

First Presbyterian Church

# The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2024, Issue 4 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT April 2024



**Dianna Goodman arranges palms.**



## Register soon for Trolley Tour

Join your FPC friends on a comfortable Trolley bus ride, and learn more about Habitat for Humanity – Saturday, April 13, from 9 to 11am.

The Helena Habitat staff will lead the tour of current and future projects. It's free.

Make your reservation asap, since there are only a limited number of seats. Call Mindie at 406 -204-5602, or go online at [HelenaHabitat.org/Trolley](https://www.helenahabitat.org/Trolley) to register. The tour will leave from the Habitat Restore, behind Pizza Ranch.

## Lost Soles Walks returning!

Lost Soles Walks return!

Join in the fun – Sunday, April 7.

Meet in the church parking lot at 2pm

We will walk around downtown Helena.

Sweet treats to follow.

# Vanguard tithe funds sent to PDA

The Mission and Outreach Committee has chosen to send the Vanguard tithe funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with the designation for use in the Middle East.

The tithe amount was \$1,725.26 and the committee added \$74.74 for a total of donation of \$1,800.

## Family Promise of Greater Helena & First Christian Church

*invite you to an*

### Open House & Celebration

**Sunday, April 7**

**11 a.m. — 3 p.m.**

**at 311 Power Street**

Come tour this piece of Helena history, see the 1885 sanctuary, hear about the Family Promise program and the plans to create a community center.

*Enjoy refreshments & cake with friends and neighbors.*

## Helena Xpress Singers present 50th anniversary show Saturday, April 20

They've been around for 50 years and now they're going to celebrate!



Don't miss the Helena Xpress Singers' 50th Anniversary Show — "Life in the Xpress Lane" — Saturday, April 20, 4p.m., at the Helena Middle School Auditorium.

Tickets are available online at [HelenaXpressSingers.org](http://HelenaXpressSingers.org) and also will be sold at the door. Cost is \$20 each, and \$15 for students and seniors.

## Town Hall

**Sunday, April 28**  
after the service

*Come hear an update  
on FPC activities!*



**SARAH CIRCLE**

**Monday, April 1, 2 p.m.**  
**(Contact: Sheryl Eriksen)**

**REBEKAH CIRCLE**

**Thursday, April 4, 10 a.m.**  
**(Contact: Merle Korizek)**

**E**.E Cummings said, "April is a gentle reminder that life's transformations are beautiful and inevitable." Those life transformations are like April...with sunny warm days and days of snow, wind and hail. The soft days and the hard ones...follow one right after another. But in this time, when we are reminded that change is inevitable, we know that God has spoken about this...more than once.



To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecc. 3:1) See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Is 43:19)

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lam.3:22-23). If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17)

And one of my favorite verses...“And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” (Rev. 21:5)

It seems as though all of nature gives us this same reminder. And yet, we resist it. We prefer things to be as they are or, if it is necessary to change...then let it change the way we want it.

Jesus calls and compels us into a transformed life. A life where we become like him. Paul understood this in 2 Cor 3:18: “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness, from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Jesus says "take my yoke upon you" extending an invitation to become like him by learning and walking with him.

In April through May, we will work through the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-10. Every week, we'll discover what Jesus teaches and how he lives each one out as he calls us to do the same. (A few years ago, "Following the Call, Living the Sermon on the Mount Together" was the basis of a book study. If you have a copy, pull it out and read the thought-provoking articles. A few extra copies are in the Pastor's Office.)

The series will begin April 7 with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Come hear Jesus' transformational words which caused "two gentlemen to engage in a lively scrimmage" with "threatened pistols" in a discussion

*(Continued on page 4)*

over the minister's sermon on "Blessed are the pure in heart," (*A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena Montana, Celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, June 15-17, 2012 pg. 15*) and arguments even today!

Blessings!

Pastor Janet

**Thank you for  
your service, Joy!**

Joy Edgar will be resigning  
from the Board of Deacons  
effective May 31.



Session has accepted her  
resignation with regrets and  
thanks for her service.

**Elder & Deacon  
Meeting**

Saturday, April 20  
9 a.m. to noon  
at the church.

*If you are unable to attend,  
please let Pastor Janet know.*



*Ladies ~ You're invited!*  
**Presbyterian Women  
Salad Luncheon  
& Birthday Offering**

**Wednesday, May 29 ~ 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Richardson Hall**

**Guest speaker: Jenifer Gursky**  
Executive Director, YWCA Helena

*RSVP: Carol Gneckow by Sunday, May 26  
(406) 422-9914*



# MINUTES OF THE SESSION

## First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

### March 19, 2024

The worship service and regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena were called to order on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM by Reverend Janet Potter.

Pastor Janet opened the meeting with prayer followed by a worship service that included communion. The Scripture reading was from Jeremiah 31:31-34. An Intercession for Lent followed reflections on the Scripture reading. Following communion, she moderated the business meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Sheryl Eriksen, Barb Leland, John Coefield, Karen Witte, Arlyn “Butch” Plowman, Patti Borsberry, and Jim Meyer. Elder Jeff Chaffee attended on Zoom. Also in attendance: Clerk of Session John Gneckow and Deacon Joy Edgar. Guests included Ria (Maria) Caussyn and John Bryan.

Each session member introduced themselves as did the two guests. John Bryan attended as an observer.

Pastor Janet explained that Ria was at the meeting as an applicant for membership and invited questions from Session. Subsequently, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept her as a member of FPC. Ria will be welcomed to membership during the Easter Sunday service.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:** Pastor Janet added a report from the ad hoc committee on leasing portions of the building. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket as amended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024, as presented.

#### **CLERK’S REPORT:**

Active Membership as of January 31, 2024	92	
Active Membership as of February 29, 2024	92	

The Clerk stated that he had no correspondence to report.

**INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Janet reported her activities:

Continues a weekly prayer time on Thursday mornings at 11:00 AM.

Continues leading weekly worship at Cooney Home.

Plans and leads Sunday worship.

Attended Lent Planning team meeting.

Attended Mission & Outreach, Building & Grounds, Fellowship,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Session Minutes (continued from page 5)

Deacons, Nominating and Admin committee meetings.

Moderated the February Session meeting.

Conducted a new member class on March 5.

Started a three-week noon Wednesday Bible Study focusing on the Sunday gospel scripture.

Planned Holy Week worship services starting Sunday March 24-Palm Sunday and culminating on March 31-Easter Sunday.

Anticipating a Town Hall meeting April 28.

Leading a joint Elder/Deacon meeting April 20.

Communion		108	44 in person, 49 online, 15 at home
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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration Committee:** Chair Jim Meyer reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

Treasurer Leo Potter noted FPC had a net operating revenue of negative \$2898 for February. Donations for the month were \$18,365.

Vanguard accounts showed an increase of \$12,221 in February.

The Memorial committee did not meet during the month.

Premiums for Brotherhood Insurance are likely to increase. We also anticipate hiring an attorney to help with the proposed shared use of our facility.

Next Meeting April 10, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

**Building and Grounds:** A written report was submitted. Chair John Coe-field reported.

As a result of the Active Shooter training in February, a motion was made to unlock the Main Entrance doors on Sunday from 9:00 AM until 10:15 AM. The doors will then be locked until 11:00 AM at which time they will be unlocked until 12:00 PM (noon). This change will begin on Sunday April 7.

A handrail will be installed in the sanctuary for assisted access to the platform at the East end of the piano. FPC already has a foldup ramp for wheelchair access to the platform. The ramp is stored in the hallway behind the choir.

The next meeting is April 24, 2024.

**Christian Education Committee:** Did not meet in March.

**Congregational Fellowship:** Chair Sheryl Eriksen reported, and a written report was submitted to Session.

A 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck will take place on March 31 following the Easter worship service. The theme will be “Brunch” consisting of breakfast casseroles or dishes, fruit trays, donuts, bagels w/crème cheese, jam, or peanut butter.

A Lost Soles hike is planned for Sunday April 7. Meet in the parking lot 2:00 pm

Habitat for Humanity is having a trolley ride to some of their worksites on April 13 at 9:00 am. Make a reservation on the Habitat website.

The next meeting will be on April 10 at 2:00 pm.

**Memorial Committee:** Did not meet.

**Mission Committee:** Chair Karen Witte reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

Disbursement of the Tithe Funds from the Vanguard funds was discussed. The tithe funds will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with the designation for use in the Mid-East. The amount of the donation is \$1800 after an additional \$74.74 was added.

FPC gave Alayna 100 Cuddle Buddies to distribute. We still have 100 to be given to various organizations in Helena.

The one-time Energy Share donation drive raised \$1260.

**ACTION ITEM: Request Session approve the continuance of support for Missionary Andrew Christofferson for another year. Approved.**

The next meeting is April 8, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

**Nominating Committee:** No meeting was held.

**Personnel Committee:** Chair Jeff Chaffee reported no meeting was held. Chair Jeff reported that Nursery Position has been posted. No applications have been received yet.

Pastor Janet’s periodic review is due in April.

JULIE’S TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH FPC IS IN APRIL. Let her know our appreciation for her work and service!!

**Worship Committee:** No report submitted to Session.

Pastor Janet reported planning for Holy Week worship services has been completed. Dianne Goodman has planned and will lead the Maundy Thursday service.

Important worship dates:

Palm Sunday—March 24.

## Session Minutes (continued from page 7)

Maundy Thursday—March 28. Includes Communion

Good Friday—March 29.

Easter Sunday—March 31. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday pot-luck brunch after worship.

**Deacon Report:** The minutes of the February 4, 2024, meeting were submitted to Session as well as the February activity report.

Joy Edgar is resigning as a member of the Board effective May 31. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept her resignation with regrets and thanks.

During January, communion was served to five people at Touchmark, three people at Son Heaven, five people at Edgewood and two at home. One hospital visit was made. Nine meals were supplied.

A request will be made to Building and Grounds to ready the FPC van for drivability.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the committee reports.**

**Old Business:** John Coefield reported for Chair Linda Bench and the ad Hoc committee on sharing the church, that the committee is working on answering various questions in preparation for leasing a portion of the facilities to some entity—preferably a non-profit—without jeopardizing our non-profit status. They are hoping to talk with attorney Chad Adams about taxes and our non-profit status.

“Butch” reported that PNC is still receiving referrals for the pastoral position.

**New Business:** none

There being no more business to conduct, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Janet at 8:00 pm.

The next Regular Session Meeting: April 16, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session



**Snow granules nestle in a daffodil bud.**



## FPC Elders

**Barb Leland Butch Plowman**

**Sheryl Eriksen** (Fellowship chair)

**Jim Meyer** (Administration chair) **Karen Witte** (Mission chair)

**Jeff Chaffee** (Personnel chair) **Patti Borsberry**

**John Coefield** (Building & Grounds chair; Nominating chair)

**John Gneckow**, Clerk of Session

## FPC Deacons

Julie Chaffee

Candace Coefield, moderator

Lonna Weidemann

Joy Edgar

Merle Korizek

Carole Massman

Vicky Bryan

BJ Burns

Kathy Chambers

Jill Cook



### *Thank You for Your Generosity*

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of FPC Helena.

Your financial support makes the proclamation of the gospel possible throughout the world! Our Feb. net giving is below.

	<b>Feb. 2024</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$18,365	\$40,465
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$21,263</u>	<u>\$43,935</u>
	\$(2,898)	\$(3,469)

The online giving program can be found on the [fpchelena.org](http://fpchelena.org) website.

If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Leo Potter at 815-980-5236.

*This is the day that the Lord has made:  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!*


## **FPC is hiring!**

We are looking to hire a Nursery Care Worker.

This part-time position requires experience in childcare, must be at least 16 years old, dependable and able to pass a background check. Hours are 9-11:30 a.m. Sundays and pay is \$37.50 for the morning.

The job description and application form are available at the church office and on our website: [www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)

# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Sarah Circle  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>2</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>3</b> <b>2 pm</b> Choir	<b>4</b> <b>10 am</b> Rebekah Circle <b>11 am</b> Prayer Time <b>5:30 AA</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>5</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>2 pm</b> Lost Soles Walk	<b>8</b> <b>1 pm</b> Mission <b>3 pm</b> Education	<b>9</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>10</b> <b>Noon</b> Estate Training <b>2 pm</b> Choir <b>2 pm</b> Fellowship <b>4 pm</b> Admin.	<b>11</b> <b>11 am</b> Prayer Time <b>7 pm</b> AA  <b>All Day</b> Estate Planning meetings	<b>12</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards  <b>All Day</b> Estate Planning meetings	<b>13</b> <b>9 am</b> Habitat Trolley Tour
<b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>11:15 am</b> Deacons	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>6:30</b> Session <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>17</b> <b>2 pm</b> Choir	<b>18</b> <b>11 am</b> Prayer Time <b>6:30 pm</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>19</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>20</b> <b>9 am</b> Elder, Deacon meeting
<b>21</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>10 am</b> B & Grounds <b>2 pm</b> Choir	<b>25</b> <b>11 am</b> Prayer Time <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>26</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Town Hall	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts				



## April Birthdays



14th Marsha Davis

17th Sally Klein

16th Dianna Goodman

24th Carolyn Anderson

17th Diane Richards

28th Madisyn Gard



## April Anniversaries

5th Judy & Stephen Bayless

26th Matthew & Diane Richards

6th Deb Drynan & David Rosencrans

**Join us for worship!**

**Sundays, 10 a.m.**

**or online @**

**[www.fpc.helena.org](http://www.fpc.helena.org)**

**Hand & Foot Cards**

**Fridays, 1:30 p.m.**

Never played? No problem!

The game is easy to learn  
and willing teachers abound.

**Please let us know**

If you or a loved one is  
hospitalized, please let us know  
by calling the church office.

Also, if you need assistance  
please call the church office

**406-442-4775**

**‘Upper Room’  
devotionals here**

Copies of “The Upper Room” daily  
devotional guide are available in the  
wall rack next to the church office.

Regular and large-print booklets are  
available, provided by the FPC  
Education Committee.

**FINANCIAL  
DEADLINES**

Completed Credit Card Re-  
quest forms, Check Request  
forms, Personnel Forms &  
Time Sheets are due in the  
Financial Office  
mailbox:

**Monday, April 15**

**Monday, April 29**

First Presbyterian Church  
535 North Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601

[www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)

Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189  
Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

406-442-4775

[admin@fpchelena.org](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org)



*Spreading the Good News  
of Christ through Our Love,  
Words, and Actions*

Label here