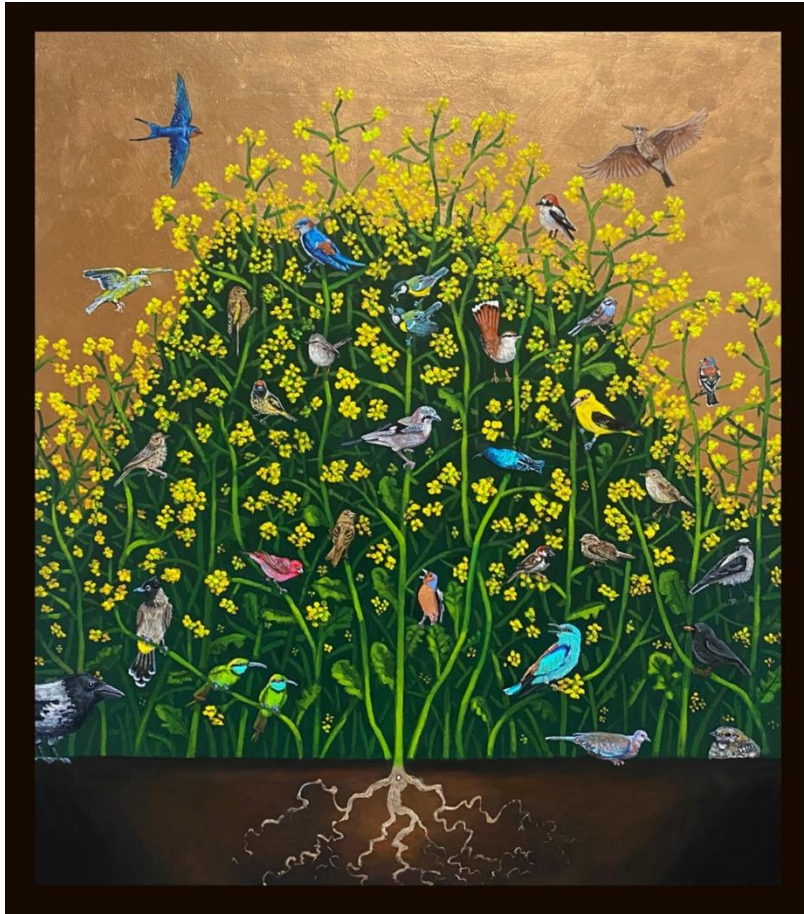


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street

Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, August 16, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Pearle Plowman

Organist: Ann Swisher

“To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence... Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.”

-Jan Richardson, *The Cure for Sorrow*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE “Prelude from Prelude, Fugue, and Variation”

Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

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.

*HYMN

“I’ve Got Peace like a River”

GtG #623

I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river,
in my soul. [2x]

I’ve got joy like a fountain;
I’ve got joy like a fountain;
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
in my soul. [2x]

I’ve got love like an ocean;
I’ve got love like an ocean;
I’ve got love like an ocean,
in my soul. [2x]

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Saving God, we confess that our faith is too small, our fear is too great. When we are overwhelmed, we think you do not care enough for us. When life is uncertain and risky, we are not sure we can trust you with our whole hearts. Even when you move among us in powerful ways, we question who you are. Forgive us and calm our fears, we pray. Teach us to trust in your power to save and guide us in every circumstance. Grant us your peace, which is clearly beyond our understanding. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.
(a moment of silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Christ offers peace to our troubled souls. Believe this One whom even the wind and the sea obey. In Jesus Christ, we 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 Genesis 45:1-28 Page 75

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 133 Page 970

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 11:1-36 Page 1761

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Meditation” Rev. Emily Cowser, Viola
Jules Massenet (1842-1912) Ann Swisher, Piano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Mark 4:35-41 Page 1558

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—The Adventures of the Disciples: Jesus Stills a Storm

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“When Peace like a River”

GtG #840

When peace like a river
attendeth my way,
when sorrows
like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well
with my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,

That Christ hath regarded my
helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood
for my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

He lives: O the bliss
of this glorious thought.

My sin, not in part,
but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross
and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our
faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back
as a scroll,

The trumpet shall sound
and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well
with my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Heidelberg Catechism

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

ALL: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins

with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Andantino”

Cesar Franck

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

*HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

GtG #819

Be still, my soul:
the Lord is on thy side.

Bear patiently the cross
of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God
to order and provide,

Who through all changes
faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy best,
thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads
to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul:
thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely
as the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence
let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall
be bright at last.

Be still, my soul:
the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them
while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul:
the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever
with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief,
and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot,
love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed
we shall meet at last.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Pasticcio”
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.

Spiritual Formation Discussions

As part of our participation in the Synergos Pastoral Residency program, we are engaging in some curriculum around spiritual formation. During fellowship time after worship, you will find a sheet of paper at each table with a brief reading and some discussion questions. You are encouraged to have one person at your table read the paper and then discuss the questions as a group.

Retreat Registration Closes Aug. 31

Registration is open for our fall spiritual formation retreat at Glacier Camp. Together, we will explore the purpose and nature of prayer, our struggles with prayer, and a variety of ways to pray. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday, Sept. 10, and will conclude by noon on Saturday, Sept., 12. The cost of the retreat is \$330 per room and \$110 per person for meals. To register, email Pastor Emily at pastor@fpchelena.org and make a check payable to the church. Registration closes on Aug. 31. If you need financial assistance to attend, please contact Pastor Emily. Scholarships are available. Come enjoy an opportunity to connect with God and one another!

Save the Date! Church Picnic Aug. 30

August 30 is the date for this year's summer picnic, which will be held at Kennedy Park in East Helena. Everyone can head that way after the service, instead of meeting for the usual friendship time. Please plan to bring a dish or dessert to share, along with a chair. Unfortunately, seating is limited. The Congregational Life Committee will provide the fried chicken and some refreshments. We hope you can make it!

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!

Tuesday, Aug. 18	Session 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 23	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 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.