



First Presbyterian Church

# The Mustard Seed

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 05 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana May 2022

### Inside:

Like the tender purple flowers peeking out from under the ever-greens at the church entrance, new opportunities for learning, growing, serving and fellowship are sprouting at FPC in May!

Take a look inside to find "He is Risen!" a reflection by Pastor Scott on page 3. Also inside this issue, details about a new Bible study, fellowship activities, camp scholarships, a Matthew 25 update, and more.

**Join us  
for worship!**  
Sundays, 10 a.m.  
or  
online @  
[fpc.helena.org](http://fpc.helena.org)



# **“Following the Call” Bible study starts May 5**

We will be starting a Bible Study using the text, “Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together,” Thursday, May 5, at 4 p.m. Pastor Scott will lead this study of Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount - Matthew chapters 5 through 7.

“Following the Call” is a collection of articles written by theologians throughout the ages, from Augustine of Hippo, to Soren Kierkegaard, to C. S. Lewis, to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to N. T. Wright, about specific pieces of Christ’s teachings in these chapters. We will read and discuss how these authors view Christ’s words on being blessed because we are hungry, about loving our enemies, about worry, and much more.

If you are interested in attending the course, please sign up at the Fellowship Table, or call into the church. This will help us with how many texts to order.



## **Congregational Fellowship Committee**

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

### **Church Potluck**

**Sunday, May 1, after the church service**

Bring a main dish, salad, or appetizer. We will have the usual first-of-the-month birthday cake for dessert.



### **Hand & Foot Card Playing**

**Friday, May 6, 1:30 p.m., Fellowship Room**  
resumes and will continue every Friday.

### **Bingo!**

**Friday, May 20, 6 p.m., Fellowship Room**

Pizza and pop will be served. Food, fun and fellowship for members and non-member friends of all ages.



### **Lost Soles Hike**

**May 22, 2 p.m., meet at church parking lot**  
Hike around Cox Lake

# “He is Risen!”

Through all of May, we are still in the season of Easter, celebrating the resurrection! On Easter morning, there is a focus on the empty tomb and a question of what happened to the body. Later, through the disciples (not just the 11), we encounter the risen Christ and the focus shifts to the miracle of Christ’s resurrection.

Franciscan Priest Richard Rohr points out that the Western church “emphasizes the individual resurrection of Jesus.” By contrast, Christ’s birth is portrayed as a pretty communal event. Minimally there is the Christ child and the mother who gave birth to him, Mary. But the stables are crowded, for not only is Joseph there too, but we have shepherds, wisemen, angels, and a flock of sheep!

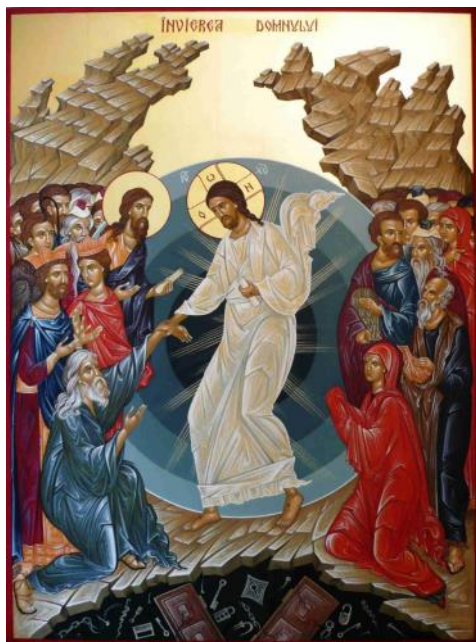
The Eastern Christian tradition paints (literally) communal portraits of the risen Christ. Jesus is seen surrounded by crowds in paintings and even pulling people out of Hades in some. Richard clears up the Western misunderstanding of Hades: “Hades is not the same as hell, although we put the two words together, ... Instead, Hades is simply the place of the dead. There’s no punishment or judgment involved. It’s just where a soul waits for God.”

Let’s not lose sight that the Easter message is about the resurrection of one person. Yes, the miracle of Christ’s resurrection from the dead is wonderfully glorious and should be celebrated! But there is a large message here, that this miracle also reveals Christ’s victory over death! This is not a solitary resurrection, but the resurrection of humanity. All who believe are resurrected from the dead along with Christ. As the Apostle Paul states - let us join in Christ’s death that we (all) may take part in his resurrection. This is the Good News of Christ we celebrate all through the season of Easter - and beyond.

Peace,  
Pastor Scott



**Rev.  
Scott Wiperman**



First Presbyterian Church  
535 N. Ewing  
Helena, MT 59601  
442-4775

## Larry Linton Scholarship

Larry Linton provided a scholarship gift of \$10,000 to the church several years ago. This gift was invested and is earning interest. As sufficient interest becomes available, funds are to be awarded to students for attending or planning to attend post-secondary school.

### **Criteria:**

Student must be a member or related to a member of First Presbyterian Church

Minimum grade point average of 2.0

Demonstrated financial need

Demonstrated good character

### **Application Process:**

Submit a letter of interest to FPC with your name, address, email, and phone number. Indicate the current school you attend and the school that you plan to attend (must be accredited).

Attach a current transcript and estimated expenses for your year of college (tuition, room and board, books and supplies).

Attach a letter of recommendation from an individual who can address knowledge of your academic ability and character.

Address the following essay questions.

1. What are your current academic goals?
2. What are your career goals once you have completed your degree?
3. What is your involvement with the First Presbyterian Church?
4. This scholarship is for students with financial need. Please describe your financial situation and how the scholarship can help you meet your academic goals.

Mail the application to the attention of the Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church, 535 N. Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601.

Scholarships are to be utilized for tuition and when awarded will be addressed to the school that the student will attend.

Availability of funds will be advertised through the church's website and newsletter. A committee representing education, mission, and administration will review and recommend successful applicants.





## Quilt raffle

"The Fabric of America," a quilt designed by Sally Klein (right) and raffled by the Presbyterian Women, raised nearly \$1,000 for local charities.

Shown with Klein is quilt winner Roxanne Meury.

(Les Cramer photo)

### **Come, Join Us**

Bring a sack lunch! Tea and water will be provided.

Join us for fellowship, election, and installation  
of Officers for Presbyterian Women.

**May 10, at 12 noon**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Upstairs in Richardson Hall**

# MINUTES OF THE SESSION

April 19, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:55 PM by CP “Butch” Plowman. CP “Butch” Plowman opened with prayer and moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present in the church facility: Elders Sheryl Eriksen, Kathy Chambers, Linda Bench, Karen Witte, Carol Stebbins, Vic Reiman, Barb Leland, and Jeff Chaffee. Attending on Zoom were: Mary Stiles, John Coefield, Deacon Candace Coefield, and Clerk of Session John Gneckow. Also in attendance: CP “Butch” Plowman and Treasurer Leo Potter. Elders Mary Wright and Rose Leavitt were excused. Pastor Scott Wipperman was on vacation.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the docket as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of March 15, 2022, as presented.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Scott submitted a written report outlining various church and Presbyterian activities he has been involved in since the last Session meeting.

He is working on the memorial service for Joyce Berry scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and for a class on Sermon on the Mount scheduled to start May 5th at 4:00 PM.

He also reported that Mary Wright has sold her house and donated funds to FPC for the “faith” budget this year. Mary also donated her four-wheel drive vehicle to the church at Whitlash for the “Pastor in Residence” to use during his/her time there.

Kathy Chambers, Karen Witte, and Les Cramer have been trained on making updates on the new web site.

Communion	88	32 in worship, 46 via electronics, 10 at home
-----------	----	-----------------------------------------------

## CLERK’S REPORT:

Membership as of February 28, 2022			102
Membership as of March 31, 2022			102

The Clerk reported that FPC received thank you notes for recent donations from Good Samaritan Ministries and Florence Crittendon. The Clerk noted that Paul-

*(Continued on page 7)*

ine Linton--the widow of Larry Linton, benefactor of the Linton Scholarship fund --was buried last week. The Clerk also reported receipt of an email from Ok-Kee Kim indicating that he will be in Basin on April 24, May 1, and May 29 prior to his retirement and move to California. The Clerk also reported that Vanguard has removed Marshall Gingery's access privileges to the FPC accounts and that we are pending approval for account funded by the Howdy and Myrtle Murfitt Trust.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer. We need to contact Leaf to purchase the printer that we lease from them. FPC has switched insurance from Farmers to Brotherhood Mutual effective April 15, 2022. Brotherhood insures many churches nationally, is less expensive, and includes coverage against damages from earthquakes. FPC will be replacing the computer used by the Office Coordinator as the operating system is outdated and no longer supported by Microsoft. Files from the computer have been copied to a backup hard drive.

**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 under the sound room window has been completed. The coal chute has been filled with road mix and a concrete bulkhead is in place and a new slab for AC unit is ready. The Memorial bricks have been installed on part of the AC slab. Farmers rejected a claim for the cave-in.

**Christian Education Committee:** Elder Mary Stiles reported and a written report was submitted. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer. Pastor Scott will lead a study on the Sermon on the Mount beginning May 5 at 4:00 PM. Books will be ordered.

**Congregational Fellowship:** Elder Linda Bench reported and a written report was submitted. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer. Hand and Foot will resume May 6 at 1:30 PM. A church potluck is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> following worship and Bingo Night is scheduled for May 20. A Lost Soles hike around Cox Lake is scheduled for May 22. Meet at the church at 2:00 PM.

**Mission Committee:** Elder Kathy Chambers reported and a written report was submitted. Kathy opened the meeting with prayer. Catalog Giving will start June 12<sup>th</sup>. Money collected will go toward the purchase of refugee food baskets. FPC will be the hosts for Family Promise May 15 & 16. More volunteers are needed to help with meals and chaperoning the participants.

*(Continued on page 8)*

**Memorial Committee:** No activity to report this month.

**Nominating Committee:** No activity to report this month.

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

**Worship Committee:** No Committee representative attended the Session meeting although a written report was submitted. Dianna opened the meeting with prayer. Pastor Scott reported that he will be on vacation the week of April 18-24. Andrew Christofferson will talk about his mission in India on Sunday, April 24.

The choir is back and able to sing without masks. Masks will be optional for the congregation.

**Deacon Report:** Deacon Candace Coefield provided a report of Board activities for March. Communion was served at Touchmark, Legacy, Masonic Home, Elkhorn, and Edgewood.

Five meals were provided to a convalescing member during the month.

**New Hire Task Force:** Julie Young has been hired as the Office Coordinator (formerly called Admin Assistant) to replace Bruce Luke. She has extensive church experience having worked in two churches in the past.

**Covid Task Force:** The Task Force did not meet but is continuing to monitor the situation in the Helena area.

**Old Business:** The Session proposed ideas for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the establishment of the church to be held June 19. Ideas included: grilling hamburgers and hot dogs combined with an outdoor service, or an ice cream social combined with a potluck. Congregational Fellowship will spearhead the planning. The Clerk noted that there is a variety of historical information stored in the safe that can be used to make a display for the event.

**New Business:** Pentecost is June 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Scott's sabbatical leave is scheduled to start at that time. He proposes that he delay the start of his sabbatical until the following week so that he can be present for the Pentecost service.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 8:00 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. John Coefield closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Regular Session Meeting: May 17, 2022, at 6:30 pm.**

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session





(Photo courtesy of Glacier Camp)

## Summer Camp Scholarships

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](http://glaciercamp.org), or going through the Presbytery web site at [glacierpresbytery.org](http://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.

## Deacons to meet Sunday, May 15

The Deacons will meet on the third Sunday this month, since the second Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day.

**FOOD SHARE:** The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that we will resume collecting food for Helena Food Share. Our Boy Scout troop will collect and deliver donations as an ongoing service project. Thanks for your help.

# MATTHEW 25

## *Sharing M25 stories in May*

First Presbyterian Church, Helena, is an official Matthew 25 church. We have a certificate that says we are and our activities over the last several months have confirmed our standing with those who are carrying out Jesus' commandments in M25: **feed** the hungry, **give the thirsty** something to drink, **invite the stranger** in, **clothe** the naked, **help the sick**, **visit** those in prison. Each one checked off and done! But Jesus reminds us the poor will always be with us and there will always be more good that we can do for the kingdom.

Your Mission Committee has asked you to participate in a variety of activities, some large and some small. **Latrines, kitchen kits, hats and mittens, backpacks, diapers, personal and feminine hygiene products, quilts, books and balls, and smiles.** Some of these are easy: hats and mittens because as Montanans know about cold. Some don't flow as naturally and easily in conversation: latrines and feminine hygiene. Some don't seem as significant: a book or a smile. Yet all of these are important as we work toward purposeful living in God's world. Please consider our next steps.

We have two areas of focus that we are moving forward with. First: the committee would challenge you to incorporate M25 activities into your daily thinking and action. There are so many ways each of us can be a help each day. We tried to provide you with a wide variety of activities and urge you to move forward in many new and wonderful ways. On the Mission bulletin board in the Narthex are blank cards. Please reflect on a M25 experience you had and write your story on a card and hang the card back up. Your name is optional but your story is vital. This will help us clarify, share, and inspire one another. The journey is as important as the results therefore we want to take time to appreciate the paths we have taken. Write anything that you experienced that touched your heart and moved you to M25 action. Please read and share stories with each other. Be bold, we have moved away from the "frozen chosen" identity to caring and sharing the message of Jesus.

Part two: As part of M25, our larger defined goal is to help eradicate systemic poverty. We have accomplished many great acts of kindness and assistance and will continue to do so. However, we need to be "big picture" peo-

*(Continued on page 11)*

ple: what are the root causes of poverty and how do we help? There is a saying: if one fish winds up on the shore, one may ask, "What is wrong with that fish?" but if a school of fish washes up on the shore, one must ask "what is wrong with the water?" Society focuses on the single fish. While it is important to respond with compassion to each impoverished person, the bigger question is: what is causing so many people to end up and remain in poverty? This will be part of the conversation that we as a church will have. It may involve letters to the editor, letters to our elected representatives, it may be joining a group of like-minded folks, joining a peaceful demonstration, a caring and reciprocal conversation with family or neighbors. And many more.

In whatever form our actions take in the future, we have an example set for us in Matthew 25 and we all have a part to play. This family at First Presbyterian has done a commendable job in serving others and that will continue.

One final note: I once read an article that asked this question: "if you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Very powerful. As M25 people, we are working to be convicted.

Kathy Chambers  
Mission Chair

## *Minute for Mission*

Pine Hills Correctional Facility: we sent more than 60 activity books, a variety of writing tools, and a check for \$610 that will purchase sports balls. They were most appreciative of our gifts.

The number of smiles shared in April is not easily counted, as the ripples from a single smile go on and on. We hope our Matthew 25 mission to smile at strangers, each and every day, will become a lifelong habit.



We will be sending a check to PC (USA) as our gift from the One Great Hour of Sharing. This will be followed by our contributions to the Pentecost Offering, the second of the four special offerings of our denomination.

# PFC 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration June 19

Plans are underway for PFC's 150th anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 19, after the worship service.

Here is a bit of history, pulled from the 140th anniversary directory:

Though the congregation was officially chartered the summer of 1872, it began with a July 1869 visit by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who visited Montana attempting to start new Presbyterian congregations. Three years later, on the morning of June 15, 1872, he preached in the courthouse, marking the beginning of First Presbyterian Church of Helena.

The first building was located on the corner of 5th and Ewing and cost almost \$12,000 to build. It was debt-free when it was dedicated on Aug. 3, 1876. The present site was purchased in 1889 for \$5,000.

The congregation built and dedicated a new building on the site in 1892. The current sanctuary was added just after the turn of the century.

## Willing Workers meet Wednesdays

The group continues to plan for and organize future Craft Fairs and events. We invite everyone interested to attend the weekly gatherings. We need not only your ideas, but your crafts and your help to ensure the success of this event. 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. Come one and all. We welcome your participation. Meet at the church about 9:30 a.m.

The **Deacons' Benevolence Fund** has been used several times during the pandemic. Thanks to the congregation's generous gifts, we have been able to fulfill every request. We want to remind everyone that this fund is for you. If you need help to pay household or medical bills, buy groceries, medicine, or gas, we are here, ready to help. Just contact Pastor Scott at the church office and he will get the ball rolling. This is completely confidential; not even the deacons know who our recipients are. We are so happy to help! God bless!

# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

31st - Glenn & Sandy Phillips

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

1st Chris Goodman  
3rd Justice Gard  
(Joy Edgar's great-granddaughter)  
5th Tim Borsberry

5th Hezekiah Rowland  
14th Julie Chaffee  
18th Pearle Plowman  
27th Kathy Chambers

## DEACON ON CALL

Julie Chaffee 431-3400

## MAY COMMUNION SETUP

Sunday May 1 - BJ Burns & Joy Edgar

## MAY LAY LITURGISTS

May 1	Patti Borsberry
May 8	Kathy Chambers
May 15	Art Bumgardner
May 22	John Warren
May 29	Jim Meyer

## Coupons, We Need Your Coupons!!



We need your help by bringing in coupons for those in need here in our community. Please drop them off in the basket in the lobby as you come in the front door, or contact Tonna Strasko for more information.



## DEADLINE

**The deadline for  
the June  
newsletter is  
Tuesday, May 24.**

## UPCOMING FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

**Monday, May 9  
Tuesday, May 24**

# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>11 am</b> Potluck & Birthday Cake	<b>2</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship Committee <b>3 pm</b> Education	<b>3</b> <b>10 am</b> Sarah Circle <b>5:30 pm</b> Personnel	<b>4</b> <b>7 pm</b> FPC Choir	<b>5</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Rebekah Circle <b>4 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>6</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i><b>Mother's Day</b></i> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Noon</b> PW Sack Lunch <b>6 p.m.</b> Mission	<b>11</b> <b>10 am</b> Building <b>2 pm</b> CFC <b>4 pm</b> Admin. <b>7 pm</b> FPC Choir	<b>12</b> <b>10 am</b> Covid Com- mittee <b>4 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>11:15 am</b> Deacon meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Session	<b>18</b> <b>7 pm</b> FPC Choir	<b>19</b> <b>4 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30</b> H&F Cards <b>6 p.m.</b> Bingo	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>2 pm</b> Hike	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7 pm</b> FPC Choir	<b>26</b> <b>4 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>27</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Bible Study <b>1:30</b> Hand & Foot Cards	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social	<b>30</b> <i><b>Memorial Day</b></i>	<b>31</b>				



# Thank You

## Intro from Pastor

*The Carpenters had asked that the letter below be run in the April edition of the Mustard Seed, but in the transition from Bruce's departure we overlooked adding this thank you. We apologize for that mistake and with the Carpenter's permission are publishing it in this month's edition.*

*- Pastor Scott*

Thank you to First Presbyterian church family for your heartfelt support during the Covid Pandemic and while David was involved with Hospice.

We apologize for the delay in public recognition of efforts by several members during David's final months. David was a very private person and appreciated his church family giving him space to process the journey with the help of Hospice. We also want to specifically thank Rose Leavitt and Butch/Pearl Plowman for their support of David's memorial and service.

Ellen is looking forward to Covid restrictions lifted and her church family feeling comfortable enough to visit her in Touchmark. Prior arrangements to visit her in Sapphire wing are not needed. Feel free to stop in any time.

Thank you all.

Westenbarger/Carpenter Family

---

## Condolences

*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Brian Graham, grandson of Katie Spiroff. Brian passed away Saturday, April 16.*

*A memorial gathering was held Thursday, April 28,  
at Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home.*

*Also, condolences to the family of Joyce Berry.*

*Services for Joyce were held April 29 at First Presbyterian Church.*

## 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.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
535 North Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601

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

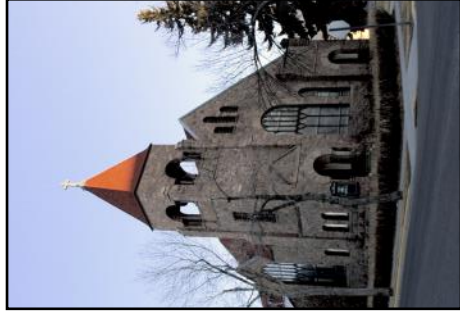
**Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189**  
**Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM**

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

**406-442-4775**

If you would like to be removed from this mailing  
list, and/or receive this newsletter via e-mail,  
please call **442-4775** or e-mail  
**[admin@fpchelena.org](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org)**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Helena, MT**  
**Permit #42**



Label here