



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2023 Issue 8

First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana

August 2023

Picnic potluck at Fairgrounds

Join us for a picnic
potluck Sunday, Aug.
20, after the worship
service.

We will gather at the
fairgrounds and enjoy
games, music, food
and fellowship.

Bring a
potluck item
to share.



**Join us
for worship!**
Sundays, 10 a.m.
or online @
fpc.helena.org



Cuddle Dolls

Workers gathered July 12 to complete the Outreach Ministry's Cuddle Dolls project. The dolls will be given to local agencies and law enforcement to comfort children in stressful situations.



FPC to help at Habitat site Aug. 5

FPC volunteers will help at a Habitat for Humanity build site in East Helena on Saturday, Aug. 5.

We will meet at the site at 9 a.m. for a safety meeting, and then help with some light cleaning. The site is located in Red Fox Meadows in East Helena, 4080b St. Marys Road.

You can park in the cul-de-sac where you will see the Habitat tent and picnic table. **Driving directions are on page 4.**



Women's retreat Aug. 18-20

Presbyterian Women are "committed to nurturing faith, supporting mission, working for justice, and building community."



The PW of First Presbyterian Church in Conrad invite the women of our congregation to join in the annual PW of Glacier Presbytery Fall Retreat at Glacier Camp's Spruce Lodge on beautiful Flathead Lake. The dates for the retreat are August 18-20, 2023.

The topic for this year's retreat will be "The Missional Life" and will be led by Rev. Jason Dorsey and his wife Jenny. Jason is pastor of Redeemer, a Presbyterian Church in Redmond, Washington. The syllabus for the presentation states: "You can't know who you are and what you are for unless you know the story you are in. The Bible's story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration is the big story you are in. It tells who you are and what you are for, to be a participant in God's restoration of all things. This restoration includes inviting others into God's story. You will apply this to your life through creating a Disciple Making Plan."

Please see Carol Gneckow for registration and retreat information: (406) 422-9914.

FPC Elders

Barb Leland **Butch Plowman**

Mary Stiles (Education chair) **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

Mary Brainard

BJ Burns

Candace Coefield, moderator

Joy Edgar

Kathy Chambers

Lonna Weidemann

Merle Korizek

Carole Massman

The Spirit is on the move! Two opportunities for you to participate as the Spirit moves you!

We finished our 5 week sermon series on the "Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice" by Rev. Dr. Joan S. Gray. But we are never finished making the shift from "rowboat" thinking to "sailboat living" guided by the Holy Spirit. The end of the book is a Guide to Forty Days of Prayer. This section will be the source for a **weekly prayer time beginning on Thursday mornings at 11:00am on Aug. 3**. Everyone is invited to join me in the Prayer Chapel/East Library for 30-45 minutes to pray for people, this congregation and the church. No reservation needed, no pressure to pray out loud, just come!

"Sailboat Churches know that every single person in the congregation has gifts for ministry. They make it a priority to help people find their spiritual gifts and put their gifts to work for God's sake" (pg. 73).

There will be a **(Re)discovering Your Spiritual Gifts workshop**. It will be offered twice: **Saturday, Aug. 26 from 9:00am-12/noon**. It will be repeated on Sept. 26 from 6-9:00pm.

There are other ways the Spirit is moving. First, a team comprised of Jim Meyer, BJ Burns, Ward Stiles and Barb Leland are working on the Mission Study report. This is a document which gives a snapshot of the congregation's history and current ministries in relationship to the community and her needs. They will compile, discuss and discern this information from sources such as the three congregational meetings held this spring, an understanding of financial situation and where God is calling this congregation. The report will be approved by Session and reviewed by Glacier Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. This review is necessary before a congregation is allowed to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

This mission study will be useful in the preparation of the Mission Discernment Profile which is posted on the Church Leadership Connection website [the PC(USA) matching and referral system for searching churches and pastors].



(continued on page 4)

Pastor's Desk *(continued from page 3)*

Second, during the Project Regeneration meeting on June 2, the group considered different options for how a congregation might go forward. The three key options are: share campus; reinvention of ministries; age in place. Session established a team of Patti Borsberry, Butch Plowman and John Warren to review those options and discern which ways God might be calling FPC. Their exploration will be reported to Session for further discernment. We will hear more from them in the future!

Pray for the Spirit to continue to move FPC into new ministries and mission!

To God be the glory!

Pastor Janet

How to get there Aug. 5:

Directions to the Habitat for Humanity work site

Our build site is at **4080b St Marys Road**
in the Red Fox Meadows subdivision
in East Helena.



Driving east on Canyon Ferry Road:

Go past the roundabout.

Turn right at first turn past the roundabout into Red Fox Meadows subdivision.

Take the first left turn.

Go all the way down to the end of the street.

You can park in the Cul-De-Sac and you will see our Habitat tent and picnic table. We will all meet there at 9am for the daily safety meeting.



Intermountain Tour

A group from FPC Helena toured the Intermountain campus Tuesday, July 11. Intermountain is a nonprofit providing hope and healing to children, youth, and families in need of improved mental and behavioral health. Presbyterian Church (USA) is one of Intermountain's four supporting denominations.

Photo by Kathy Chambers

'Stuff the Bus' seeking donations by Aug. 4

"Stuff the Bus" has moved to direct-to-school grants instead of physical donations of school supplies. If you are interested in sending a donation to Angel Fund to help purchase bulk school supplies for 1,400 students in need this fall, you can go through one of the options below:



1. Send a check to Angel Fund, P.O. Box 7436, Helena, MT, 59604.
2. Stop by Valley Bank and make a deposit in our "Stuff the Bus" account.
3. Make an online donation at: <http://www.angelfundhelena.org/StuffTheBus>

Angel Fund's goal is to raise \$60,000 by Aug. 4.

Linton Scholarship winners announced

Carver Van Aken and Hezekiah Rowland are the recipients of this year's Larry Linton Scholarships.

Carver is completing his freshman year at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, pursuing a degree in engineering. He will be transferring to Montana State University this fall and hopes to eventually enter a career in designing cars and structures. His mother, Lynette, was raised in Helena and attended First Presbyterian Church. He is also the grandson of John and Carol Gneckow.

Hezekiah is a 2023 graduate of East Helena High School. He plans to attend Carroll College, majoring in biology and business as he prepares to attend medical school. His career goal is to become an ER doctor. Hez is a member of FPC Helena, and frequently shares his musical gifts with the congregation, singing and playing the clarinet.

The Linton scholarship was established several years ago, when Larry Linton provided a scholarship gift of \$10,000 to the church. The gift was invested and is earning interest. As sufficient interest becomes available, funds are awarded to students attending or planning to attend post-secondary school.

Please let us know

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please let us know by calling the church office at 442-4775. St. Pete's is no longer able to tell us whether any FPC people are patients there.



Glacier Camp News

Next TIM (Theology in Ministry) **Talks: Sept. 17-19**

Contact Info:

Camp website: www.glaciercamp.org

Camp Director: Rev. Tim Lanham: timothy@glaciercamp.org

Phone: 406-844-2114

Coming September 6 . . .

Fellowship invites you on a trolley tour

FPC's Fellowship team members invite you to join them aboard the Last Chance Tour Train Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 11 a.m.



Tickets are \$10. Please sign up **in advance** on the sheet in the Fellowship Room or by emailing coordinator Barb Leland at barb640@hotmail.com.

We will meet at the Montana Historical Society "train depot," 225 N. Roberts St., before 11 a.m. Tours last one hour.

Fellowship Opportunities

Lost Soles Walk

Sunday, August 6

Meet at church parking lot
at 1 p.m.

Bingo!

Friday, August 18

6 pm Pizza 6:30 pm Bingo
Bring the family!

Hand & Foot Cards

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Room

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

Ongoing collections:

Helena Food Share



The Mission Committee continues to collect food for Helena Food Share. The donation bin is located just inside the main office doors.

Toiletries/Coupons



Donations of toiletries (small, travel size) and coupons can be

dropped off in the collection basket inside the main office doors.

Tonna Strasko delivers the donations to individuals in need of help with expenses, and also to God's Love, Friendship Center, and YWCA.

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA

June 27, 2023

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:37 PM by Reverend Janet Potter. This was a rescheduled Session meeting because Pastor Janet had conflicting church and family duties on June 20, 2023.

Pastor Janet opened by leading the Session in a meditation based on Psalm 122:1-5, Ezekiel 37:1-14, and Acts 12:1-17.

Pastor Janet then opened the meeting with prayer and moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present in the church facility: Arlyn “Butch” Plowman, Sheryl Eriksen, Karen Witte, Jim Meyer, Barb Leland, Jeff Chaffee (via Zoom), Patti Borsberry, and John Coefield. Also in attendance: Treasurer Leo Potter, and Deacon Joy Edgar. Special guest was Pam Chigbrow our liaison from the Committee on Ministry. Elder Mary Stiles and Clerk of Session John Gneckow were excused.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CLERK: Pastor Janet suggested Karen Witte as the Temporary Clerk of Session in John Gneckow’s absence. Motion made, seconded and approved.

SPECIAL GUEST: Pam Chigbrow introduced herself. She is from Great Falls and an Elder at Sunrise Presbyterian Church. She served on the Sunrise Pastor Nominating Committee/Search Committee and will be our support person during our pastoral search. Pam asked several questions to develop a feel for our feelings as Elders about our situation at FPCH.

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 May 23, 2023, Session meeting as written.

CLERK’S REPORT:

	Active Membership as of April 30, 2023	105	
	Active Membership as of May 31, 2023	105	

INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Janet reported her activities during May. They include:

Hosted Glacier Presbytery meeting.

Led worship at Cooney Health Center on Tuesday mornings.

Moderated Presbytery COM

Attended Project Regeneration the third session led by Rob Hagan Presbyterian June 2nd.

Basin congregation update: Bill and Mary Norris will become members of FPCH and the Basin congregations will be a satellite congregation but continuing with their current method of worship service. Pastor Janet suggested a joint event between the two congregations in the future.

Action items:

Approve Mission Study team: A team will be formed to write a new Mission Statement for FPCH describing who we are, where we've been and where we're going. Pastor Janet's vision is to have the statement ready for submission to the Commission on Ministry by early fall. A motion to accept the suggested team was made, seconded and approved.

Approve Project Regeneration Leadership team: A short-term team will be formed to explore the most recommended options for the congregation that came from the final meeting of Project Regeneration. They are not tasked with developing a final plan, but to present and personalize the options as they relate to FPCH. Motion made, seconded, passed.

	Communion (May)	96	48 in person, 43 online, 5 at home
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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Chair Jim Meyer reported, and a written report was submitted to Session.

Treasurer Leo Potter reported a net revenue of negative \$16,291.31 so far this year. He also noted that a pay raise for staff was approved for this year but was not implemented. This oversight was rectified in the May paychecks. FPC is experiencing reduced copier costs as a result of adjustments to the monthly newsletter printing and mailing/emailing process.

Vanguard accounts decreased nearly \$5,000 during May.

We are currently waiting for the judge to sign the papers confirming that the Truck Insurance lawsuit contesting any liability for FPC in the camp deck collapse is settled and dismissed.

FPC will change from Easy Tithe to the Presbyterian Foundation online donation process beginning the first of July.

The stewardship process was discussed in light of the recommendations from the Project Regeneration meetings. It was noted that education of the congregation is needed, and we will likely change the formal stewardship campaign.

Elder John Coefield asked the committee for further discussion on the reporting of the Vanguard funds.

Session Minutes *(continued from page 9)*

It was noted that Presbyterian Foundation online giving program is up and running and the EZ Tithe program will end June 30th.

Building and Grounds: Chair John Coefield reported the committee did not meet in May.

Christian Education Committee: Chair Mary Stiles reported that the committee did not meet.

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

Future activities include bingo with pizza on June 23 at 6:00 PM.

Give out cards on Mother's Day and treat bags on Father's Day.

Hosted a luncheon for Presbytery attendees on June 3.

The next Lost Soles walk will be July 9, place to be determined.

The committee is trying to put together a Tour Train ride and maybe a Gates of the Mountain boat ride this summer.

Potluck July 30 following worship.

The annual picnic is scheduled for August 20 following the church service.

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

Family Promise: Larry Mirch is interested in becoming a coordinator with the program.

The congregation's Pentecost Offering was \$490. FPCH retains 40% of that amount, which is \$196 and will be given to FPCH's Youth Group. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to take an additional \$104 from Mission's Undesignated fund to make the amount to be given \$300.

Discussed taking a tour of Intermountain to learn more about their work with special needs children. Karen will call and ask for a tour on Tuesday, July 11, at 1pm. The congregation will be invited to accompany us.

Committee members were encouraged to attend the "Listening Neighbors" event to be held at St. Paul's on June 20, beginning with lunch at 11:30 and conversation at noon.

Outreach Team:

The therapy dolls project was discussed and all agreed to rename the dolls "Cuddle Dolls" to remove connotations associated with "therapy." We will introduce the project and distribute the dolls to the congregation on June 18. Jill suggested and all agreed to use a sign-up sheet to keep track of the dolls. We may receive some sewing help from 4-H members in the community.

The dolls should be returned by June 25th, and then the sewing phase of the project will be completed. On July 12th we will have a “stuffing party” in the Fellowship area.

Kathy suggested a “Coffee for Vets” project. It was moved, seconded and approved to run the project for three weeks from September 24th through October 15th. The congregations will be asked to donate coffee and shelf-stable related products to be given to the Veterans Administration for distribution. Kathy will introduce the project to the congregation.

The Food Share/Town Pump matching funds project was discussed. It was moved, seconded, and approved to participate in this program again this year. The time will be October 16th through November 22nd. We will request a check for donations on the November 27th check run and deliver it to Helena Food Share in time to receive the matching funds.

Also discussed was a giving project in conjunction with the Pumpkin Patch. It was suggested we could provide popcorn if the Youth Group has an outdoor movie. Or we could provide cookies or cider for Pumpkin Patch customers. We will talk with Les and John C. about these ideas. Tabled for later discussion.

Action items: Request approval for “Coffee for Vets” project and for participation in the Food Share/Town Pump matching funds project. Motion passed.

Personnel Committee: Chair Jeff Chaffee reported the committee did not meet during June.

Worship Committee: The committee did not meet during June.

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar reported, and written reports of the May and June meetings were submitted to Session.

MAY Board of Deacons Meeting:

Deacons on Call: As was discussed in a prior meeting with Pastor Janet, it is decided this board will no longer offer a deacon on call and should someone have a need (i.e., a ride request or other assistance) they can call the church office and the Pastor will notify the person’s Shepherd or direct them in the correct manner (i.e., benevolence, etc.). This is a trial basis for now.

Lonna has put together a list of the assisted living facilities and who lives where. Hunter’s Pointe is now known as the Holiday Senior Living, Big Sky Health is now Mt Ascension Health and Rehab. Rocky Mountain health has closed. For the future, Corky Lord will be moving into Hunter’s Pointe.

During May communion was served to two people, one person at the Masonic Home, and to one individual at home. There were three at home visitations. No meals were provided.

Job Descriptions: there are a few updates and one recommendation to address. It is felt that the person serving as the hospital visitations chair should

Session Minutes (continued from page 11)

have a day of the week they visit. It is necessary to add shepherding to the Deacons' description; as all deacons, moving forward, will have a flock beginning in the 2024 term. The Secretary's description has been updated to include Deacon Reference Manual duties for the Board.

Board Elections: Today, the Board members nominated and elected the following positions: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Nominating Committee representative. Candace called for an oral vote allowing our incoming Deacon Kathy Chambers voting privilege, beginning today. All affirmed positively. None opposed.

For Board Moderator, Patti nominated Candace. Candace accepted. Art moved the nomination. Joy seconded. All were in favor. None opposed.

In call for Vice Moderator: Lonna nominated Joy. Joy accepted. Pearl moved the nomination. Seconded by BJ. All were in favor. None opposed.

In call for Secretary: Mary volunteered. Art moved the nomination. BJ seconded. All were in favor. None opposed.

In call for Nominating Committee Representative: Kathy Chambers volunteered. All were in favor. None opposed.

JUNE Board of Deacons Meeting:

Committees:

Shepherding: Julie Chaffee, Coordinator.

Card Ministry: Lonna Weidemann, Coordinator.

Communion Ministry: Kathy Chambers, Coordinator.

Hospital Ministry: Carol Massman, Coordinator.

Meal Ministry: Merle Korizek Coordinator.

Prayer Chain Ministry: Pearle Plowman Coordinator.

Benevolence Fund: Julie Chaffee Chairperson.

Ministry Reports

Butch & Pearle Plowman served communion to 3 people at Touchmark.

Two people were served at Edgewood, and one person was served at the Masonic Home.

No meals were supplied.

Two people received hospital visits.

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

Old Business: The exploration of active shooter training was discussed and assigned to Building and Grounds Committee for follow-up.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn.

Pastor Janet thanked Pam for her presence and guidance as we continue to explore our options for FPCH. She closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm.

Next Regular Session Meeting: **August 15, 2023, at 6:30 pm.**

Karen Witte for
John Gneckow
Clerk of Session



*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 June net giving is below.

	June 2023	YTD
Income	\$18,205	\$115,456
Expenses	<u>22,722</u>	<u>136,264</u>
	\$(4,517)	\$(20,808)

The switch to a new online giving program is complete! It's up and working 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!*

**Online giving
program ready**

We have completed the switch from EasyTithe to a new online giving program through the Presbyterian Foundation.

To access the program website and set up your account, you can go to our website: fpchelena.org and visit the "Giving" page.

Or, you can access the program by scanning the QR code shown below.

If you have any questions, please contact FPC Helena Treasurer Leo Potter at 815-980-5236 or by email at ethic1@gmail.com



AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	2	3 11 am Prayer Time 5:30 District AA 7 pm AA	4 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	5 9 am Habitat for Humanity work day
6 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time 2 pm Lost Soles Walk	7 3 pm Education 6:30 Chat Bridge	8 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 Mission 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	9 10 am Buildings & Grounds 2 pm Fellowship 4 pm Admin	10 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	11 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	12
	8:30 am Preschool Camp Aug. 7-9					
13 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11 am Deacons	14 10 am Worship Com- mittee	15 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 pm Session 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	16	17 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	18 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 6 p.m. Pizza & Bingo!	19
20 10 am Worship 11 am Picnic at the Fairgrounds	21 6:30 Chat Bridge	22 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	23	24 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	25 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	26 9 am-noon Spiritual Gifts Workshop
27 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	28	29 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	30	31 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA		

August Birthdays

4th	Jim Meyer	24th	Vic Reiman
8th	Ann Seeley	26th	Patti Borsberry
10th	Marshall Gingery	28th	Joyce Andrews
12th	Kay Warren	31st	Butch Plowman
22nd	Levi Clausen	31st	Aleigha Drynan
24th	Karen Witte		



August Anniversaries

3rd	Jim & Charlotte Meyer	20th	Joe & Tonna Strasko
13th	Levi & Kristen Clausen	25th	Art & Rena Bumgardner
13th	Melissa Stiles & Ryan Hannahoe	29th	John & Connie Fitzpatrick
18th	Bob & Merle Korizek	30th	Mark & Dianna Goodman
18th	Vic & Joan Reiman	30th	Frank & Ali Cornwell
		31st	Jerry & Sally Klein

Sharing God's Bounty

Attention, Gardeners!

You are invited to bring in excess produce and set it out on Sundays to share with others.

Please let me know if you will be bringing in donations ~ I have the table and trugs that we put the produce in.



For details, contact:

Jim Meyer
406-439-2899

**Articles for the
September "Mustard Seed"
are due August 25.**

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

Monday, August 14

Monday, August 28

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



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

Label here