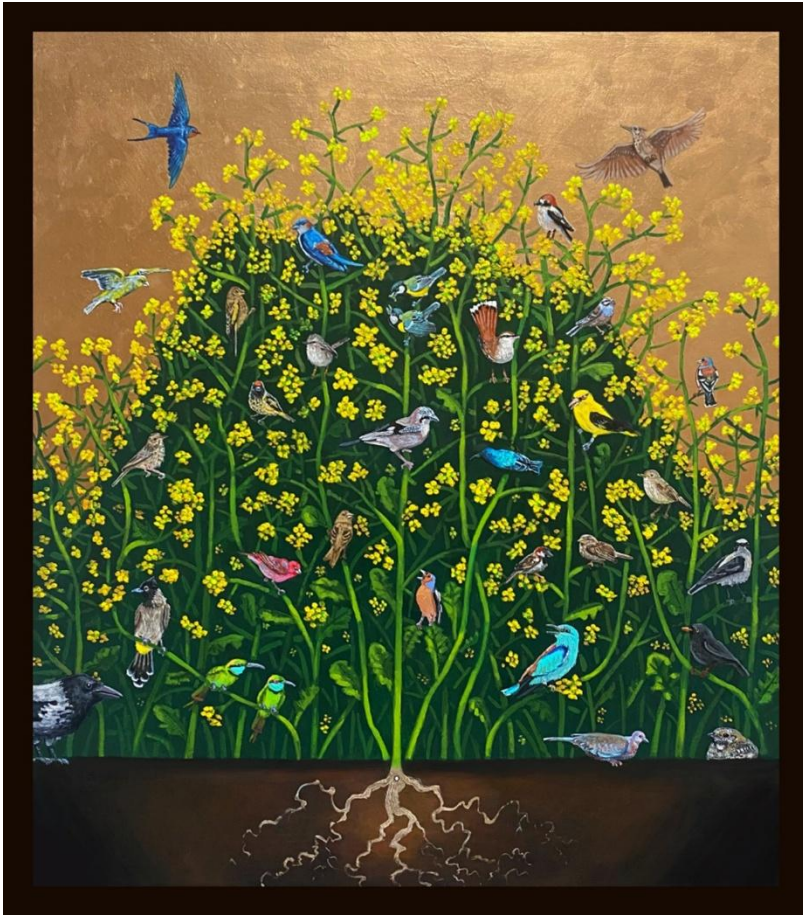


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



Cover Icon: *The Parable of the Mustard Seed* by Kelly Latimore

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street

Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, October 4, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Arlyn “Butch” Plowman

Organist: Ann Swisher

“Our courteous Lord does not want his servants to despair because they fall often and grievously, for our falling does not hinder him in loving us.”

-Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Communion”

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Joanna Harader

One: Gentle and patient

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Intentional and persistent

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In times of grief and in times of praise

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Through the struggles and through the victories

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Unexpected and planned

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In a still small voice and in power

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Spontaneous and prepared

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In our willingness and in our reluctance

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Jesus is eager to show us the way. May we enter worship open to his leading.

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee.

Thou changest not;
thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been
thou forever wilt be.

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!

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.

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!

Pardon for sin and a peace
that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

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!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)*

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***THE PEACE**

***“Gloria Patri”**

GtG #581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 20:1-20

Page 118

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 19 (CEV)

Read Responsively

One: The heavens keep telling
the wonders of God,

**ALL: and the skies declare
what he has done.**

One: Each day informs
the following day;

**ALL: each night announces
to the next.**

One: They don't speak a word,
and there is never
the sound of a voice.

**ALL: Yet their message reaches
all the earth,
and it travels
around the world.**

One: In the heavens a tent
is set up for the sun.

**ALL: It rises like a bridegroom
and gets ready like a hero
eager to run a race.**

One: It travels all the way
across the sky.

ALL: Nothing hides from its heat.

One: The Law of the LORD is perfect;
it gives us new life.

**ALL: His teachings last forever,
and they give wisdom
to ordinary people.**

One: The LORD's instruction is right;
it makes our hearts glad.

**ALL: His commands shine brightly,
and they give us light.**

One: Worshiping the LORD is sacred;
he will always be worshiped.

ALL: All his decisions

are correct and fair.

One: They are worth more
than the finest gold

**ALL: and are sweeter than honey
from a honeycomb.**

One: By your teachings, Lord,
I am warned;
by obeying them,
I am greatly rewarded.

ALL: None of us know our faults.

**Forgive me when I sin
without knowing it.**

One: Don't let me do wrong
on purpose, Lord,
or let sin have control
over my life.

**ALL: Then I will be innocent,
and not guilty
of some terrible fault.**

One: Let my words and my thoughts
be pleasing to you, LORD,

**ALL: because you are my mighty rock
and my protector.**

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 3:1—4:1

Page 1828

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“God’s Choir in the Sky”
Ray Overholt, arr. Marty Hamby

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Mark 14:10-31

Page 1579

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—Adventures of the Disciples: The Disciples’ Denial and Betrayal of Jesus

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“Come to the Table of Grace”

GtG #507

Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table;
it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace.
Come to the table of peace.
This is God’s table;
it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love.
Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table;
it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of hope.
Come to the table of hope.
This is God’s table;
it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of joy.
Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table;
it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of joy.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Unto Thee I Cry, Lord Jesus Christ"

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at fpchelena.org/giving or by mailing a check to First Presbyterian Church, 535 N.

Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601.

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

GtG #606

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here
below;

Praise him above,
ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love Bade Me Welcome”

Art Bumgardner

George Herbert

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

GtG #552

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

GtG #546

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,

traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.

Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Grand Jeu from Suite Baroque”
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Announcements

Welcome!

A special welcome to visitors joining us for worship today! If you have children with you, feel free to hand them one of the cloth bags hanging in the back of the sanctuary — they are filled with books and toys! Hymns are found in the “Glory to God” (GtG) hymnal in the pews, as well as on the screen. Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor. It is our tradition to remain seated during the Postlude at the conclusion of the service. After the service, please join us for refreshments and conversation.

World Communion Offering Today

The World Communion Offering (PC(USA)), received during A Season of Preparation leading up to World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, is a new way for Presbyterians to "love kindness" expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. When we give to the World Communion Offering, we become the hands and feet of Christ's work of dismantling racism, practicing peacemaking and assisting communities in finding their voice. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you! Mission and Outreach, Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914.

2027 Pledge Cards Available

As you consider your pledge for the coming year, we invite you to pray about how God is calling you to support this shared ministry. Every gift matters. Every act of service matters. Together, by God's grace, we can continue to grow in faith, strengthen our life together, and share Christ's love with a world in need. Today you can find an envelope with your name, a letter from the Admin Committee, and a pledge card in the social area outside the sanctuary. Please fill out the pledge card and return it by Monday, Nov. 2, so we can make a realistic budget for 2027. Additional pledge cards available from the church office.

POET Society Dinner Wednesday, Oct. 7

Join us Wednesday, Oct. 7, for another POET (Presbyterians Out Eating Together) dinner. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Miller's Crossing, 52 S. Park Ave. Hope you can join us! For details, visit with Barb Leland.

Trunk or Treat Coming Saturday, Oct. 10!

FPC is sponsoring a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in our parking lot! If you'd like to participate by decorating your car trunk and handing out treats to our neighborhood children, contact Dianna Goodman or Carol Gneckow for details. Free hot dogs will also be offered that day!

Special Congregational Meeting Oct. 11

Session has called a special congregational meeting on Oct. 11, in the sanctuary following the 10 am service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom, please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185156598?pwd=3b3IBlyYgWd0XSbWapNGnLSdQPZ6xA.1>.

Please join us after worship Oct. 11 for this important meeting.

Synergos Visit November 1-3

From Sunday, November 1 through Tuesday, November 3, The First Presbyterian Church of Helena will host Rev. Jessica Crane Munoz and Dr. Trace Haythorn of Synergos, a residency and renewal program of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. The visit blends worship, congregational engagement, and strategic conversation designed to help us discern our future direction. Our session and Strategic Planning Team will meet with Jessica and Trace throughout those days, and the whole congregation is invited to join us on Sunday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 for a reflective dinner gathering. We will engage in small-group conversation around values and wishes for the church's future, using guided questions to creatively imagine what our ministry could look like in this new era.

Doors Locked During Service

Session decided to lock the main entrance doors during the worship service. The doors are locked from 10:15 to 11 a.m., and unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

You're Invited!

Wednesday, Oct. 7 Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
POET Society Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 9 Friday Bible Study 12/noon

Saturday, Oct. 10 Trunk or Treat 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Congregational Meeting 11 a.m.
Social Time 11 a.m.
Deacons 11:15 a.m.

Shaped by the grace of our sovereign God, we follow Jesus Christ
by growing in faith, supporting one another, and sharing
Christ's love in our community and the wider world.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member

Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser

Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer

Organist—Ann Swisher

Treasurer—Leo Potter

Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

John Bryan

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Dianna Goodman

(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration Co-Chair)

Butch Plowman

(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Carol Gneckow

(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Matthew Richards

(Administration Co-Chair)

Max Oliver, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman

Wanda Jewell

Alysia Ryan



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street ~ Helena, MT 59601

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone: 406-442-4775 **Email:** admin@fpchelena.org **Website:** www.fpchelena.org

Pastor Emily Cowser

Phone: 406-442-4775

Email: pastor@fpchelena.org

Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189, Wednesdays 6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.