



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2023 Issue 9

First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana

September 2023

Family Promise news

It is my privilege to welcome Larry Mirch who is joining me as a Co-Volunteer Coordinator for FPC representing Family Promise of Greater Helena.

Our next hosting is **Sept. 10 & 11**, when we'll provide dinners, and **Sept. 13 & 14**, when we'll serve as overnight hosts at First Christian Church. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the Welcome Station.

The annual "Comfort Food Challenge" fundraiser, for which Larry and I are selling tickets, is happening **Sunday, Sept. 10**, 4-6:30 p.m., at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. Tickets are \$20 each or \$40 for a family of 6. Raffle tickets for a diamond necklace are also being sold. Larry has details about those tickets.

For more information, call either Joy, at 406-202-2200 or Larry at 406-227-6400 or 406-916-6447.

God's peace and blessings,
Joy Edgar, Family Promise
Co-Volunteer Coordinator



Habitat help

A crew from FPC pitched in last month to help prepare a Habitat for Humanity home for its new owners. The volunteers assisted with siding the house, cleaning, and pulling weeds. (Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity)

Lunch music

Vic Reiman entertains the crowd with some harmonica tunes during the annual church picnic Aug. 20.

(Les Cramer photo)



Worship Meeting on Sept. 11 at 2:30pm!

Session is taking this time to consider different ideas and thoughts on worship, both in the Sanctuary and the Sunday happenings. A survey sheet is provided outside the Sanctuary or call Julie and she can send you one. Those are due by Sept. 10.

The Worship meeting on Sept. 11 at 2:30pm will be a time of reviewing the worship committee's work and responsibilities. We will brainstorm ways to ensure the work continues. We will also consider creative ideas, format alternatives, and ways to support our worship staff. Watch for more details and announcements to come! Everyone welcome!

Fellowship Opportunity Hand & Foot Cards

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Room

Never played? No problem!

The game is easy to learn
and willing teachers abound.



SARAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.

(Contact: Sheryl Eriksen)

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Thursday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.

(Contact: Merle Korizek)

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

Candace Coefield, moderator

Lonna Weidemann

Mary Brainard

Joy Edgar

Merle Korizek

Carole Massman

BJ Burns

Kathy Chambers



Over the summer, the view out my office has included a variety of heavy equipment, a police car parked so the officer can work on reports, skateboarders whizzing by, cars zooming by, bikers, walkers and people coming and going into the building. Our parking lot has been busy as has the neighborhood. Construction/reconstruction on Rodney, a roofing on the Temple, working on the Cathedral spires and repaving on 11th Street. Each one has included a time of transition. None of it happened overnight. At times, it was loud and messy, distracting and annoying. But other times, it was a sign of something new coming into being!

I'm grateful for all that activity. It serves as a reminder that we too are in a process of transition. It doesn't happen overnight, it gets messy and yet...there are signs of something new coming.

What are those signs?

A key piece of the process to call a pastor in the PC(USA) is the Mission Study. This will be presented to Session this fall. That Mission Study needs to be approved by the Committee on Ministry (COM) which will happen this fall. If COM suggests any edits or changes, those are sent back to Session. When the Study has final approval from COM, only then can a Special Congregational Meeting be called to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). From there, the PNC begins its work of writing the Mission Discernment Profile (MDP), it's like a resume of the church. When that is finished, the church profile is uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection website and pastors can apply for the position.

All of this is a lengthy process but then, calling a pastor is like a marriage between God and 2 people. In this case, it will be between God, FPC and a permanent pastor. This process cannot be rushed, it — like all things in transition — takes time. They happen in God's time and through the work of the Holy Spirit.

This summer there were days when the work on the road actually caused the building to shake. It was startling to feel that! Some days the work in the neighborhood was so loud with beeping, grinding and

pounding. Some days it looked like nothing was changing, nothing was happening. But that was to my untrained eyes. Then I noticed less of those noises, less of that work going on and the roadways were finished. The roof across the street at the Temple Emanu-El was completed and it all looked finished. I was so excited to see our parking lot open again, the smooth street and the roof done. One day, this interim process will finish too, and your new permanent pastor will be here.

In the meantime, trust God, pray for your Elders, Deacons and the Nominating Committee and above all...remember Deut. 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

To God be all the glory!

Pastor Janet

Veteran Outreach

You are invited to participate in an outreach project for veterans throughout Montana.

In 2007, a local veteran created a private program, based on his belief that no veteran facing medical procedures should be without a free cup of coffee to help. The first program was set up at Fort Harrison here in Helena and has since grown to 17+ clinic sites throughout Montana. Wherever there is a clinic or health facility that serves veterans, there is a mini coffee bar, with free cups of coffee.

Perhaps you have seen a gentle-



man in WalMart during the month of November. He is there to collect **coffee, creamer, and sugar** for these facilities.

At First Presbyterian, your Outreach team is asking for your donations of these items to show our appreciation for Montana veterans. We will collect these items beginning Sept. 24 and conclude Oct. 15.

Our gifts will be added to the November collection and distributed to the vets in need throughout the state.

Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting August 2023

On beautiful (but smokey) Flathead Lake, Glacier Camp was the busy gathering place for over 40 Presbyterian Women and friends representing 10 churches in Glacier's Presbytery.

We listened and discussed "The Missional Life" by our featured speakers: Rev. James and Jennifer Dorsey. Our music leaders, David and Jane Ar-ends and pianist, Colleen Brommer, and retreat coordinators, Carol Day-rider, Kim Cooney, Martha Orcutt, Karla Wittmier (Conrad); together with Sally Wright (Missoula) and the Presbyterian Women of Conrad, prepared a wonderful agenda of fun and fellowship over the August summer week-end, 18-20.

Our delicious meals were prepared by Lori and Megan Newbury. Rev. Tim Lanham provided support and gave us many important updates on camp happenings.

Mark your calendars for next year's annual gathering, Aug. 16-18, 2024, at Glacier Camp. Our PW moderator Ruth Hazelton (Hamilton), vice mod-erator Carol Dayrider (Conrad) are always willing to hear from you with questions you may have. Our churches divided retreat activities across the Presbytery. Helena's First Presbyterian Church will design free-time activ-ities.

TIM Talks September 17-19



"My Title for All Generations"

Names for God and their Significance across the Witness of Scripture

Glacier Presbyterian Center—Leader: Rev. Tim Lanham

The September TIM Talks will explore the Bible's many different names for God. The gathering begins Sunday afternoon, with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a lecture and discussion, and concludes Tues-day at noon.

In addition to a lively engagement of the biblical narrative and a cele-bration of different ideas and perspectives, the TIM Talks always pro-vide opportunity for great interaction and wonderful fellowship. To sign up or for more information, email timothy@glacercamp.org.

Thank you—

Members & family of the FPC —

Thank you guys so much for the generous and thoughtful card and money you all have given me towards my college education. You all have taken such an unbelievable stress off my shoulders. I can't explain how grateful I am to all of you. You all took me into your family here without hesitation. I feel so welcomed and happy amongst you all. I was so anxious when Hez invited me to go to church with him, but the first day I came...it felt like I was visiting my family.

I have struggled with my faith in the past three years. I lost my grandma Bonnie and papa Jack three years ago, and I used to go to church with them, though at the time it was only to hang out with them, which was perfect for me. I couldn't bring myself to go back, especially after the funeral, which was at the church.

From the first moment I came to this church, you all have been so kind and welcoming to me. It has felt like I am with my grandparents again. I can't explain how much you all have helped me heal mentally and emotionally, not to mention financially with this kind check towards my education. I feel so blessed to know you all and what great people you are. I see so much grace and love within all of you, it's like I am talking to someone that no matter how bad my hair looks or how bad I sing, you'll always say I look beautiful and sang beautiful.

You all see the good and I feel so lucky to have found a new family. Coming to church with Hez was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. I love you all and thank you. You have helped me more than you know.

~ Mollee Jones

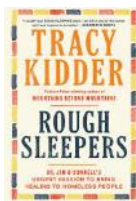
Please let us know

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.

In the community . . .

'Rough Sleepers' book group meets Wednesdays

Lewis and Clark Library, in partnership with local organizations, invites you to participate in the reading and discussion of "Rough Sleepers," by Pulitzer-prize winning author Tracy Kidder.



All discussions are held at 12 noon; sack lunches encouraged.

No reservations required; all

Thank you, Dianna

On behalf of Session, I'd like to thank Dianna Goodman for all her years of work on the Worship Committee.

She chaired the Committee, served as Sanctuary Coordinator, trained Liturgists, dusted sanctuary windowsills and served this congregation in many quiet and "behind the scenes" ways.

Thank you, Dianna! God's blessings on how God is calling you to serve in this congregation, as well as upon your continued education at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Commissioned Lay Pastor program. Thank you to Mark Goodman who assisted with Sanctuary decorations and putting up banners.

~ Pastor Janet

are invited whether or not you have read the book.

Schedule

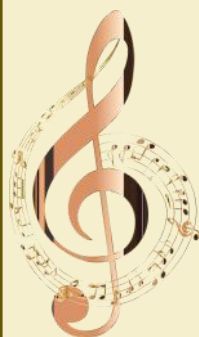
Sept. 6 at Our Place: "Who is my neighbor?"

Sept. 13 at Temple Emanu-El: "What's Education Got to Do With It?"

Sept. 20 at Covenant United Methodist Church: "Did You Hear Me? Not in My Backyard, Please."

Sept. 27 at Plymouth Church –UCC: ***Lunch provided.*** "What About Drugs, Addictions, Mental Health and other Life Threatening Concerns on the Streets?"

Choir Rehearsals resume



**Wednesday,
Sept. 6**

6:30 p.m.

~ Come, sing with us ~

Les Cramer, director

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

August 15, 2023

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:35 PM by Reverend Janet Potter.

Pastor Janet opened with a devotion from Eugene Peterson's **LIVING THE MESSAGE**. The devotion was based on Galatians 5.

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

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Arlyn "Butch" Plowman, Sheryl Eriksen, Barb Leland, Mary Stiles, Jeff Chaffee, Patti Borsberry, and (via phone) John Coefield. Also in attendance: Treasurer Leo Potter, Clerk of Session John Gneckow, and Deacon Joy Edgar. Elders Karen Witte and Jim Meyer were excused.

Special guests included Dianna Goodman representing the Worship Committee and John Warren of the Project Regeneration Leadership Team.

Pastor asked for a motion to enter into **Executive Session** in order to hear from the Project Regeneration Leadership Team. The motion was seconded and approved.

"Butch" Plowman, Patti Borsberry, and John Warren led a discussion on "Talking Points from Elders' Ranking of Options" resulting from the June 2, 2023, session of the Project Regeneration program series presented by the Presbyterian Foundation. The purpose of the series was to focus the Session on the future of FPC as we begin the process of hiring a new pastor.

Pastor Janet asked the Session members to review the questions contained in the report.

Following completion of the Team report, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to exit the **Executive Session**.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: Pastor Janet added two items to the docket—approval for John Gneckow to serve another year as Clerk of Session and approval of a commissioner to Presbytery. Deacon

Joy Edgar asked that we have a discussion of the role of the Board of Deacons in the communion process. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket with the additional items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of June 23, 2023, Session meeting as written.

CLERK’S REPORT:

	Active Membership as of June 30, 2023	105	
	Active Membership as of July 31, 2023	105	

Clerk John Gneckow thanked Elder Karen Witte for filling the role of Clerk while he was on vacation.

The Clerk indicated that FPC received two thank you notes. One was from the International Folk Dance group for allowing them to use a room in the church during the period of high temperatures in July and August. The second was from Mollee Jones thanking the church members for the scholarship money and for welcoming her into the FPC fold.

INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Janet reported her activities during June and July. They include:

- Led worship at Cooney Health Center on Tuesday mornings.
- Worked with Habitat for Humanity Saturday August 5.
- Attended Project Regeneration Leadership Team meeting.
- COM work for Presbytery.
- Attended Special Presbytery meeting.
- Attended Mission Study team meeting.
- Planned Discover Your Spiritual Gifts Workshop to be held August 26.

c. Communion (June)	80	48 in person, 25 online, 7 at home
c. Communion (July)	79	33 in person, 34 online, 12 at home

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Lacked a quorum. No business was

Session Minutes *(continued from page 9)*

conducted.

Treasurer Leo Potter reported a small amount of income in July, but FPC is still behind in revenue for the year.

Building and Grounds: Chair John Coefield reported, and a written report was submitted.

FPC needs to talk to the fire inspector about options regarding the grill in the kitchen. Currently FPC is asking that use of the grill in the kitchen be discontinued. A sign has been placed on the grill.

Ewing Street doors will be closed and locked during church services. Signs will direct people to the south door off the parking lot.

Christian Education Committee: Chair Mary Stiles reported, and a written report was submitted to Session.

Les Cramer reported that the Youth program has slowed during the summer and will begin again in the fall.

Pastor reported that all except one individual have completed their Risk Management/Sexual Conduct form.

Mary is having difficulty getting presenters for the Future Focus workshop in November.

Pastor Janet will bless the “Backpacks” for those returning to school during worship Sunday August 27.

ACTION ITEM: Accept Vicky Bryan as a member of the Education Committee. Motion passed.

Next meeting September 11 at 3:00 pm.

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

Future activities include bingo with pizza on August 18 at 6:00 PM.

A Tour Train ride will take place September 6 at 11:00 pm. Contact Barb Leland for details.

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

The committee is working on plans for a citywide Thanksgiving dinner. Volunteer helpers will be needed.

ACTION ITEM: Accept Vicky Bryan as a

member of the Congregational Fellowship Committee. Motion passed.

Mission Committee: A written report was submitted to Session.

The Family Promise Comfort Food event will be September 10 at the L&C fairgrounds. Melissa Stiles is coordinating FPC's part in the event.

FPC's next hosting of Family Promise will be September 10 and 11.

ACTION ITEM: Session to approve Larry Mirch as a Co-Volunteer Coordinator of Family Promise with Deacon Joy Edgar. Motion passed.

September is set as a time for the congregation to donate coffee, creamer, and sugar for "Coffee for Vets." Chair Karen Witte will do a minute for mission during the September 17 worship service.

ACTION ITEM: Session approval to conduct a backpack drive as our Christmas giving project. Motion passed.

Outreach Team:

The Cuddle dolls project was a success. Consideration is being given to repeat the project in February or March.

The Outreach Team will participate in the Carroll College Church Connect event this fall.

Next meeting will be September 12th.

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

Worship Committee: Chairperson Dianna Goodman reported, and a written report was submitted to Session.

Dianna Goodman will provide pulpit supply Aug. 20 and Oct. 8.

Les Cramer continues as Lay Liturgist coordinator and music and media director.

Choir practice will resume on September 6 and the choir will sing in Worship September 10.

Ann Swisher continues to help with choosing the music. Merle Korizek will continue to fill in for Ann.

Following a brief discussion regarding who should setup communion and pay for the supplies, Pastor Janet sent the question to the Administration committee for review and recommendation.

Session Minutes *(continued from page 11)*

Dianna Goodman has resigned as chair of and from the Worship committee in order to devote time to her commitment to the Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP) program and the required class work.

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar reported, and a written report of the June activities was submitted to Session.

During June, communion was served to three people at Touchmark, one person at the Masonic Home, and to three individuals at Edgewood. There were three visits to people in the hospital. Four meals were supplied to individuals.

Deacon Joy Edgar also indicated that the Board is reviewing how to count the in home and various facilities communion servers they also participate in communion with the participants.

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

Old Business: The FPC bylaws require that Session annually elect/reelect the Clerk of Session and the FPC Commissioner to Presbytery.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to retain John Gneckow as the Clerk of Session for another year.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to retain Elder John Coefield as the FPC Commissioner to Presbytery for another year.

Basin congregation update: Bill and Mary Norris along with other interested Basin parties will attend the FPC Session meeting in September. Bill and Mary have expressed interest in becoming members of FPC and have completed the New Members class.

Executive Session: For a second time during the meeting, a motion to enter executive session was made, seconded, and approved. The purpose of the motion was to discuss the Worship committee now that the recent chairman has resigned.

Pastor Janet handed out copies of the committee and Sanctuary Coordinator job descriptions. She noted that the committee is extremely task oriented and that the remaining members are also paid staff. This means that the meetings are more like staff meetings rather than the meeting of a committee. She asked the Session members to think about and to pray about modifications or ideas that might be

made and include input from the congregation to make this a committee rather than another staff meeting.

As part of the motion for the executive session included adjournment at the close of the executive session.

Elder Mary Stiles closed the meeting with prayer.

The next Regular Session Meeting: September 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

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 July net giving is below.

	July 2023	YTD
Income	\$21,275	\$136,730
Expenses	<u>20,914</u>	<u>156,127</u>
	\$361	\$(19,397)

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!*

*Thank You,
Dianna Goodman*

for your many years of service as Chair of the Worship Committee.

*We appreciate the
gracious sharing
of your time & talents!*



**FINANCIAL
DEADLINES**

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

Monday, Sept. 11
Monday, Sept. 25

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	2
3 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time	4 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	5 10 a.m. Sarah Circle 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	6 6:30 pm Choir	7 10 am Rebekah Circle 11 am Prayer Time 5:30 District AA 6:30 Bridge 7 pm AA	8 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	9
10 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11 am Deacons	11 2:30 Worship Meeting 3 pm Education	12 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 Mission 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	13 10 am Buildings & Grounds 2 pm Fellowship 4 pm Admin. 6:30 pm Choir	14 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	15 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	16
FPC hosting Family Promise dinners		Family Promise overnight hosts				
17 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	18	19 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 pm Session 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	20 6:30 pm Choir	21 11 am Prayer Time 6:30 Chat Bridge 7 pm AA	22 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards <i>October Newsletter Deadline</i>	23
24 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	25	26 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	27 6:30 pm Choir	28 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	29 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	30

September Birthdays

2nd Bob Korizek
5th Richard Tarner
6th Lonna Weidemann
14th Marie Fuhrmann
14th Judy Bayless
21st Bruce Luke
21st Bonnie Belden
22nd Kya Clausen

25th Terry Healow
26th Tyler Kaiser
26th Zachary Kaiser
27th Steve Granzow
30th Mark Goodman
30th Gay Lilly Cavagnolo
30th Mike Swisher
30th Art Bumgardner

September Anniversaries

2nd Barrie & Bill Heinecke
4th John & Kay Warren

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



An invitation to you....

Please come see me! With great news or questions or concerns!

I am here when the office is open (9am-1pm) except on Fridays-my day off. I'm available when you walk in or by appointment.

If you are curious about what is going on with the process of this interim time, please come and see me! If you want to double check what you've heard, please come and see me! If you have an idea on a new ministry you want to start, come and see me!

We don't even need to meet at the church, but let's get together and talk. God loves you and so do I.

Blessings,
Pastor Janet.

Cover photo

This month's cover photo features some of the many flowers blooming on the west side of the church. Thank you, Sheryl, for your care of these plants throughout the year.

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