:30pm AI-Anon	<b>14</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Leaders – NO Choir Practice – 7pm Ash Wed. Service	<b>15</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Study <b>Parish Sounds Deadline</b>	<b>16</b>  – 6pm Wild Game Dinner	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> – 8:30am Adult Sunday School – 10am Worship, Communion 	<b>19</b> <i>Presidents' Day</i> – 8am Men's Fellowship 	<b>20</b> – 6:30pm AI-Anon	<b>21</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Leaders – 7pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Study – 7pm Contemplative Prayer	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> – 8:30am Adult Sunday School – 10am Worship, Communion 	<b>26</b> – 8am Men's Fellowship	<b>27</b> – 6:30pm AI-Anon	<b>28</b> – 9am Wisdom Seekers Leaders – 7pm Choir Practice			



## WHO'S WHO

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Brown..... 532-2192  
 Choir Director/Organist: Neil Forsythe ..... (319) 830-2478  
 Clerk of Session: Julie Heim ..... 532-4807  
 Financial Secretary: Ann Hughes..... 587-4057  
 Treasurer: Virgil Downing ..... 622-8847  
 Bookkeeper: Lu Ann Hostetter..... 532-2192  
 Facility Manager: Karin Sommers ..... 631-3373  
 Administrative Assistant: Marty Hyde ..... 532-2192  
*Parish Sounds* Editor: Marty Hyde ..... 532-2192

### SESSION

Julie Heim ..... '18 ..... 532-4807  
 Bettie Dinsmore ..... '18 ..... 532-3033  
 Joy Woodruff ..... '18 ..... 412-0217  
 Ruth Fletcher-Carter ..... '19 ..... 532-2681  
 John Sommers ..... '19 ..... 631-3374  
 Virgil Downing ..... '20 ..... 622-8847  
 Jeremy Doan ..... '20 ..... (303) 550-1357

### DEACONS

Karin Sommers..... '18 ..... 631-3373  
 Vivian Downing ..... '18 ..... 622-8847  
 Marian Thrush ..... '18 ..... 532-5989  
 Ray Gurney ..... '19 ..... (303) 772-0957  
 Ann Hughes..... '19 ..... 587-4057  
 Linda Olson ..... '19 ..... (720) 203-6395  
 Verna Covey..... '20 ..... 532-4815  
 Mark Johnson ..... '20 ..... 532-5228  
 Rebecca Johnson ..... '20 ..... 532-5228

## SERVING SCHEDULES

### USHERS

#### February 4

Karin Sommers  
 Marian Thrush  
 Ann Hughes

#### February 11

Chris Pollock  
 Dianne Pollock  
 Janice Gibb

#### February 18

Linda Olson  
 Brent Anderson  
 Lois Anderson

#### February 25

Linda Olson  
 Donald Houle

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### February 4

Bettie Dinsmore

#### February 11

John Sommers

#### February 18

Virgil Downing

#### February 25

Julie Heim

### COMMUNION SERVERS

February 18  
 and  
 February 25

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### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

#### February 4

Eileen Brown  
 Jenni Doan

#### February 11

Bettie Dinsmore  
 Kathy Felix

#### February 18

Marian Thrush  
 Karin Sommers

#### February 25

Marian Thrush  
 Karin Sommers

### NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Month  
 of February





**SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE**

8:30am  
Adult Bible Study

10:00am  
Worship Service  
Nursery Available



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**"A TRADITION OF  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**