

**First Presbyterian Church**

# Mustard Seed NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2025 Issue 12    First Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT    December 2025



## Celebrating the Music of Christmas

**Sunday, Dec. 21  
10 a.m.**

Choir, handbells, and guest musicians offer a variety of music of the Christmas season

**Christmas Eve  
Wednesday, Dec. 24  
7 p.m.**

Come celebrate the birth of the Savior, with Christmas scriptures, hymns, and message.

**Worship Service  
Every Sunday  
10 a.m.**



## Team Dinner

FPC hosted two Special Olympics teams for dinner November 7 during the state tournament.

*Come, sing with us!*

## Christmas Caroling Sunday, Dec. 7

Once again, members of First Presbyterian Church — and friends — are invited to Christmas Carol around the Helena community.

We will meet in the Church parking lot at 1pm on Sunday, December 7th, and will carpool to our first location: Touchmark. Other locations will follow.

You don't have to have a fantastic singing voice or be a member of our Choir to participate. Everyone is encouraged to come and join the fun. Hope to see you there!

## Names for the Messiah

# Advent study begins Dec. 4

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 4, Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman will lead an Advent study based on the book, "Names for the Messiah," by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann.



Dianna  
Goodman

The study will meet in the church library at 11 a.m. on Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18. If you plan to participate, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship area or contact Dianna.



In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. *Names for the Messiah* ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

This is a light study filled with fun and fellowship along with continued knowledge of the Word. Don't forget to invite a friend! A light lunch will be provided.

The Advent books are available to all even if you cannot attend the study so be sure and take one. Please, one book per couple.

## From Glacier Camp

# Online Advent study begins Nov. 30, 5 p.m.



Gratitude is the theme of Glacier Camp's online study for this season of Advent.

We will explore how this theme helps us remember and celebrate the gift of the Word made flesh, as well as anticipate and make ourselves ready for the Lord's promised return.

We will also compare and contrast the different responses to the events involving Christ's birth in the Gospel narratives.

For the Zoom link or more information, email camp director Tim Lanham, [timothy@glaciercamp.org](mailto:timothy@glaciercamp.org).

Dear friends in Christ,  
I wonder where you find yourself in this “holiday season.” Perhaps you absolutely love Christmas and feel that this season is indeed the most wonderful time of the year. Perhaps the radio music and holiday clutter that has been in the stores since October annoy and exhaust you. Perhaps Christmas feels like a particularly lonely time for you as the grief the absence of loved ones.



I went through a distinctly “anti-Christmas” phase in high school as I came to find the consumerism of the season repulsive. But then I rediscovered Advent. Our culture tells us that the Christmas season begins after Halloween (if not earlier), but in the church calendar, the Christmas season does not start until December 24 (technically, not until sunset.) In our faith tradition, December is not a time of feasting and singing joyful music and buying stuff that we do not need but rather a time of fasting, lamenting, and longing. As I rediscovered Advent, I was able to reclaim this time of the year for prayerful connection with God and with my own heart. We *need* Advent. In our weary world, we need space to pause, to reflect, to grieve, and to hope.

Advent is not an anticipation of the birth of Christ. That already happened, some two thousand years ago! Advent is an anticipation of the return of Christ. In Advent, we recognize our world’s deep need for Christ’s return, and we wait for his return in hope. Amidst the holiday chaos around us, will you join me in making space for Advent this season? Here are a few suggestions for engaging in the season of Advent:

Spend a few minutes in silence each day, taking a pause from the noise of the world. Start with five minutes a day and perhaps increase your capacity with silence as Advent continues.

Light candles in prayer for those in need, holding our weary world before God.

Practice fasting, perhaps just from one meal a week, and spend that time in prayer.

Journal about what you are lamenting and what is giving you hope.

May we encounter Christ anew this Advent season as we wait for and hope for Christ’s return.

Grace and peace,

*Emily Cowser*

The Rev. Emily Cowser

## *Angel Tree Information*

Dec 14 - Gifts (with tags attached) must be returned .

Dec 19 & 20 - Gifts will be delivered

Each child will receive a gift bag from the congregation containing some age-appropriate Christian literature, a tree ornament, an orange, and some wrapped candy. Caregivers will receive a gift certificate from Safeway.

Thank you to all who participated; you've helped an inmate connect with a child they love.

# A Benefit Concert for Family Promise of Greater Helena

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm**

*St. Paul's United Methodist Church*  
*512 Logan St*

## *John Floridis*

*- Special Guests -*

*Ed Stalling - Percussionist*

*Jennifer Slayden - Cellist*



**Tickets by Donation at the Door**



Live Stream on YouTube  
[StPaulsUnitedMethodistChurchHelena](https://www.youtube.com/StPaulsUnitedMethodistChurchHelena)



Donate:  
[familypromisehelena.org](https://familypromisehelena.org)



# Music for Christmas

Sunday, December 21

10:00 Worship

~Featuring the Chancel Choir, Organist-Accompanist Ann Swisher,  
The Queen City Consort, and the  
FPC Ringers

Join us for a musical celebration of the Christmas season  
with a variety of music over the centuries,  
and from around the world!  
(A libretto will be provided in the bulletin)

## Christmas Joy Offering Concludes Dec. 21

The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church(USA) offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

This campaign began November 30 and concludes Sunday, December 21. Fifty percent of your gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Fifty percent of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Questions? Call Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914.

## Warm Hearts Drive



FPC will be participating in the 2026 Warm Hearts Drive beginning December 27 and continuing through January 31.

The blankets are picked up from the church, sorted, and gifted to the Helena community for Valentine's Day. Your donations serve Family Promise, God's Love, Good Samaritan Ministries, Helena Community Offender Reentry Program, Rocky Mountain Development Center, The Friendship Center, and YWCA.

We'll need to collect new twin, double, queen and king blankets. There will be a collection box provided for your donations.

Questions? Call Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914.



# MINUTES OF THE SESSION

**November 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on November 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM by Pastor in Residence Reverend Emily Cowser who moderated a “Dwelling in the Word” and subsequent Session meeting.

Elder “Butch” Plowman opened the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Cowser handed out a page of Scripture from 1 Kings 19:8-18 for the “Dwelling in the Word” for this month. The verses were read aloud twice and members were asked what stood out to them.

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

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:** Reverend Cowser asked for additions to the docket. Hearing none, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the consent agenda.

To approve the FPC collection for the Christmas Joy Special offering, PC (USA), November 30 –December 21, 2025.

Approve Matthew Richards as a member of the Personnel Committee.

Approve vision coverage as part of Pastor Emily’s compensation for 2026.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of October 21, 2025, regular Session meeting as presented.

**CLERK’S REPORT:** The Clerk reported a donor appreciation dinner on November 16 raised over \$30,000 for Glacier camp scholarships for campers who otherwise would not be able to attend Glacier camp for financial reasons.

Lucille Letcher has gifted Glacier Camp with the two staff houses she and her husband (Elroy) had financed and built for permanent staff.

Glacier Camp Executive Director Tim Lanham will moderate an Advent Study on **Zoom** beginning November 30 at 5:00 pm. The theme this year is “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”

Active Membership as of September 30, 2025	89
Active Membership as of October 31, 2025	89

**RESIDENT PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Emily completed her goal of meeting all of the members on our church homebound list. She next hopes to learn more about those on our membership rolls who have not come to worship during her time here.

Pastor Emily hosted a “watch party” of one of her seminary professors, Dr. Tucker Ferda. Dr. Ferda presented a lecture November 6 as part of his installation to the Erett M. Grable Chair in New Testament Exegesis and Early Christianity. Dr. Tucker is a relative of Lucille Samson who was a long-time member of FPC Helena.

Pastor Emily has been seeking a person to chair Synergos and learned that there is a lack of clarity about the role of the committee moving forward. She reached out to the committee members for their perspective on the committee’s role and also met with Jessica Crane-Munoz to discuss the best way forward. Jessica will prepare a list of roles of the committee.

Met with her coach, counselor, two mentors, her spiritual director, and her 1001 apprenticeship cohort and Sabbath Innovation Lab cohort.

She attended meetings of the Personnel, Mission and Outreach, Building and Grounds, Worship, Friendship, and Administration Committees and the Board of Deacons.

She attended the Helena Ministerial Association lunch.

She attended the Lost Soles walk and lunch.

She served Communion at Touchmark.

She had one-to-one and small group conversations with various church members and Jacob Kuntz, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.

Asks for continuing prayers for Carole Massman as she continues to recover from leg numbness.

Plans to attend the 1001 Retreat December 8-12.

Will leave December 28 and return January 3 to be with family in Pittsburg to celebrate Christmas.

Communion	Total	Breakout
October	90	46 in person, 35 online, 9 at home

Prior to the Committee reports being presented, a request was made to clarify the calculation used to set the Mission and Outreach budget for the next fiscal year in order to be a Tithing Church. After discussion by Session members and input from Treasurer Potter, the amount will be calculated by multiplying the previous year’s General Fund revenue by 10%.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration Committee:**

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

The meeting was opened in prayer by Chair Jim Meyer.

The financial report was reviewed. In October, FPC had a General Fund profit of \$6,774, \$32,469 YTD compared to a loss of \$872 at this time last year.

In October, Vanguard Funds showed a gain of \$5,102, bringing the YTD gain to

\$33,545.

FPC received an anonymous donation of \$65,000 for the building fund in honor of Rose Leavitt.

**The Memorial Committee:** did not meet.

FPC will be receiving new internet and phone service. Installation will be in January. We anticipate savings of over \$100 per month.

Karen Witte reported that over \$5,000 has been raised for the kitchen fund with raffle sales.

Budget projections were presented and discussed. The final draft will be presented to Session in December and the congregation at their meeting in February.

Discussed the purpose of maintaining accurate membership information in order to provide Presbytery with correct information for our per capita calculation. A list of recommended changes of members from active to inactive status will be presented to Session in December.

The position of church representative to the Board of Pensions was discussed, and Treasurer Leo Potter has kindly agreed to replace John Warren in that position.

With John Warren's resignation as one of the signers of checks, we need another person available to sign checks. Kathy Chambers has agreed to back up John Gneckow and Linda Bench as needed.

With regrets, the committee accepted the resignation of John Warren and thanked him for his dedicated service.

We noted that we have multiple restricted funds with a balance below \$500 and several funds with similar goals and larger fund balances. We propose that the smaller funds be rolled into the larger fund that meets the stated purpose if the year-end balance is less than \$500.

**ACTION ITEM: The Administration Committee recommends when year-end restricted fund balances fall to less than \$500, that they be rolled into a larger fund of the most similar purpose. Motion carries.**

It is noted that the Property Use Committee has been successful in obtaining leases for portions of the church property. As such, we felt that Building and Grounds could add these responsibilities to their duties.

**ACTION ITEM: Recommend that the Property Use Committee be discontinued and the responsibilities be assigned to the Building and Grounds Committee. Motion carries.**

The meeting was closed with individual silent prayer.

**Next meeting:** December 10 at 4:00 PM.

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Chair "Butch" Plowman reported and a written report was submitted to Session.

Moderator "Butch" Plowman opened the meeting with prayer.

Eric Much will examine and offer advice on the bell tower repairs.



Eric Much will plow the parking lot this winter but not shovel the sidewalks.

The committee will seek and evaluate vendors to perform lawn care, snow removal, and sprinkler maintenance.

About two hundred people are expected to cycle through the “Premiere Dance Company Nutcracker” afterparty/reception in Richardson Hall on December 20<sup>th</sup>. John Coefield will again assume his customary role as Herr Drosselmeyer and be present for the duration of the post-performance event.

The locks will be removed from the main floor classroom doors to prevent recurrences of locked door (child locked in a classroom) daycare event.

The daycare will have exclusive use of one pantry refrigerator to preserve the large kitchen refrigerator for church use.

The sprinklers have been winterized and the meter removed. The meter will be replaced with an updated model in the spring.

In anticipation of the Session’s dissolution of the Building Use Committee, B&G will begin a review and update of the Building Use Policy, rates, procedures, etc.

John Coefield closed the meeting with prayer. **Next Meeting:** December 10 at 10:00 AM

**Christian Education Committee:** No meeting in November

**Next Meeting:** December 8.

**Friendship Committee:** Elder Barb Leland reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

The meeting opened with silent prayer.

### **Up-coming Activities:**

Community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner Thanksgiving day 1-3 pm.

Congregational Christmas Caroling December 7. Time to be determined.

**ACTION ITEM: Session approve promoting attendance at a Carroll College basketball game January 31, 2026. Motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEM: Session approve asking three members attending a fifth Sunday potluck to share stories about themselves and a picture from when they were less than five (5) years old. Motion carried.**

Carol Gneckow closed the meeting with a reading.

**Next Meeting:** December 10 at 1:00 PM.

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** Chair Carol Gneckow reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

Chair Carol Gneckow opened the meeting with prayer.

FPC will provide meals for Family Promise November 30 and December 1 at 5:30 pm.

The Pumpkin Patch Party: Florence Crittenton children visited the pumpkin

patch and were given pumpkins. The Pumpkin Patch Party went well although some people felt that activities should have been grouped closer together.

FPC hosted a dinner for 47 Special Olympics participants on November 7. This was the third year of providing a dinner for this group of athletes. Next year, the games will move to Butte.

**ACTION ITEM: Session approval of FPC participation in the Christmas Joy Special Offering PC(USA) November 30-December 21, 2025. This money provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Motion carried.**

The Annual Prison Fellowship Angel Tree campaign begins November 16 with receipt of Christmas tree tags listing gifts that the children would like to receive. The gifts need to be wrapped and the recipient's tree tag attached. . The drive will end December 14. Each family will also receive a \$50 gift card to Safeway. Gifts will be distributed December 19 and 20.

The Helena Warm Hearts campaign begins December 27 and ends January 31. The drive collects new blankets and towels to gift the needy within our community. The gifts will be distributed on Valentine's day.

FPC will participate with the Jewish Project in packing boxes to send to Montana teachers with information about the Jewish Hanukkah season.

We have received two (2) different requests for prison ministry at Boulder. One request was through the HOPE Program and would involve taking a worship team to the prison facility to bring hope to the inmates. The second request was to provide volunteers coming to the prison to teach various things like crafts and music. Both ministries might be doable at another time, but at this time, we had to decline involvement.

United Way has asked FPC to provide temporary emergency shelter for Helena's unsheltered population. While our facility is good in many ways, we are unable to house people for a variety of reasons. The committee will contribute a financial donation to the "Helena Emergency Shelter Program."

Melissa Stiles closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting:** December 8, at 1:00 PM.

**Nominating Committee:** Did not meet.

**Personnel Committee:** Chair Jeff Chaffee reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Chair Jeff supplied members with a list of current staff starting dates:

Les Cramer-September 15, 1984

Julie Young-April 4, 2022

Ann Swisher-June 21, 2021 (previously served FPC Helena for 7 years)

Pastor Emily Cowser-August 1, 2025

Since the committee is behind schedule on Les' yearly evaluation, it was agreed

that Pastor Emily and Joy Edgar would conduct an evaluation and report back at the committee's next meeting.

The committee noted that we are supporting the Christian Education Committee in their interest in hiring a Nursery Attendant and a volunteer backup to the attendant. We also noted that there must be policies in place for both positions. These would include Sexual Misconduct, Harassment, Child, Youth, and Adults with Vulnerabilities Protection, and Antiracism. The committee proposed forming a task force to work on updating and drafting the policies. Elder Jim Meyer made a motion to allow forming of a task force to work on the policies. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Christian Education committee has requested a background check on volunteer attendants for the Children's nursery. Julie Young is familiar with the process we have used previously and will conduct a check for us and report back to the committee.

A revised Pastoral Position Description with input from Pastor Emily was presented to Session.

She changed "Be available to meet and support special and emergency needs regardless of time or provide adequate coverage during absences" to "Offer pastoral care to congregants and others who reach out to the church and equip other leaders in the congregation to offer pastoral care for times when unavailable."

**ACTION ITEM: Approve the proposed wording changes in the Pastor Position Description. Motion carried.**

The committee reviewed and approved a proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year. They included a compensation increase for staff based on the Federal Social Security increase of 2.8% except for Pastor Emily. She has only been with us for part of the year so proposed increase for her was approved at 2%.

**ACTION ITEM: Approve Matthew Richards as a member of the Personnel Committee. Motion carried.**

Pastor Emily wants to add the Dental Benefit to her benefits. The coverage will add \$37 per month to her compensation package.

**ACTION ITEM: Approve Dental and Vision Benefit to Pastor Emily's compensation plan in 2026. Motion passed.**

Pastor Emily closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting:** first Monday of each month at 10:00 AM

**Property Oversight Committee:** Did not meet.

**Synergos Committee:** Did not meet. Next meeting in January 2026.

**Worship Committee:** Chair Patti Borsberry reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

Chair Patti Borsberry opened the meeting with prayer.

The Advent season begins November 30. The committee explained to Pastor Emily our traditions with the lighting of the Advent candles and Christmas Eve service. Joy will recruit individuals (two per Sunday) to light the candles.

Julie had informed Pastor Emily about the Blue Christmas service held in prior years. Emily has attended a Blue Service in the past. The Session consensus is not to have a Blue Christmas service this year.

Advent Services begin November 30. We will decorate the sanctuary following the worship service that day. Two new banners have been purchased for the Sanctuary for Advent. Patti is planning to inventory and take pictures of the church banners.

Advent books have been ordered and will be available November 30. CLP Diana Goodman will offer a study on Thursdays at 11:00 AM December 4, 11, and 18 using the Advent books and will include a light lunch.

The committee decided to keep the Pew Friendship Pads in the pews for now. They will be used for tracking visitors, new membership interest, and requests for Pastoral visits.

Ann gave a report on the status of the church organ. An issue recently developed that Ann is “working around” but can’t get resolved. The organ is aging and it is possible that more problems will occur. The expensive fixes may need to be addressed through an action plan.

It has been suggested that people involved with Girls’ Thrive be invited to a Sunday service winter to talk about their program.

CLP Dianna Goodman closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meetings:** December 9, 2025, and January 13, 2026.

**Board of Deacons Minutes:** A written meeting and activity report for October were submitted to Session.

Moderator Art Bumgardner opened the meeting with prayer followed by Devotion #3 from the Diaconal Ministries Devotions for Deacons.

With PW no longer existing, Session asked Deacons to assume the role of helping with weddings and funerals. Carol Gneckow attended the meeting to provide guidance for liaison with the Deacons. She suggested she and Kathy Chambers act as liaisons for the church and direct requests to the Board.

Deacons are sending out packets of devotional materials.

### **Committee Business:**

Committee reports were presented. Noted was the Deacons are short on anniversary cards.

During October 2025, 7 meals were provided. Twelve (12) cards were sent acknowledging birthdays, and three (3) get-well cards. One Grief booklet was also provided to a person who lost a family member during the past year. There were eighteen (18) hospital visits. Communion was served to 4 people at Touchmark and 5 people received communion at home.

Moderator Art Bumgardner closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting:** December 14 following the Worship service.

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

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.**

Elder Jim Meyer closed the meeting with prayer.

**The next Regular Session Meeting: December 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM**

John Gneckow  
Clerk of Session

### Trivia Question:

What does Emmanuel mean?

*(Answer on page 15.)*



### *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 October net giving is here:

	Oct. 2025	YTD
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$26,629</b>	<b>\$239,816</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$19,855</u></b>	<b><u>\$207,347</u></b>
	<b>\$6,774</b>	<b>\$32,469</b>

The online giving program can be found on the [fpchelena.org/giving](http://fpchelena.org/giving) 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!*

## ELDERS & DEACONS

### FPC Elders

**Patti Borsberry**  
(Worship Chair)

**Jeff Chaffee**  
(Personnel Chair)

**Barb Leland**  
(Friendship Chair)

**John Bryan**  
(Christian Ed Chair)

**Jim Meyer**  
(Administration Chair)

**Butch Plowman**  
(Building & Grounds Chair)

**Carol Gneckow**  
(Mission Chair)

**John Gneckow**  
(Clerk of Session)

### FPC Deacons

**BJ Burns**

**Kathy Chambers**

**Jill Cook**

**Bonnie Anderson**

**Ward Stiles**  
Vice-moderator

**Vicky Bryan**

**Art Bumgardner**  
Moderator

**Rena Bumgardner**

**Ria Caussyn**  
**Carole Massman**

# DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>10 am</b> Person-nel <b>5 pm</b> Xpress Singers	<b>2</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>3</b> <b>2 pm</b> Choir <b>3:30</b> Handbell Ringers	<b>4</b> <b>10 am</b> Sarah & Rebekah Study <b>11 am</b> Ad-vent Study <b>6:30</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>5</b> <b>Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>11 am</b> Social  <b>1 pm</b> Christmas caroling	<b>8</b> <b>Noon</b> Christian Educa-tion <b>1 pm</b> Mission <b>5 pm</b> Xpress Singers	<b>9</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>1:30 pm</b> Worship Committee <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>10</b> <b>10 am</b> Building & Grounds <b>1 pm</b> Friendship <b>2 pm</b> Choir <b>3:30 pm</b> Ring-ers <b>4 pm</b> Admin	<b>11</b> <b>11 am</b> Ad-vent Study <b>6:30</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>12</b> <b>Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>11:15 am</b> Deacons	<b>15</b> <b>5 pm</b> Xpress Singers	<b>16</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>1 pm</b> Session <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>17</b> <b>2 pm</b> Choir <b>3:30</b> Ringers	<b>18</b> <b>11 am</b> Ad-vent Study <b>7 pm</b> AA	<b>19</b> <b>Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>20</b> <b>9 pm</b> Dance Cast Party
<b>21</b> <b>Music of Christmas</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time	<b>22</b> <b>5 pm</b> Xpress Singers	<b>23</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> <b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>26</b> <b>Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>27</b>
Office closed Dec. 25-Jan. 2						
<b>28</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time	<b>29</b> <b>5 pm</b> Xpress Singers	<b>30</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Bridge <b>7 pm</b> Al Anon <b>7 pm</b> Scouts	<b>31</b>			

## December Birthdays



1st John Coefield  
2nd John Bryan  
17th Connor Goodman  
18th Bonnie Anderson

18th Shannon Koutecky  
22nd Joy Edgar  
24th Carol Stebbins  
27th Mary Stiles



## December Anniversaries

10th Chris & Candace Goodman

22nd Jeff & Julie Chaffee

### ***Looking ahead . . .***

First Presbyterian Church shirts — coming your way. Stay tuned for more information about how you can get your shirt!

Mark your calendars for two 2026 events, organized by your Friendship Committee:

January 31<sup>st</sup> -- FPC members will gather at the Carroll College gym for a Frontier Conference college basketball game.

March 29<sup>th</sup> -- "5th Sunday of the month" potluck.

### **Pastoral Care: Who to contact**

Members of First Presbyterian Church, Helena who are in need of pastoral care, or know someone who is, should take the following steps:

1. Contact Resident Pastor Emily Cowser — Church: 406-442-4775; Email: [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org).
2. If she is not available, contact Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman — Cell: 406-431-8964; email: [eastsidedesign@bresnan.net](mailto:eastsidedesign@bresnan.net).
3. If she is not available, contact Arlyn (Butch) Plowman — Home: 406-449-8705; Cell: 406-558-9240; email: [pearlynp@msn.com](mailto:pearlynp@msn.com).

You may also get in touch with your shepherd.

***The Upper Room devotionals are available  
on the rack next to the church office.***

***Trivia Answer:  
God with us.***



First Presbyterian Church  
535 North Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601

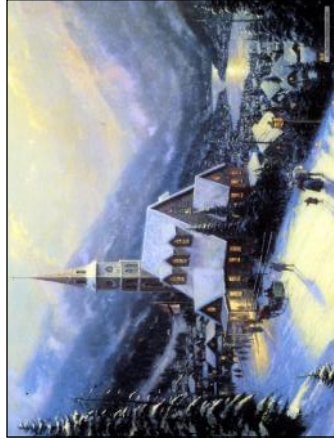
[www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)

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](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org)

Stamp  
here



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