

First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2024, Issue 5 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT

May 2024



Trolley tours

A group from FPC toured Habitat for Humanity build sites aboard the trolley last month. Two more Saturday tours are offered. See page 4 for details.

Fellowship fun

Capitol tour

Sunday, May 12

Your FPC Fellowship Committee is organizing a Capitol tour for fellow Presbyterians Sunday, May 12.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:45 p.m., and carpool to the Capitol. Treats at Dairy Queen will follow.

It's time for a new church directory!

Les Cramer is taking photos of members and friends of the congregation Sundays, May 5 & 12. Choose your appointment time by signing up in the fellowship area. Photos will be taken in the Youth Room. (If you can't be here those dates, a make-up session will be offered later.)

You will also have the opportunity to verify or update your address, email and phone number.



It's been five years since our last directory and, with the prospect of calling a new pastor, it will be great to have an up-to-date directory for helping the pastor (and the rest of us!) get to know each other.

Please plan to participate!

Mother's Day giving

Mother's Day is May 12. Let's celebrate in two ways: Let's honor or remember our own mothers and let's give a gift to struggling women.

The Mission & Outreach Team is asking you to donate period products and miscellaneous toiletries to give to women at The Friendship Center, Florence Crittenton, and the YWCA. 'Donation Cards' will be available in the Fellowship area for you to complete as you donate, either honoring or remembering your mother. The cards will be copied and printed in the bulletin on May 19.

FPC to host Family Promise May 25-26

FPC will host Family Promise May 25-26.

We will be looking for volunteers to sign up to bring food or to stay overnight with the Family Promise guests at First Christian Church. Watch for a signup sheet on the Welcome table.

For more information, visit with our Co-Volunteer Coordinators Joy at 406-202-2200 or Larry at 406-227-6400.



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





As a child, May 1st was always a fun day. That day, May Day, my friends and I would make little baskets out of paper. Then we would pick lilacs and violets to fill the basket. The last thing we did was to hang them on a neighbor's door, ring the door bell and run so the neighbor did not know who left the basket. It always went to a neighbor that we liked as a gift of love. We didn't leave it on the door of our mean neighbor! It was a lovely tradition to being the month of May by showing love to others.

Love continues in May. The second Sunday of the month celebrates women who have loved us like a mother or even our own mother. This month, in honor of all women, the congregation is collecting personal care items, like period products, shampoo, lotion etc. That is one way to show love to others in honor of those who have loved (or love) us.

And love continues! Sunday, May 19, celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those who follow Jesus! It is also the day the church was born when the people accepted Jesus and 3000 people were baptized. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit!" (Ro 5:5) Galatians 5:22 reminds us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love.

May ends with Memorial Day. Now the unofficial beginning of summer, this is actually a day to remember those loved ones who died serving our country. On Memorial Day we mourn for those who did not return and recognize their service. It is a day when we give thanks for the freedoms we have because of their sacrifices.

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:11). There are many opportunities to show love. Cards, flowers, gifts, visits to loved ones, decorating graves with flowers are all ways to show God's love. How might you love others in a new way? Maybe invite someone to church and experience the love of Christ and this family of faith? Or invite a new (or long standing) member to lunch after church or share Jesus with someone. Attend a new fellowship activity to get to know others you haven't talked to very much. Or pray for someone whom you don't know. Let May be a month we spread God's love to others. There are endless ways to do this, maybe even drop off a May basket to a shut in!

Let us spread God's love to others during the month of May, maybe even by dropping off a May basket to a loved one!

Blessings,
Pastor Janet

Sunday Hours Update

The building is open from 9:00-10:15am, then locked until 11:00am.

If you have a fob/key, please use it. Building and Grounds is working on a guest-friendly way to remotely unlock the door during that time.

Habitat Trolley Tours

Habitat for Humanity is offering trolley tours of its building sites Saturdays, May 11 and June 8.

Tours begin at the ReStore, 1320 Market Street, and run from 9-11am. Reservations are required and may be completed through the website: HelenaHabitat.org/Trolley or by calling Mindie at 406-204-5602.

Take a tour and see how FPCH's donations are providing housing for our neighbors.

Pentecost

The Pentecost offering helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. Your gifts, when combined with those from other congregations, help instill in our young people a heartfelt understanding of the ways God comes to us every single day. Our congregation retains 40 percent of the offering to give to a local organization. The Mission and Outreach Committee has chosen Serious JuJu this year.

On July 7, 2007, JD and Nikki Carabin opened their garage to skaters on what would become the first Friday Night Skate. Soon, close to 20 came each Friday night. Many of these kids would show up right after school and stay till midnight. No one was calling to see where their kids were. No one was checking to see if they had eaten. JD confessed, "My wife and I sold anything we had of value to fund the ministry. Eventually, we sold our home as well." Over the next few years, a dozen kids stayed with the couple to escape substance, physical and emotional abuse. Today, JuJu meets in a new space at the Gateway Mall. The group's mission: Serious JuJu is an indoor skatepark that creates a safe and healthy space. We see, feed, and strengthen youth and families through the actions of God's love.

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
April 16, 2024

The worship service and regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena were called to order on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM by Reverend Janet Potter.

Pastor Janet opened the meeting with prayer followed by a worship service that included a Scripture reading from Matthew 3:7-10 and a time of reflection from the Scripture. Pastor Janet concluded the worship service with communion and opened and moderated the business meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Sheryl Eriksen, Karen Witte, Arlyn “Butch” Plowman, Patti Borsberry, and Jim Meyer. Elder Jeff Chaffee, Clerk of Session John Gneckow and Treasurer Leo Potter attended on Zoom. Also in attendance: Deacon Joy Edgar. Guests included Linda Bench. Elders John Coefield and Barb Leland were excused.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow Linda voice during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024, as presented.

CLERK’S REPORT:

Active Membership as of Feb. 29, 2024	92	
Active Membership as of March 31, 2024	92	
Deaths during March 2024	1	Judy Patton 03/16/2024
New Members During March	1	Maria Caussyn 03/31/2024

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. Easter services attended by 74 in house and at least 6 on YouTube.

Attended Mission & Outreach, Fellowship, Deacons, Admin, and Sharing the Building Ad-Hoc committee meetings.

Moderated the March Session meeting.

Conducted graveside memorial service for Judy Patton.

Performed hospital visits as needed.

Session Minutes (continued from page 5)

Attended her periodic personnel review.

Attended Habitat for Humanity informative trolley tour on April 13.

Anticipating a Town Hall meeting April 28.

Leading a joint Elder/Deacon meeting April 20.

Provided Elder Training for Linda and John.

Took a week vacation starting April 13.

Communion	109	46 in person, 42 online, 21 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 \$880 for March. YTD operating revenue is negative \$2629. Donations for the month were \$16,383 to the general fund with total revenue of \$22,961.99.

Vanguard accounts showed an increase of \$10,437.48 in March.

The Memorial Committee did not meet during the month.

Premiums for Brotherhood Insurance are increasing.

ACTION ITEM: Session approve an increase in the budget for this year to account for the increase of \$2,117 for insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved the use of Anderson funds to pay for books and tuition for Dianna Goodman's CLP training.

The Ad Hoc committee on sharing the FPC campus is receiving interest in the space. The committee has been receiving assistance from attorney Chad Smith on zoning and other legal issues needing to be addressed. Chad also recommended that FPC produce a fact sheet to provide interested parties and also help us focus on what we have available for an outside party to utilize.

Building and Grounds has reported that FPC had a fire inspection recently. Most of the deficiencies are being addressed by our handyman and a committee member. Two things need special attention: a fireproof curtain for the stage in Richardson Hall and the North door opening on 11th Avenue needs to be able to be used as an emergency exit in the event of fire. A follow-up inspection is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

The next Administration meeting: May 8 at 4:00 PM.

Building and Grounds: No meeting while Chair John Coefield is gone. The next meeting is scheduled for 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.

The next 5th Sunday Potluck will take place on June 30 following the worship service.

Another Habitat for Humanity trolley ride to some of their worksites will be May 11. Make a reservation on the Habitat website.

A Tour of the Capitol is planned for May 12th at 2:00 PM and will include a visit to the “Historical Women of Montana.” Check the Sunday Bulletin and Mustard Seed for more information.

The next meeting will be on May 8th at 2:00 PM.

Memorial Committee: Did not meet.

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

Vests for use during Mission, Outreach and other church activities have arrived. They will advertise who we represent when involved in various activities.

FPC has received a queen-sized quilt to be given to Family Promise for fund raising. The quilt will be displayed in the Fellowship area before being gifted to Family Promise.

Habitat for Humanity has suggested July 27 as a workday for FPC participation. We agreed on that date.

Mission agreed to organize food and children’s activities on October 19th from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. in conjunction with Pumpkin Patch.

ACTION ITEM: Session approval for the Pumpkin Patch Fun Day. Approved.

Forty percent of this year’s Pentecost offering will be sent to Serious Juju.

The congregation is being asked to donate miscellaneous toiletries and personal hygiene products for women through May 12th as part of Mother’s Day activities. The collected items will be given to the YWCA, Florence Crittenton, and the Friendship Center.

Similar to the Mother’s Day activity, for Father’s Day, the congregation will be asked to donate socks, shaving products, and grooming items for men from May 19 through June 16. Collected items will be given to God’s Love, Our Place, and Good Samaritan to distribute.

The next meeting is May 13, 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 Pastor Janet’s periodic review was completed in April.

Worship Committee: No report submitted to Session.



A sign with a brief history of FPC Helena has been installed near the Ewing St. entrance.

Session Minutes (continued from page 7)

Deacon Report: The minutes of the March 10, 2024, meeting were submitted to Session and included the March activity report.

Moderator Coefield opened the meeting with prayer.

The Board of Deacons is working on plans for using the church van more. Guidelines have been developed for using the van. Mike Davis has already done the servicing and battery installation.

When the church directory is being worked on, people will be asked if they wish to provide emergency contact information that can be used by the pastor. The information will be stored in the Pastor's file cabinet until needed.

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

Candace closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Old Business: none

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.

The next Regular Session Meeting: May 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session

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

Opportunities for Financial Giving

- Now -May 19 – Pentecost Offering (40% retained at FPCH)

Opportunities for Non-Financial Giving

- Now through May 12 – Give period products & miscellaneous toiletries for women in honor or in memory of your mother.
- May 19 through June 16 – Give socks, shaving products and miscellaneous grooming items for men in honor or in memory of your father.



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 March net giving is below.

	March 2024	YTD
Income	\$22,961	\$63,387
Expenses	<u>\$22,081</u>	<u>\$66,016</u>
	\$880	\$(2,629)

The online giving program can be found on the 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

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
			1 2 pm Choir	2 10 am Rebekah Circle 11 am Prayer Time 5:30 AA 6:30 pm Bridge 7 pm AA	3 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	4 All Day AA workshop
		Family Promise Hosting May 25-26				
5 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time	6 2 p.m. Sarah Circle 3 pm Education	7 11:30 am Bridge 3 pm Personnel 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	8 10 am B&G 2 pm Choir 2 pm Fellowship 4 pm Admin	9 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	10 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	11
12 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11:15 am Deacons 1:45 pm Tour of Capitol	13 1 pm Mission	14 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	15 2 pm Choir	16 11 am Prayer Time 6:30 pm Bridge 7 pm AA	17 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 4 pm Movie & Dinner	18
19 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	20	21 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 Session 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	22 2 pm Choir	23 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	24 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	25
26 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	29 11:30 am PW Luncheon & Birthday Offering 2 pm Choir	30 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	31 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	



May Birthdays



1st Chris Goodman
 3rd Justice Gard
 5th Tim Borsberry
 5th Hezekiah Rowland
 14th Julie Chaffee

18th Pearle Plowman
 20th Joe Steffens
 24th Hunter Foster
 27th Kathy Chambers

Thank you for your service!

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.

Hand & Foot Cards

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Never played? No problem!
 The game is easy to learn and willing teachers abound.



SARAH CIRCLE

Monday, May 6, 2 p.m.
 (Contact: Sheryl Eriksen)

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Thursday, May 2, 10 a.m.
 (Contact: Merle Korizek)

Mark your calendars

5th Sunday of the Month
 Potluck June 30
 after the church service

MAY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, May 17

4 p.m.

FPC Youth Room

Popcorn provided
 Bring your own
 non-alcoholic beverage.

*Dinner after, for those
 who want to go out.*

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

Monday, May 13

Monday, May 27

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

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



Label here

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