FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

The Gift of Thanksgiving

We know we live in a polarized nation. Polarized around politics, religions, culture, geography. The only way to mitigate against this is personal engagement, even friendship, with those who are different. Given the nature of our social lives, this won’t happen by accident. It needs to be an intentional process.

Sometimes formal situations are set up to allow for this. Interfaith dialog events provide an opportunity for people of different religions to share and learn from each other.

Sometimes it happens informally. I think relating to folks who think differently should be built in during the holiday season. Thanksgiving means bringing relatives together over a common meal.

Unlike our social worlds, which are chosen, families generally are not. So, it is less likely that you gather because you share the same religion, the same politics, the same outlook, the same life situation.

What gathers you together is that you are family and are stuck with each other. That and good food.

I think our country needs more of those kinds of situations, where the relations and connections we have are stronger and deeper.
From Pastor’s Desk Cont.

Could the church be that kind of place that brings together people who disagree?

For the apostle Paul, the church’s mission is that of reconciliation, to be a movement for healing and wholeness in a fragmented world. And yet churches can fall into the same trap as the culture, where folks are expected to fit in with the dominant group.

The one advantage the church has is the communion table. Like the family table around Thanksgiving, the communion table is a place where folks can overcome differences with food and fellowship.

The communion table happens not because of our chosen lives but because we are chosen by God to be included as family. It is to that which we belong by virtue of God’s love for us and God’s love for the world.

Not all churches, families or countries function this way, and this can be a painful time as a result. But my prayer is that they would. Whatever it is that estranges us, God can help us find those connections and relations that can make us whole, as individuals, as a community and as a country. That will produce the solidarity needed. In the end, we really do need each other.

MISSION OF PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL

To provide an environment in which people of all ages can participate in the worship and praise of God through the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, music, prayer and the sacraments: to provide Christian education and outreach to people of the church family and in the community: to join with other churches in the basic and special support of missions.

MISSION OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

To worship God, to develop our youth, to expand our Christian fellowship and to respond to our community and wider church needs. Through our study of the living Word of God, we will provide a lasting spiritual atmosphere.
REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS

Peoples Congregational Church: Jeana Barnhart, Duane Bergemann, Kathy Crowell, Clara Cundiff, Aaron Franz, Ron Gurney, Lois Kalberer, Jan Scheetz, Doris Swenson, Shari Viall, Peggy Zadow, Anita Scheetz, Tom Scheetz, Nancy Obergfell, Robyn Heck, Dick Davidson, Judy Jensen

First Congregational Church: Leslie Hagler, Amelia Messer, Sandy Quinnell, Even Sunwall, Sharon Quinnell, Craig Seeve, Linda Lowry, Sandy Ler

BIRTHDAYS

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<td>Howard Harmon Jr</td>
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<td>Ryan Gear</td>
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<td>Connor Stone</td>
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<td>Marshall Vojacek</td>
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<td>Kaylie Davidson</td>
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<td>Henri Haugen</td>
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<td>Tatum Beiswanger</td>
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<td>Jason Schmierer</td>
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<td>Alan Tofte</td>
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<td>Wyatt Hagler</td>
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<td>Casey Schmierer</td>
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<td>Travis Sergent</td>
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<td>Justin Messer</td>
<td>22nd</td>
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<td>Paul Haagler</td>
<td>27th</td>
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<td>Bob Pemberton</td>
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ANNIVERSARIES

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<td>Gene and Tanya Asbeck</td>
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<td>Ron and Shirley Taylor</td>
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<td>Victor and Twyla Gustafson</td>
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3
1. **Monday NOVEMBER 15 at 10 AM**

**LET’S MAKE LEFSE TOGETHER**

Please RSVP Kristan by November 12
So, we have enough ingredients.

Make for Yourself, for Our Thanksgiving Families
And for the Bazaar.
Kristan 406-480-2640

2. **We are PROVIDING**

**THANKSGIVING MEAL BASKETS**
To 2 FAMILIES In Need
Families Recommended by RCCADV

And We Need Your Help:
You may **GIVE MONEY** & we will do the Shopping & or Give for a $30 Gift Card.

*(Designate on Check : for THANKS FAMLY)*

Or **CALL** the Church Office 406-433-3707 To **SIGN UP** For Food Items
You will bring to the church kitchen and PUT in the THANKSGIVING MEAL Basket

**By Friday November 19 at 1230 pm.**

**FOR 2 FAMILIES WE NEED:**

(2) Turkey
(2) Ham
(2) 10 lb. bag of Potatoes
(4) large cans of Yams
(4) cans of Cranberries
(4) containers of Whip Cream

(4) packages of Stuffing
(4) packages of frozen Corn
(4) packages of frozen Green Beans
(4) frozen Pies
(4) Packages of Dinner Rolls
(2) $30 Gift Cards

**THANK YOU...WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU.**
DECEMBER

3.

Please Join Us for

Peoples Congregational Church’s

Bazzar

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4
BAKE SALE 1PM…… AUCTION 130 PM

Bring your Auction Items: craft, woodworking items, gift baskets, etc & Bake Sale Items to the Church By FRIDAY DECEMBER 3

The Church Is Open 930 AM to 1230 PM (M-F).
It will also be OPEN ON Friday December 3 930 am to 3pm

Sunday School Loves helping at the Bazaar……come enjoy their enthusiasm……
Enjoy their
Christmas Spirit.

4.

SUNDAY SCHOOLERS
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY
PROGRAM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

COMING UP in DECEMBER
At CHRISTMAS We Will Be
PROVIDING
2 FAMILIES
HOLIDAY MEAL BASKETS
And SANTA GIFTS
Details to follow in the December TiE
After discussion the Mayflower Circle voted to stop serving funeral meals. It is getting harder and harder for our few people to organize, donate, prepare, serve and clean up.

We spoke to Fulkerson Stevenson funeral directors and they said other churches are in this same situation. Fulkerson’s has a list of people who are willing to cater, some will take care of everything, including cleaning up.

The families will be responsible for the cost of the meals. The funeral directors will let the families know when they come in to prepare for the funeral.

We hope you will understand.
Mayflower Circle
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Sidney MT 59270

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308 2nd Ave North
Savage MT 59262
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433-3707
Parsonage — 488-5368

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