

**Yellowstone Currents**  
**A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery**  
**October 2018**

The first snow of the season fell across our part of Montana today. This snow won't last, but it was a herald of change and winter and cold. As I think of the shifting of seasons, I ponder a verse of one of my favorite hymns, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*:

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

And of course the wonderful chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

As the seasons change, may we expect and experience God's faithful love and care, morning by morning. What new stories of his grace and strength will we have to share with one another?

**A special invitation to hear Rev. Ammer Issak from Lebanon on October 8<sup>th</sup>**

On Monday, October 8, 2018, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Billings will host a talk at 6 p.m. by the Rev. Ameer Issak from Tyre, Lebanon. He and his wife Esther house and teach Syrian refugees in their church.

Rev. Ameer Issak is a pastor at the Tyre Evangelical Center in Tyre, Lebanon, in the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, a partner with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This is a Reformed denomination, which is denoted in those countries by the term "Evangelical" which distinguishes it from the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican churches.

Rev. Ameer serves a small congregation of about ten extended families. Rev. Ameer and his wife Esther live in one room of the church. The rest of the building houses a variety of ministries and outreach programs. They believe God has called them to embody Christ in love and service to Syrian refugees. Programs offered include Sunday morning worship and Sunday school, an elementary school for Christian and Muslim refugee children, a medical clinic, a food bank and livelihood classes for widowed Muslim and Christian women who are often unskilled and need to provide for their families.

Rev. Ameer and his translator Dani are visiting Wyoming Presbytery as part of that presbytery's partnership with the Tyre Evangelical Church in Lebanon and the Aleppo Evangelical Church in Syria.

## **Faith, Science, and Climate Action Conference to be held October 12–13**

From Jody McDevitt:

Hello Fellow Yellowstone Presbyterians!

I am writing to invite your participation in a ground-breaking conference which will be held in Bozeman. The Montana Association of Christians, the Montana Interfaith Network, and the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association are among the religious organizations partnering with environmental and science organizations to offer the "Faith, Science, and Climate Action Conference" October 12-13 at the Emerson Cultural Center. Nearby churches (including First Presbyterian) will host workshop breakout sessions. The speakers will be top notch. You will learn about impacts on Montana from the most knowledgeable scientists and hear from nationally known Christian leaders about the theological/moral imperatives for people of faith. Please consider attending and reaching out to members of your church and community -- laity and clergy, young and old -- to share about this offering.

Complete information is at [www.fscaconference.org](http://www.fscaconference.org), where you can register. Thank you!

## **Youth Ski Retreat 2019**

Junior and Senior High youth will gather at First Presbyterian Church in Butte for the 2019 Ski Retreat. Many thanks to the folks in Butte for your wonderful hospitality!

Date: February 22-24, 2019  
Location: First Presbyterian Church Butte  
Arrive: Friday, February 22 after 6:00 p.m.  
Ski: Saturday at Discovery Ski Area  
Depart: Sunday, February 24 after worship  
Brochures and registration forms will be available in January.

## **Pastoral Transitions**

### **Dillon**

The Rev. Daniel Triller will be installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Dillon on October 14 at 4pm. Dinner will follow the installation service. We welcome Daniel and his wife Callie to Yellowstone Presbytery! We are very grateful to Rev. Steve Weber who has completed two years of ministry in Dillon as interim pastor.

### **White Sulphur Springs**

We welcome the Rev. Wenda Fry, who will be installed Sunday, October 21 at 3pm as pastor of the Federated Church in White Sulphur Springs. Wenda and her husband are both ELCA pastors.

### **Philipsburg**

The Rev. Debbie Schmidt begins her ministry as pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Philipsburg along with the United Methodist congregations in Drummond and Hall. Debbie is a United Methodist pastor.

**Paul Cannon** has accepted a call as pastor at Fairview Presbyterian Church in Hillsville, Virginia and he and Joleanna, Mikey, and Danny have moved to Virginia. Paul's email remains [p.g.cannon@gmail.com](mailto:p.g.cannon@gmail.com).

## Remembering a great season of camp. .



### **Junior High Camp – Westminster Spires 2018**

#### **Upcoming Events**

Oct. 8 Rev. Ammer Issak speaks at St. Andrew Presbyterian, 6pm, Billings

Oct. 9 Leadership Cabinet FPC Bozeman 10am

Oct. 12-13 Faith, Science, and Climate Action Conference Emerson Center, Bozeman

Oct. 14 Installation of Rev. Daniel Triller, First Presbyterian Church, Dillon 4pm

Oct. 21 Installation of Rev. Wanda Fry, Federated Church, White Sulphur Springs 3pm

Nov. 2 -3 Presbytery Meeting First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman

Nov. 8 Pastoral Ministry Team First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman

Nov. 10 MAC Connect First Christian Church, Helena 10am – 3pm

#### **Presbytery Meetings for 2018:**

Nov. 2 – 3 First Presbyterian, Bozeman

## Yellowstone Presbytery Clusters

Our clusters typically meet each month. If you have not been a part of a cluster and would like to explore the idea of joining in, please contact one of the following coordinators.

Miles City Cluster - Neva Rathbun ([msrev@midrivers.com](mailto:msrev@midrivers.com))  
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson ([pastordave@fpcbillings.org](mailto:pastordave@fpcbillings.org))  
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall ([teresakendall@mac.com](mailto:teresakendall@mac.com))  
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke ([funkepastor@yahoo.com](mailto:funkepastor@yahoo.com))

## Remember our Round of Prayer as we keep our churches, ministries, and leaders in prayer:

Sunday, Oct. 7: World Communion Sunday  
Peace and Global Witness Offering; Institute for Peace Studies  
Sunday, Oct. 14: Colstrip United Community Church, Commissioned Lay Pastor Robert Shy, Jr.  
Tuesday, Oct. 16: World Food Day; Food Banks throughout Yellowstone Presbytery;  
St. Andrew Community Garden  
Sunday, Oct. 21: Rev. David Andrew, Pastor At-Large  
Sunday, Oct. 28: First Presbyterian Church Deer Lodge, Pastor Teresa Kendall

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net).