



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2024, Issue 7 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT July 2024



Gates of the Mountains Boat Tour Sunday, July 14, 1 p.m.

Join in the outdoor fun with your Presbyterian family on Sunday, July 14, with a Gates of the Mountains tour, followed by a barbecue at Barb's cabin on the Missouri River!

Tour time is 1-3pm, with dinner around 5pm. (Missouri River house is about 30 minutes north of Gates of the Mountains – 7 Meadow Lane, Cascade.)

Tour tickets are \$15 for seniors and \$20 for under age 60. Please RSVP to Barb Leland 406- 431-5854 or email Barb640@hotmail.com. Pay with cash or write check to Barb.

Hope you can join us!

A Building Update . . .

Beginning Aug. 1, the non-profit group Girls Thrive will be moving into the youth room. They will have exclusive use of the youth room and the back storage room. We are excited to have them join the list of groups sharing this campus. Visit their website here: <https://www.girlsthive.com/>

Also joining us are the Helena Express Singers. They will rehearse weekly in Richardson Hall.

In August, Session will spend time on the next steps to finding a potential lessee for a portion of the new building. Please pray for God to send the right non-profit group to us.



Jill and Karen pack up Father's Day gifts.

Register to participate

Helena Habitat for Humanity workday Aug. 3



The date for the Helena Habitat for Humanity workday has been changed to Saturday, August 3.

A new volunteer program will help HHH prepare for our workday. It is a preregistration process that allows the organization to have proper staffing for the day.

HHH also uses the preregistration program to keep track of the hours that have been spent working on the six homes it is currently building. Those hours are given to Habitat for Humanity International. The hour tracking helps the organization to successfully apply for AmeriCorps members from across the country to come build with them for a 10 ½ month term.

The preregistration program is called "Volunteer Hub." **You are required to create a profile and register at least 24 hours prior to the August 3 date if you plan to participate.** The registration will close at that time.

A sign-up sheet and complete printed instructions will be available in the Fellowship area or you may email

Karen for the instructions.

If you attended a HHH trolley tour, our work day will be at the stop we made in East Helena. Directions are on the same page as the registration instructions.

Name Tags!

Kudos to you all! You are wearing name tags! They help make visitors feel welcome.

I know because visitors tell me. They appreciate wearing one and they are grateful for each person who wears one. People say it makes coming to worship much more comfortable. This is one small thing each of us can do to help a new person get to know us.

There are some who do not like name tags and will not wear one, but Christ calls us to welcome the stranger. A name tag is one way to live out his commandment. This is another way to spread the good news of the gospel through our love, words and actions.

Thank you for wearing a name tag!

- Pastor Janet

'Holiness' topic of July 7-9 Tim Talk

Glacier Camp invites you to the Summer Tim Talk July 7-9.

Camp director Rev. Tim Lanham will lead the study, which will focus on the camp theme,

"Transform, Don't Conform: Our Call to Holy Living."

For details, visit the camp website at glaciercamp.org.



Happy Summer! If we look out our window, we see...green trees, green grass and beautiful flowers with green leaves. I am thankful for the rain we've had lately which will keep Mother nature lush and green. As nature is green in the summer season, the church clothes (paraments) in our sanctuary are also green. The church season is called "ordinary time." Days seem the same, like a record on repeat. But, this time of year in the church or in life is anything but ordinary!



Rev. Kathleen Long Bostrom wrote about this "in-between season": "The Scripture passages assigned to Ordinary Time set the tone. They focus on the day-to-day life of Jesus. We read what it means from a practical standpoint to follow Jesus and the social and practical implications of doing so. Scripture and sermons focus on building a community of believers, people who would be Jesus' wounded hands, aching feet, awkward elbows and soothing voice. Jesus told stories and broke bread with a few folks at a time, not always the boisterous crowds. He listened carefully and hung out with the no-names. He fell asleep in a boat during a storm. The ordinary abides in the extra ordinary, and vice versa. Ordinary Time is a time for us to discover that in Christ, our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness and hope. We live as people of faith, "new creations in Christ," not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place." (Presbyterianmission.org)

As you go about your everyday life, remember you are doing what Jesus did for his friends and family. When we listen carefully to a friend, or provide food, or pray for those experiencing heartache or uncertainty or need comfort, you are doing what Jesus has called his followers to do. This is how we worship God every day.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:1-2 "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (The Message Version.)

Enjoy these regular days, go spread the good news of the gospel everyday with your love, words and actions and let everything be done for the glory of God. Then these "ordinary days" will be anything but ordinary!

In gratitude to God!

Pastor Janet

Annual church picnic Aug. 11 at Spring Meadow

Our annual First Presbyterian Church picnic will be Sunday, August 11, following the Service.



NEW PLACE this year: the shelter area at Spring Meadow Lake! The shelter is rented for the entire day, so plan to take a walk around the lake, swim or float on the lake, or just hang out for a while.

This will be a potluck, with the main course provided by your Fellowship Committee. Mark your calendars!

Pumpkin Patch Fun Day!

**Oct. 19, 2024, from 11:00am-1:00pm.
Bounce houses, food, activities and fun!**

Different committees are taking on different parts of the event. Can you guess which committee is in charge of Bounce houses? or food?

One way you can help is to think about a family or child-focused item that can be a raffle prize. Ideas welcome!

Questions, ask Karen Witte or Pastor Janet.

FPC Elders

Sheryl Eriksen
(Fellowship chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration chair)

Butch Plowman
(Building & Grounds chair)

Karen Witte
(Mission chair)

Patti Borsberry
(Worship co-chair)

Jeff Chaffee
(Personnel chair)

Barb Leland
(Worship co-chair)

Linda Bench
(Nominating chair)

John Bryan

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Vicky Bryan

Merle Korizek

Carole Massman

Darlene McNay

BJ Burns (Moderator)

Kathy Chambers

Jill Cook

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles (Vice-mod.)

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

June 18, 2024

The worship service and regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena were called to order on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM by Reverend Janet Potter.

Pastor Janet opened the meeting with prayer followed by a worship service that included a Scripture reading from Mark 4:35-41 and a time of reflection from the Scripture. Pastor Janet concluded the worship service with communion and opened and moderated the business meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Arlyn “Butch” Plowman Sheryl Eriksen, Karen Witte, Patti Borsberry, Barb Leland, Linda Bench, John Bryan and Jim Meyer. Clerk of Session John Gneckow, Treasurer Leo Potter, and Deacon Ward Stiles were also in attendance. Elder Jeff Chaffee was excused.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: Pastor Janet added the information from the ad hoc Building Use committee to Old Business. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024, regular Session meeting and the Special Called Congregation meeting of May 26, 2024, as presented.

CLERK’S REPORT:

	Active Membership as of April 30, 2024	90	
	Active Membership as of May 31, 2024	90	

The Clerk stated that he had no correspondence to report.

INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastor Janet reported her activities:

Continues a weekly prayer time on Thursday mornings at 11:00 AM.

Continues leading weekly worship at Cooney Home.

Plans and leads Sunday worship.

Attended Sharing the Building Ad-Hoc committee meeting.

Moderated the May Session meeting.

Performed hospital and home visits as needed.

Took a week vacation June 10-17.

Held Town Hall meeting June 2 after worship. Subject was Presbyterian Polity.

Developing a class/small group program on grief, loss, and life to begin in June.

Session Minutes (continued from page 5)

Dianna will preach June 30.

Provided Deacon training to Darlene McNay.

Ordained and Installed Elders and Deacons June 2.

Thanked Les Cramer for his work on a new Church picture directory to be available soon.

Communion	72	40 in person, 19 online, 13 at home
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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Chair Jim Meyer reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

Treasurer Leo Potter provided a written report. For May FPC had a net operating revenue of -\$3551.11. YTD operating revenue is -\$6930.

Vanguard accounts increased by \$12,798.76 in May while the YTD funds increased \$22,165.44.

Chair Jim Meyer contacted Emily to see if face painting of kids by 4H or some other activity on Pumpkin Patch Day October 19 would be possible.

ACTION ITEM: Recommend to Session that the PILP loan be paid off at this time and the excess remain in the PILP account.

The next Administration meeting: August 14 at 4:00 PM.

Building and Grounds: Chair Arlyn “Butch” Plowman reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

A building use agreement has been executed with Thrive Girls.

FPC has agreed to rent Narrate Church our bounce house for \$50.00 to use at their Vacation Bible School.

Butch will contact Clark’s Plumbing to address several issues in a single service call—faucets in the kitchen and women’s bathroom, an outside hose bib, and under the sink issues in the fellowship room.

Mark will contact Alan Hibs to repair woodpecker damage to the building stucco, and Pane in the Glass for an estimate for window washing.

A railing has been installed east of the piano. A thank you note will be sent to Joe Nielson of Artisan Iron Works for the better-than-expected pulpit handrail designed, fabricated, and installed.

ACTION ITEM: Session approve Les Cramer as a member of B&G committee. Passed.

Christian Education Committee: Did not meet in May.

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

Carnations, a card, and candy were presented to all men at worship in celebration of Father's Day.

The next 5th Sunday Potluck will take place on June 30 following the worship service.

A boat tour of the Gates of the Mountain is planned for July 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. A supper is planned afterwards. Barb Leland has tickets to pre-purchase for the trip.

The annual picnic will be in the Spring Meadow Lake shelter at Spring Meadow Lake August 11 following worship. The main entrée will be furnished. Please bring a side dish.

The next meeting will be on July 10 at 2:00 PM.

Memorial Committee: Did not meet.

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

Father's Day donations were divided and distributed to God's Love, Good Samaritan and Our Place.

Kid Packs (a Helena Food Share program) will be the recipient of Pumpkin Patch profits obtained from the sale of pumpkins during the Pumpkin Patch Fun Day October 19 between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

The congregation will be encouraged to participate in a special donation on October 20 for Food Share Kid Packs.

ACTION ITEM: Session permission to give profits from the 2024 Pumpkin Patch to Helena Food Share Kid Packs. Passed.

ACTION ITEM: Session permission for a one-time special offering from the congregation October 20, 2024, for Food Share Kid Packs. Passed.

ACTION ITEM: Session approval to offer a matching donation to the Pumpkin Patch proceeds for Food Share Kids Packs using a combination of the congregation's offering and undesignated Mission Committee funds. Tabled.

A Habitat for Humanity-FPC workday is scheduled for July 27. (*Note: This has since been changed to Saturday, Aug. 3.*) The new vests will be available to wear for that event.

The next meeting is August 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM. There **will not** be a meeting in July.

Nominating Committee: No meeting was held.

Personnel Committee: Chair Jeff Chaffee reported no meeting was held.

Worship Committee: No meeting was held.

Deacon Report: The minutes of the June 9, 2024, meetings were submitted to Session and included the May 31, 2024, activity report.

Discussed use of the church van to help those without transportation. Due to accessibility issues with the van along with very few in need of transportation, the

Session Minutes (continued from page 7)

Board decided not to further pursue the idea.

During May, communion was served to seven people at Touchmark, four people at Son Heaven, none at Edgewood and two people at home. Four people were visited in the hospital. Four meals were supplied to home bound individuals.

The next Deacon Board meeting is scheduled for July 14.

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

Old Business: Preliminary plans for the Pumpkin Patch Fun Day were discussed. Among the items discussed were: publicity, food, fun events for participants, and the Boy Scout Troop involvement.

The ad-hoc committee on sharing the building reported that it has new ideas for advertising the availability of space to share. It prefers sharing space with other nonprofits.

New Business: In accordance with the FPC Helena by-laws, election of the Clerk of Session and the Commissioner to Presbytery were conducted. John Gneckow was elected Clerk of Session and John Coefield was elected as the Commissioner to Presbytery.

(Continued on page 9)

Thank you from Glacier Camp



And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." — Revelation 14.13

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your gift of May 28, 2024, of \$1,000 to Glacier Camp and Conference Center in memory of Elroy Letcher. It is an honor to have Glacier Camp chosen as a place to receive memorials in Elroy's memory.

Glacier Camp is a place where lives are changed, faith is deepened, and love for God and neighbor is nurtured. It is also a place where memories are made and, as is the case with Elroy, celebrated. Our work is made possible by the kindness and generosity of people like you.

Your commitment to our ministry through this memorial gift is greatly appreciated.



With grace and peace,

Rev. Tim Lahnam, Director

We are so grateful for your gift in Elroy's memory!

IAW with the Book of Order, Session nominated and elected Leo Potter to continue as FPC Helena Treasurer.

There being no more business to conduct, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Janet.

Session will not meet in July, unless necessary. As of now, the next Regular Session Meeting will be August, 20, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

John Gneckow
Clerk of Session

Articles for the August "Mustard Seed" are due July 24.



***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 May net giving is below.

	May 2024	YTD
Income	\$16,092	\$101,380
Expenses	<u>\$19,644</u>	<u>\$108,310</u>
	(\$3,552)	(\$6,930)

The online giving program can be found 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!*

Pentecost offering

Our Pentecost offering was \$315.


Our congregation retains 40% of the offering to give to a youth group or organization of our choice.

From that offering and with some additional funds, FPCH donated \$150 to Serious Juju in Kalispell. Thank you for your generous donations that made this possible.

**SERIOUS JUJU
INDOOR SKATE PARK**



JULY 2024

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Bridge	2 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	3	4  Fourth of July (Office closed) 5:30 District AA 7 pm AA	5 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	6
7 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time	8	9 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	10 10 am B&G 2 pm Fellowship	11 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	12 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	13
14 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11:15 am Deacons 1 p.m. Boat Tour	15 6:30 pm Bridge	16 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 Session <i>(if needed)</i> 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	17	18 11 am Prayer Time 7 pm AA	19 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	20
21 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	22	23 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	24	25 11 am Prayer Time 6:30 pm Be- ginner Bridge 7 pm AA	26 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	27
	Spanglish Summer Camp					
28 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	29	30 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	31			



July Birthdays



13th Andrew Kaiser
24th Bill Peterson

24th Les Cramer
26th Deb Drynan



July Anniversaries

18th Tim & Patti Borsberry

28th Ward & Mary Stiles

Invite a friend!

Updated FPC brochures
are in the fellowship room
*Take some to share with
your friends and neighbors!*

Join us for worship!

Sundays, 10 a.m.
or online @
www.fpc.helena.org

Hand & Foot Cards

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

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

Can you help serve communion?

If so, please sign up
on the sheet in the
Fellowship Room.



FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

**Tuesday, July 9
Monday, July 29**

Please let us know

If you or a loved one is
hospitalized, please let us know
by calling the church office.

Also, if you need assistance
please call the church office

406-442-4775

Cover photo

Arrowleaf Balsamroot, Mount Helena

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

Stamp
here



Label here

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