



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 06 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana June 2022

Coming up:

**Pentecost Sunday
June 5**

We celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit, sustaining, inspiring and guiding us.

**Farewell to Pastor
Sunday, June 5**

Join in thanking Pastor Scott for 9 years of service, and wishing him well as he answers a call to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ogden, UT. A congregational meeting for the dissolution of call will be held after the service, followed by a lunch and cake reception.

**FPC 50th Anniversary
June 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Lunch and birthday cake planned; ideas and volunteers welcome! See page 2 for details.

**Join us
for worship!
Sundays, 10 a.m.
or online @
fpc.helena.org**

Celebrating 150 Years 1872-2022

Born in the lively days of the Last Chance gold camps, First Presbyterian Church of Helena took its first collective breath Aug. 1, 1869, when visiting missionary Sheldon Jackson gathered 12 people together to worship the Lord.

However, it would take three years to secure a pastor and for the congregation to become officially chartered in June, 1872.

In the 150 years since, the congregation has persisted through seasons of growth and struggle. The history of this church is rich in stories of resiliency and faithfulness.

Thankfully, it is too long to include all of it in this newsletter! But through the efforts of church historians, we can view a snap-



Rev. Sheldon Jackson
Missionary, MT Territory
Aug. 1869 - June 1872

shot of the unique challenges and joys of establishing a congregation in the Montana Territory of the 1800s . . .

Between Jackson's 1869 visit and 1872, three pastors were suc-

cessively commissioned for Montana, but none of them reached the field.

(It is interesting to note that the Rev.

George Smith, who arrived in Bannack in June, 1864, had intended

to serve in Gabon, Africa. However, after realizing it was easier for the Board to get missionaries for West Africa than for Montana, Smith agreed to hop



Rev. James R. Russell
June 1872 - Oct. 1872

(Continued on page 8)

Help needed for 150th anniversary party

Your Fellowship Committee is looking for help preparing for First Presbyterian Church of Helena's 150th Anniversary Party June 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will have sandwiches and birthday cake, and the public will be invited.

If you can volunteer to set up Richardson Hall, serve the food, cut the cake, shop for decorations and put them up, or just give us some ideas for the celebration, please email Barb Leland at barb640@hotmail.com.

Thanks -- and we hope to see you there!



Elder, Deacon training rescheduled to June 4

Training for the oncoming Elders and Deacons - and any other Elders or Deacons who would like to attend - has been postponed until Saturday, June 4, starting at 10:30 a.m. And, ALL serving Elders and Deacons are invited for a lunch at noon on that day.

We will start at 10:30 a.m. in a general session with both Elders and Deacons, enjoy lunch at noon with the larger group, and then break into separate Elder and Deacon training after lunch.

Congregational Fellowship Committee

Your Congregational Fellowship Committee is back in full swing with a list of spring-time activities!

Hand & Foot Card Playing

Fridays, 1:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

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

Pinochle, Anyone?

We'd like to add Pinochle to our fellowship lineup.

Please let Barb Leland (barb640@hotmail.com) know if you're interested in playing this fun, 4-person game.

Bingo!

Friday, June 10, 6 p.m., Fellowship Room

Fun - food (pizza) - and fellowship.

Church members, friends and family are invited.



“Auf Wiedersehen”

In the *Sound of Music*, there were a host of cute children splayed along a staircase singing, “So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu.” They were saying goodnight to guests at a party. The oldest daughter, Liesl, slips in a plug to be allowed to stay up and “taste my first champagne.” The suggestion is promptly nixed by her dad with a shake of his head.

I, too, must say “auf Wiedersehen.” For some time I have felt a call from God to be present with my immediate and extended family as we continue to move forward from the death of our son Court, as well as being present to Merilee. She is experiencing pain in her knees and feet, limiting her mobility. God has also placed a call on my heart to serve a small congregation in the Salt Lake valley, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Nine plus years ago, God called me to Helena to serve FPC. We have journeyed together exploring a closer relationship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. And I have enjoyed the opportunity of coming to know you, to serve along side you, and to reach out to others.

My *first day* on the job at FPC was to head off to a Glacier Presbytery meeting with Dudley Moore. What a rush, meeting the presbytery even before the congregation! Both have been most open and welcoming.

Under “normal” conditions I would have begun a twice-delayed sabbatical this summer. Unfortunately, I will not be able to take the sabbatical, and I feel it is important that my *last day* with you transpire near when the sabbatical would have begun.

I came to you as an Interim Pastor and then you called me as your Installed Pastor. A pastor colleague once told me that we are all “Interim Pastors,” regardless of the time we spend with a congregation. For eventually we will move on, but the church will continue.

I wish you God’s warmest blessings as you, FPC, continue following Christ, discerning God’s call upon your individual and corporate lives, and serving others. I look forward with anticipation to what you will continue to learn and build through the Matthew 25 program. And I am confident you will continue to hold one another up as you all walk together in your communal faith journey.

I will be praying for you, as a church, and individually by name. I will cherish the many fond memories I have of times here (well, the time inching through the crawl space stringing cabling is definitely “memorable” but may fall short of the “cherish” category).

Thank you for your support and love - for me and my entire family over these years. But the spring night is growing long, and I must say, “So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu.”

Peace,

Pastor Scott



**Rev.
Scott Wiperman**

Refugee food basket project underway

The Mission Committee has chosen to support the refugee food basket program from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

In light of the war in Ukraine, famine and drought in Africa, hunger in America, and a multitude of additional places, we believe that, like the Good Samaritan, we can show mercy and care for those less fortunate. A basket of food and essential supplies will help those in need. Each basket will cost \$50, but any financial gift is worthy and needed.

First Presbyterian Church, Helena, will have our gifts combined with those throughout the denomination to provide baskets. Thank you for your generous support of this project. You may use checks and mark the memo line food baskets or donate securely through the website.

Willing Workers meet Wednesdays

The group continues to prepare for craft fairs and events. We invite everyone interested to attend the weekly gatherings, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the church. We need not only your ideas, but your crafts and your help to ensure success. We hope to put together many gift baskets containing hand crafted items, so we'd like your assistance with this new addition to the Craft Fair.

Fellowship news

Our committee has elected Sheryl Eriksen as our new Chair. Congratulations to Sheryl, and many thanks to former Chair, Linda Bench, for her dedicated work as committee head!

Our committee can use additional members. Contact Sheryl if you're interested.

Confirmation class planned

The Christian Education Committee is planning to start a Confirmation Class in the fall, with the date to be determined.

The recommended ages are 13 years and up. Anyone who knows of a youth interested in taking the class can contact Mary Stiles at 401-474-1517 or email: dagrod41@gmail.com

KINDLY COME

AS YOU ARE

to the **FAREWELL PARTY**
for our Friend and Pastor,
Ok-Kee Kim, and wife, Choo-
Nil, as we pay tribute and
remember their invaluable
contributions to our Families
and Community.

Saturday, June 4,

2-4 p.m.

Basin Community Center
Cake and Refreshments

'Road Trips with Jesus!'

Glacier Camp Scholarships available from camp, church

Scholarships are available for anyone wanting to send a camper to one of the Glacier Camp summer camping sessions, who needs some financial help.

There are two sources for scholarships. One is Glacier Camp itself. On the Glacier Camp web site glaciercamp.org, or going though the Presbytery web site at glacierpresbytery.org) click on "Summer Camps" and at the bottom of that page is a link to apply for a scholarship.

Additionally, our church has some scholarship money that could be used for the camp. Speak with Pastor Scott if a FPC scholarship is desired.

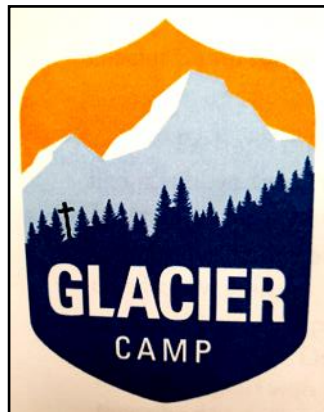
The 2022 summer camp theme, "Road Trips with Jesus!" is based on Luke 9:60b, "Go, proclaim the kingdom of God." The program will be based around outdoor fun, learning about God and bonding with peers.

Camping season runs June 19-July 30. Camps are offered for children and youth from first grade to seniors in high school.

Male counselor needed

Glacier Camp needs one more male counselor for its summer camps. Applicants need to be high school graduates. Training is provided.

Contact elijah@glaciercamp.org for details.



Work weekend, BBQ June 10-12

Glacier Camp invites you to join the staff June 10-12 for a week-end of cleaning, trimming, painting and any other chores necessary to get camp ready for its summer season!

Complementary accommodations are available in Spruce Lodge. Sign up via email at: info@glaciercamp.org or call 406-844-2114.

Plan to bring work gloves, rakes and shovels, and some sunscreen.

The weekend will conclude with a Counselor Dedication Service and Summer Kick-Off Barbecue Sunday, at 5 p.m., on the Lake Lodge lawn.

Adult Ed opportunity at camp

Summer TIM Talks: July 10-12: "Go, Proclaim the Kingdom of God" -- Following Jesus in Luke's Gospel. Contact the camp for details.

Leadership - Let Us Celebrate!

As we long for bright spots in the midst of an often confused and bleak world, we have two of them right here! Folks who have attended FPC the last several years have been inspired and delighted with the musical talents shared by Madisyn Gard and Hezekiah Rowland. As we have been blessed by their outstanding musicianship and friendly nature, we have also discovered other aspects of their youth that come as no surprise.

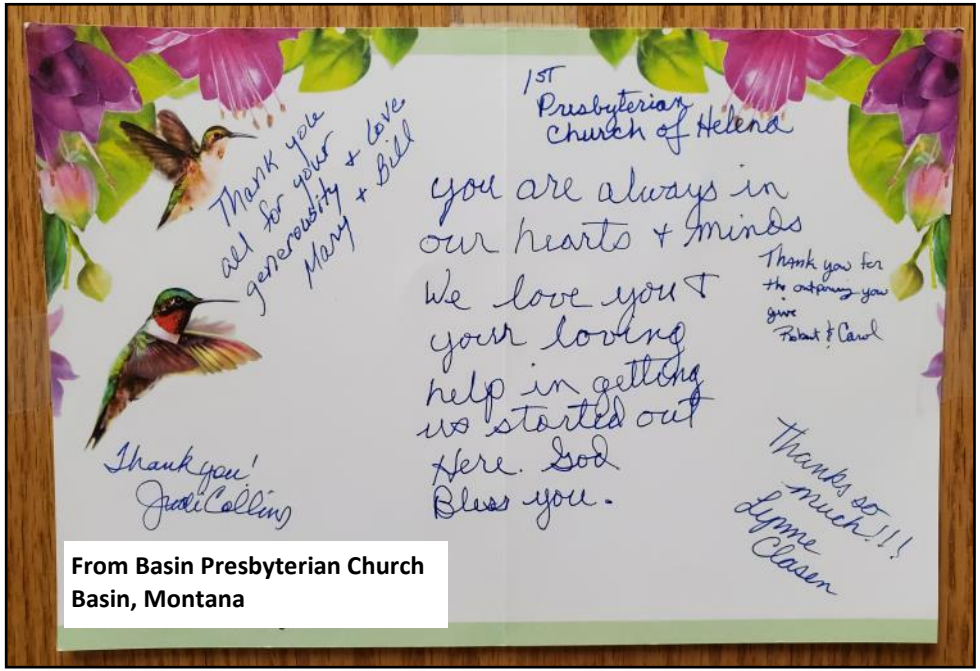
Hez has recently been inducted to the National Honor Society, recognizing his accomplishments in scholastics, leadership, character and service.

Madisyn has received the John Phillips Sousa Award by East Helena High School band director, Mr. Cole Bass. One student receives this award based on superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation.

So we join others in celebrating these marvelous young people, in worship, school and the community! Les Cramer



Thank You



From Andrew Christofferson:

First Presbyterian,

Thank you very much for a wonderful Sunday with you all. I was blessed by you, as well as the service.

Thank you for the financial gift, as well! If there is anything else I can do, please don't hesitate to ask.

Blessings,
Andrew Christofferson

Now Hiring

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church and Preschool is seeking applicants for two positions:

Preschool Director, and a teacher for two classes of 4-year-olds.

For details, go to
<https://indeedhi.re/3sLr8am>

Coefield 50th anniversary celebration June 12

John and Candace Coefield invite the congregation to join them in celebrating 50 years of marriage on Sunday, June 12, after the worship service.

A catered chicken lunch will be served. All are welcome!



History

(Continued from page 1)

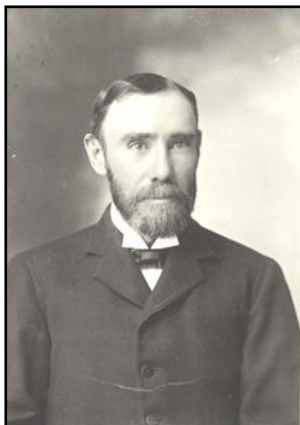
on a stagecoach bound for Montana Territory.)

Jackson returned to the Helena area in May 1872 with three pastors. Together, they organized seven churches in 16 days. James Russell of Louisville, KY, a young missionary just out of Princeton Theological Seminary, was placed in Helena and Deer Lodge.

The congregation of 20 people was chartered June 15, 1872.

Without a home, the congregation met in various locations, including the Odd Fellows Hall and the courthouse. Plans were underway for a church building when Russell left that fall.

The second pastor, the



Rev. William C. Rommel
Oct. 1872 – March 1876

Rev. William Rommel, served from 1872-1876. In 1879, he wrote to then-pastor Thomas Moore:

"I recall with much pleasure my happy days in Helena. It was my first charge in the ministry and I never can forget the great kindness and love of the dear people of the First Presbyterian Church

"I recall at least one effect of a sermon on "Blessed are the pure in heart," rather remarkable; for after the sermon in a discussion resulting from it, two gentlemen engaged in a lively and vigorous scrimmage, which I helped to stop and which threatened pistols, but the result was more amusing than serious."

- From letter by Rev. Rommel

of Helena."

Under Rommel's leadership - and with the help of an enthusiastic Ladies' Aid Society (see "Early workers," p. 9) - the congregation grew and constructed its first house of worship on the northwest corner of 5th and Ewing.

It was dedicated, debt-

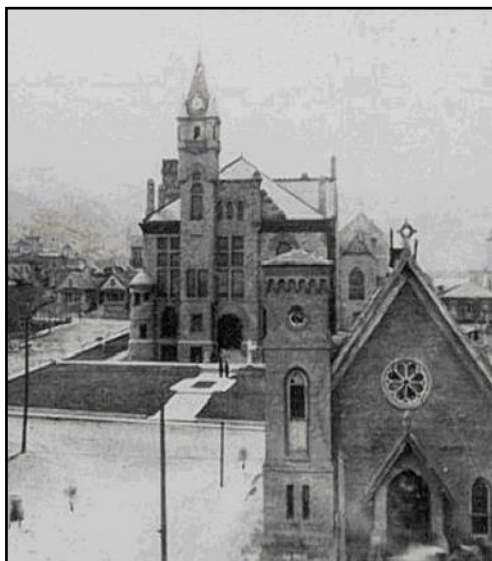
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First church building

Dedicated Aug. 13, 1876

The first building was located in front of the courthouse, on the northwest corner of the intersection of 5th and Ewing. Ten years later, the congregation had outgrown the facility, and began planning for a new building at a new site. By 1891, it was under construction, four blocks away at 535 North Ewing. The previous building was sold and demolished.

(Photo credit: National Register of Historic Places)





Early workers

Mrs. Annie C. Cuthbert (left) and Mrs. Jonas (Edna) E. Pyle (right), of Helena First Presbyterian Church, 1870s. Both were included in a photo titled 'Early Workers in the Presbyterian Church of Montana.'



The first Ladies' Aid Society was formed in 1874, but the women of the church were instrumental in the earlier days of the congregation, as well. Indeed, Jackson's 1869 gathering consisted of 11 women and 1 man. Shortly after the congregation was chartered in 1872, the women planned a Christmas bazaar to raise funds for a church building. Despite the Rev. Rommel putting the kibosh on plans to include dancing and raffling, the bazaar was a success, with the ladies raising \$800 serving fried oysters.

(Photo credit: Montana Historical Society Research Center)

History

(Continued from page 8)

free, Aug. 13, 1876.

Ten years later, a grow-

ing Sunday School compelled the congregation to consider building a new, larger facility. The present site was purchased in 1889, and the cornerstone

laid Aug. 5, 1891.

The new building was dedicated in 1892, and the current sanctuary was added just after the turn of the century.



Laying the cornerstone of the present building, August 5, 1891, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

May 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:35 p.m., by Pastor Scott Wipperman. Pastor Scott opened with prayer and moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present in the church facility: Sheryl Eriksen, Kathy Chambers, Linda Bench, Karen Witte, Carol Stebbins, Vic Reiman, Barb Leland, Rose Leavitt, Mary Stiles, and John Coefield. Attending on Zoom were: Elder Jeff Chaffee, Deacon Candace Coefield, and Clerk of Session John Gneckow. Also in attendance: CP “Butch” Plowman, and Treasurer Leo Potter. Guests included: Retired Pastor Janet Potter from Glacier Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and Elder elect Jim Meyer, Class of 2025. Elder Mary Wright was excused.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: Pastor Scott added Dianna Goodman’s request for Session recommendation and approval for her to pursue Commissioned Lay Pastor training and ordination. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the docket as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022, as presented.

PASTOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT: Pastor Scott informed Session that for a variety of reasons, he is resigning as Pastor of FPC Helena and his last day as the Pastor will be June 12, 2022. His planned sabbatical is cancelled.

Reverend Janet Potter expressed thanks to Pastor Scott for his ministry here in Helena at First Presbyterian Church.

A congregational meeting will be held June 5, 2022, following the worship service to dissolve the call between Pastor Scott and First Presbyterian Church of Helena. Reverend Risa Paul will moderate. A farewell celebration will be held following the meeting.

CP “Butch” Plowman will still serve as pulpit supply and moderate Session as planned during Scott’s sabbatical.

A COM Transition Team member will be appointed to work with Session. Presbytery Executive Beth McCall, Marsha Ripley, elder, and Rev. John Richie will be available to answer questions until then. A COM member will meet with Session to develop the Interim Job Description and walk alongside the congrega-

(Continued on page 11)

tion during this time.

Pastor Scott, Session, and COM will work together to settle the terms of dissolution of call to include that the pastor will fully break from any ministry-related contact with the congregation for one year from the termination date.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Scott reported that April was a good month financially due to a generous donation of \$35,000. The intention of the gift was to help ensure that FPC makes its faith budget in 2022.

We are still in the Season of Easter until Pentecost on June 5.

After Andrew Christofferson's message to the church on April 24, some members have expressed interest in supporting his efforts in an on-going fashion.

Repair work on the collapsed basement wall has been completed. Cost of the work is approximately \$12,000.

A memorial service for Joyce Berry was held for April 29, with a reception and graveside service following.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported that FPC received a thank you note for a recent donation from the Mission committee. The Clerk also reported that a new account has been opened with Vanguard, funded with money received from the Howdy and Myrtle Murfitt Trust.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder Linda Bench reported, and a written report was submitted.

Leo Potter opened the meeting with prayer. The committee approved using Anderson Trust to purchase the Bible study materials used in the Presbyterian Women Circles. John Warren will replace Mary Wright as a check signer on the church checking account. Leo Potter will be given authority to electronically view the church's bank account. **ACTION ITEM:** Approve Vic Reiman as a member of the Admin Committee. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds: Elder John Coefield reported, and a written report was submitted. John opened the meeting with prayer. The repair work necessitated by the cave-in along the foundation on the north side has been completed. However, we need to reconnect the air conditioner or replace it. The current A/C unit is 20 years old and will cost \$800 to reconnect. A new more energy efficient unit will cost \$6,300. No action taken pending receipt of more information.

As the committee has concerns about the condition of the public sidewalk(s) on

(Continued on page 12)

Session Minutes, (continued from page 11)

church property, the city sidewalk coordinator and B&G will do a walk-around to determine what work is needed and what assistance is available to pay for the work.

Christian Education Committee: Elder Mary Stiles reported, and a written report was submitted. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.

The Sermon on the Mount study began May 5. Several individuals have agreed to conduct workshops on assorted topics important to seniors. The workshops will be open to the local community.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Joy Edgar as a member of the Christian Education Committee. Motion carried.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Linda Bench reported, and a written report was submitted.

A discussion was held regarding the 150th church anniversary celebration scheduled for June 12. "Butch" Plowman was recommended as the point person for coordinating the event. Hand and Foot resumed May 6. Bingo Night is scheduled for May 20 and June 10. Lost Soles hikes are scheduled for May 22 and June 12.

Sheryl Ericksen was elected as the new Committee Chairperson for 2022-2023.

Mission Committee: Elder Kathy Chambers reported. Kathy thanked the congregation for its support of the various missions of the church. Karen Witte asked if it is possible to add an option in the Giving program for people to donate to Andrew Christofferson's mission work. The Clerk of Session will look into it.

The Refugee Food Basket Giving Catalog project is being initiated in May and will run through July. This was done to obtain matching funds from the national mission agency.

Memorial Committee: Session was shown the memorial plaques that the committee purchased for Leah Lona Albright and Court Bourne. They will be installed in the near future.

Nominating Committee: No activity to report this month.

Personnel Committee: Elder Carol Stebbins reported that no meeting was held this month.

(Continued on page 13)

Worship Committee: No Committee representative attended the Session meeting, although a written report was submitted. Dianna opened the committee meeting with prayer. Various members of the committee were thanked for their contributions to the FPC worship services.

The choir will be wrapping up for the summer on Pentecost Sunday. Various individuals will be asked to provide special music during the summer.

Deacon Report: Deacon Candace Coefield provided a verbal report of Board activities. Communion was served at Touchmark and the Masonic Home. No meals were provided to any FPC members during the month. No hospital visits were done. Candy will continue as Moderator for 2022-2023, Joy Edgar will serve as Vice-Moderator, and Patti Borsberry will continue as Secretary.

Covid Task Force: The Task Force is no longer meeting but is continuing to monitor the situation in the Helena area.

Old Business: The Session reviewed ideas for the 150th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the church. We need help and ideas from people not on Session to make this celebration meaningful.

New Business: Dianna Goodman has indicated her desire to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor. She has completed her bio and will start “Enquiry” soon.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to recommend and support her pursuit of this goal. Seconded and passed.

Andrew Christofferson’s presentation on the work he is doing in India was well received. Several church members have asked if FPC can provide ongoing assistance to his work. **ACTION ITEM:** Motion to provide \$500 per quarter to Andrew Christofferson’s mission work. Seconded and passed.

We need Committee Chairpersons for Administration, Personnel, and Worship for 2022-2023.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Mary Stiles closed the meeting with prayer.

Elder/Deacon Training: June 4, 2022, at 10:30 am.

Congregational Meeting: June 5, 2022, following worship.

Next Regular Session Meeting: June 15, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session

Attachment: Pastor Scott’s May 17, 2022, Announcement of Resignation

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Choir	2 10 am Rebekah Circle 4 pm Bible Study	3 Noon Friday Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	4 10:30 Elder, Deacon training
5 <i>Pentecost, Farewell Party</i> 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Congre- gational meeting & Farewell Party	6 3 pm Education	7 10 am Sarah Circle 5:30 pm Personnel	8 10 am Build- ing/Grounds 2 pm CFC 3 pm Education 4 pm Admin. 7 pm Choir	9	10 Noon Friday Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 6 pm Bingo	11
12 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time/Coefield Anniversary Celebration	13 10 am Worship Committee	14 6 pm Mission	15 7 pm Choir	16 11 am Bob Fisher Memorial Service	17 Noon Friday Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	18
19 <i>150th Year Celebration, Father's Day</i> 10 am Worship 11 am PFC 150th Anniversary	20	21 6:30 pm Session	22 7 pm Choir	23 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	24 Noon Friday Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	25
26 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	27	28	29 7 pm Choir	30		

Share your experience

DO TELL: Don't forget to tell us about a Matthew 25 experience you've had or a deed you've performed by posting it to the bulletin board in the Fellowship area. Thanks!

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

14th - Candace & John Coefield
18th - Linda & Steve Granzow

19th - Jim & Mary Brainard

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4th Nelson Seeley
6th Robert Andersen
8th Rose Leavitt
8th Steven Foster
10th Joseph Steffens
13th Barrie Heinecke
14th Barbara Leland
15th Maggie Barnes

18th Marvin Carpenter
21st Eve Seeley
22nd Sally Luke
24th Yvonne Moody
26th Jim Brainard
27th Melissa Stiles
30th Jeannie Pullin

DEACON ON CALL

Joy Edgar 422-1763

JUNE COMMUNION SETUP

Sunday, June 5 - BJ Burns & Joy Edgar

JUNE LAY LITURGISTS

June 5 Kelly Craigle
June 12 John Coefield
June 19 Dianna Goodman
June 26 Art Bumgardner

DEADLINE

The deadline for
the July
newsletter is
Thurs., June 23.

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

Tuesday, June 7
Sunday, June 26

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.org

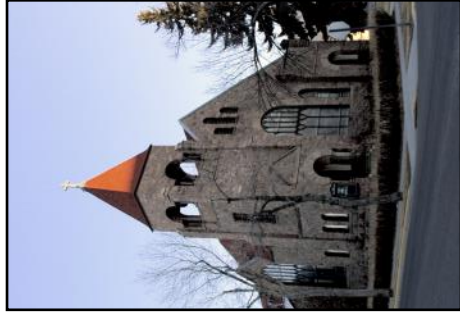
Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189
Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Celebrating 150 Years
1872-2022