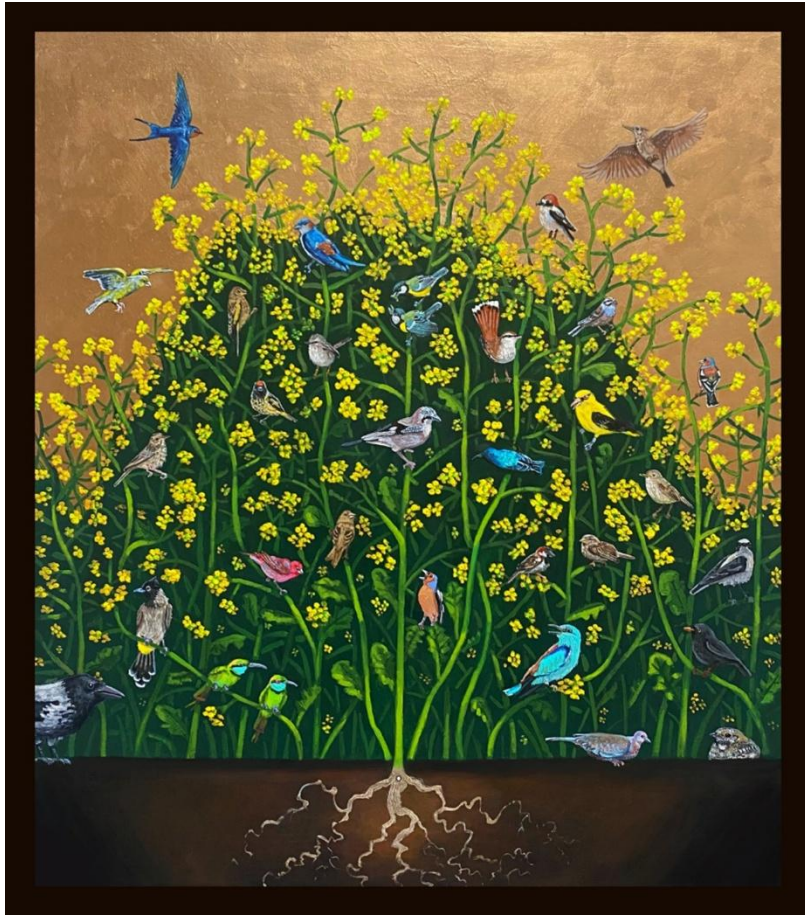


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street

Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, September 13, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Art Bumgardner

Organist: Ann Swisher

“Observe a tree, how it first tends downwards, that it may then shoot forth upwards. It fastens its root low in the ground that it may send forth its top toward heaven. Is it not from humility that it endeavors to rise? But without humility it will not attain to higher things. You are wanting to grow up into the air without a root. Such is not growth, but a collapse.”

-Augustine, Bishop of Hippo and foundational theologian and philosopher (354-430)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in A Major”

William Selby (1738-1798)

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

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

GtG #311

Here, O Lord, your servants gather,
hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross,
joined in love we stand.

As we seek the realm of God,
we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps,
for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak,
scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God,
one in love's demands.

While in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us,
for you are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?

Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife:

Jesus, healer, bring your balm,
for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed,
filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray;
send us from above

Truth and courage, faith and power
needed in our strife:
Jesus, Savior, be our Way;
be our Truth, our Life.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

(a moment of silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Through Jesus, we are reconciled to the God who loves us.

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 14:1-31

Page 108

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 114 (NIV)

Read Responsively

One: When Israel came out of Egypt,

ALL: Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,

One: Judah became God's sanctuary,

ALL: Israel his dominion.

One: The sea looked and fled,

ALL: the Jordan turned back;

One: the mountains leaped like rams,

ALL: the hills like lambs.

One: Why was it, sea, that you fled?

ALL: Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

One: Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,

ALL: you hills, like lambs?

One: Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,

ALL: at the presence of the God of Jacob,

One: who turned the rock into a pool,

ALL: the hard rock into springs of water.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 14:1-12

Page 1765

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Joy Edgar, soprano

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—Adventures of the Disciples: Who Is the Greatest?

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

GtG #761

Called as partners
in Christ’s service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with
deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.

May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work
and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns
for Christ’s mission,

in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.

Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength
for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each
person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ALL: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Fanfare in C Major”

Henry Purcell (c. 1659-1695)

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

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

GtG #727

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh,
I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen
this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Rigaudon”
Andre Campra (1660-1744)

Announcements

Welcome!

A special welcome to visitors joining us for worship today! 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. Join us afterward for refreshments!

Milk Campaign Carnival Today!

Mission & Outreach invites you to “get in touch with the kid in you” today, when you can buy tickets to play carnival games here, with proceeds going to the Milk Campaign. The carnival is part of a multi-church campaign to buy milk for the Helena Food Share Kid Packs. The packs are distributed throughout the school year to students in need. Last year, 41,090 packs were distributed. FPC will be gathering donations now through September 30.

Trivia Night Canceled

We have been told that the Family Promise Trivia Night, previously scheduled for Sept. 15, is on hold. Stay tuned for any future event benefiting the Family Promise program.

Choir Begins Wednesday, Sept. 16

Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m., in the choir room upstairs. Our first Sunday to sing for worship will be Sept. 20. We are always seeking new choir participants. Why not give it a try? For details, visit with director Les Cramer.

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!

Monday, Sept. 14 Mission & Outreach 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 Session 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16 Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20 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



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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.