

First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2025 Issue 5 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT

May 2025

CLP Commissioning Celebration May 4

Join us May 4 to celebrate
our newest
Commissioned
Lay Pastor,
Dianna Goodman.



Dianna completed a multi-year course
of study and training. In
February the Presbytery
of Glacier commissioned
Dianna to serve in the
congregation, community
and Presbytery.

The celebration will continue
during coffee hour.

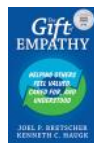


Alleluia! Christ is risen!

“Gift of Empathy” study starts Sunday, May 25

A four-session discussion on a book from Stephen Ministries
called, “The Gift of Empathy,” will be led by Joy Edgar and Pastor
Janet Potter after worship on Sundays May 25, and June 1, 15,
and 22. These will include lunch.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us.



FPC to host Family Promise May 25-26



We will be hosting Family Promise Sunday, May 25, and
Monday, May 26.

Please check the signup sheet to see where you can help.



Holy Week & Easter

Thanks to Alysia Ryan for the Maundy Thursday Service photo at left. Above, Sheryl prepares special treats for Easter Sunday.

Looking Ahead

May 4—Communion and Celebration of Dianna Goodman's Commissioning as CLP.

May 20—Session meets with incoming officers and new members at 6:30pm.

May 25—Book Study begins following worship.

June 1—Ordination and Installation of Officers, Communion

June 8—Pentecost Sunday! Celebrating the gifts of the church!

*Women of the Church,
you are invited to*

**Presbyterian Women
Salad Luncheon &
Birthday Cake
Least Coin Offering**

Wednesday, May 28
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Richardson Hall

Guest Speaker:
Gina Boesdorfer
Executive Director
The Friendship Center

Reservations Required
Call Carol Gneckow:
406-422-9914

May is a month when many changes take place in our lives. Dormant branches turn green, plants flower, grass grows, people graduate, weddings, babies, Mother's Day, gardening, warm weather outings and other activities transform our days. May is a great month for a 4-week sermon series, "Re-Shaped."



"Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand..."

"You were created for a purpose, formed into something spectacular—not just created, but re-created again and again. Change is good... you go first!"

Our brains were designed to be suspicious of change, and for good reason—homeostasis in good measure helps us thrive, protecting us from danger. But if we look closely at what the Creator set in motion, we find that change is actually the most constant part of life. Jesus advocated for changes that would keep us moving toward greater goodness!

But oh my, the evolutionary resistance to change can be debilitating. We have inherited this natural tendency to feel apprehension about change from our ancestors who had to be suspicious of difference in order to survive. But this part of our psyche can cause us, and others, no end of frustration and fear. And it can keep our communities stuck in a way that prevents us from our joy and our passion for ministry.

Sometimes we face major disruptions in our lives and in the rhythms of our communities. Embracing change and letting it "animate us" toward new possibilities is the work we must do in our day." This series will provide a light-hearted approach to being stretched into new possibilities!

Re-Shaped is a sermon series created by the highly regarded Worship Design Studio, led by Rev. Dr Marcia McFee. Each week the sermon will focus on a different scripture passage as we allow God to speak into our hearts. Plus some extra worship creative elements will help stretch us!

We believe that God never changes, and nothing about the Lord changes: love, mercy, kindness, justice, and wisdom always exist in perfection. But we do change, even when we don't want to. You aren't being asked to change, but we will discern and understand how God is calling us to "let go" of what was, in favor of God's new creation.

I hope you will join me to worship God in May!

Blessings and love,

Janet

Financial giving opportunities

April 21 – June 8th - Pentecost Offering Period

Non-Financial giving opportunities

Now through May 11th – “Dipes & Wipes” drive for YWCA.

Special Guest

Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, will give an update on the housing situation Sunday, May 11. Jacob will remain after the service to answer questions.

Christian Education Committee to resume meeting

The Christian Education Committee will start meeting again on Monday, May 12, at noon.

Joy Edgar and Dianna Goodman will co-chair the committee.

Hand & Foot Cards

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Never played?

No problem!

The game is easy to learn and willing teachers abound.

“Dipes & Wipes” Drive

Please bring any size diapers and baby wipes for the YWCA Mother’s Day drive. A box has been placed in the Friendship area for your donation items. The YWCA will share the items with The Friendship Center and Florence Crittenton.



Pentecost Offering

Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 49th day after Easter Day. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. It is often referred to as the birthday of the Church.

The Pentecost offering helps young people begin life with a strong start, giving them a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of their life. Our congregation retains 40% of the offering to give to a group or organization in our community to benefit, support, or care for young people.

Watch for an announcement regarding the recipient of our portion of the offering.

Trivia Question:

What physical problem did Saul have after his experience on the Damascus Road?

(Answer on page 11.)

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

April 22, 2025

The regular meeting and worship service of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena were called to order on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:35 PM by Pastor Janet Potter, Interim Pastor.

Pastor Janet opened the meeting with prayer followed by worship. Two people read Scripture from Matthew 3:7-10. After a reading of the Scripture followed by a time of reflection, Pastor Janet asked: What fruit are we bearing as a Session or church? (Responses: love, compassion, mission, service, stewards, acceptance, encouragement, fellowship, gifts of the spirit.) Following discussion by Session members, conclusion of worship, and communion, Pastor Janet opened and moderated the business meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: Pastor Janet added a report from the Property Oversight Committee on leasing of the classrooms for the childcare to the docket. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket with the additional report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025, regular Session meeting as presented.

CLERK’S REPORT:

	Active Membership as of February 28, 2025	90	
	Death of Marsha Davis March 20, 2025	-1	
	Active Membership as of March 31, 2025	89	

The Clerk had received no correspondence this month to present to Session.

INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastor Janet led a Lenten class on “Connecting with God through Prayer.” Three classes were held in March and three in April. Attendance was great.

The Friday Bible study group moderated by John Coefield will reconvene on April 25 at 12:00 PM in the Narthex.

John and Vicky Bryan are moderating a study on Psalms beginning April 24 at 11:00 AM.

Joy Edgar and Pastor Janet will lead a study on “The Gift of Empathy” on Sundays May 25, June 1, June 15, and June 22 following worship. Lunch will be provided.

A New Member class will be held April 27 following the morning worship. Lunch will be provided. Elders are welcome to come and meet the new people.

Liturgist Training was March 23 immediately after worship. Three new liturgists were trained.

A commissioning blessing and prayer for Dianna Goodman will be part of the May 4 worship service. After the worship service and communion, a special coffee hour will be held.

Discussed the Scholarship Committee with Melissa Stiles in light of the death of Marsha Davis.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Melissa Stiles as moderator of the Scholarship Committee and Charlotte Meyer as a new committee member. Motion passed.

A motion was made seconded and passed to add one more person to the Scholarship Committee.

Pastor Janet attended Committee Meetings: Deacon, Building and Grounds, Admin., Worship, Scholarship, and Mission and Outreach.

Communion	Total	Breakout
March	87	50 in person, 29 online, 8 at home

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Treasurer Leo Potter provided financial reports. He noted that in March, FPC had a positive operating revenue of \$3,420, bringing the YTD operating revenue to \$4,976.

Vanguard accounts showed a loss of \$13,720.69 for March. The YTD loss is \$13,738.95.

The Memorial Committee did not meet.

A new transaction detail report was introduced and is thought to make it easier to follow transactions.

Our current insurer, Brotherhood Mutual, came in with a premium amount less than expected. The premium payment is due in the middle of April.

FPC passed a recent electrical inspection, but some work will likely be needed for the Bell Tower drainpipes.

The kitchen renovation project costs will be approximately \$8,000.

ACTION ITEM: Hold a fundraiser to raise money for the completion of the kitchen project. Motion passed unanimously.

The parking lot needs some maintenance work done. Cost is estimated to be \$22,000.

ACTION ITEM: Hold a fundraiser to raise money for parking lot maintenance. Motion passed unanimously.

Use of Anderson Trust funds to buy “Gift of Empathy” books was approved.

As the Linton scholarship Vanguard account has dropped below \$10,000 minimum, borrowing \$1,500 from Pumpkin Patch funds was approved for the distribution to scholarship applicants.

The next Admin meeting will be May 14, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Building and Grounds: Co-Chair Butch Plowman reported. A written report was submitted to Session.

On March 13, Butch, John C, and Mark met with Sean Miller of Concrete Coatings Solutions to inspect the decorative ramp, steps, and landing. The committee accepted the bid for \$2,300 to do repairs.

On April 11, Butch and Mark met with Darron Ramos, a Helena Sidewalk Technician, to inventory necessary repairs to bring the sidewalks up to code. A search is on for a contractor who can do the work this summer.

On April 6, Butch, Les, and Vic met with Lucas Bourne of Yellowstone Pavement Solutions regarding necessary maintenance on the FPC parking lot. A bid of nearly \$22,000 was received to repair and patch a couple of bad spots, clean out some cracks and apply MDT compliant rubberized sealant to all cracks over 1/8 inch, prepare and apply an MDT compliant overlapping layer of asphalt emulsion, and paint in the four-inch parking lines and compliant ADA markings. The committee accepted the bid.

On March 19, Sheryl, Butch and Pastor Janet met with Dominic Loudon of Fire Guys Leasing regarding the installation of a fire suppression system. A bid of \$3,681 was submitted and approved by the committee.

On April 11, Mark, Sheryl, Butch and Pastor Janet met with Matt English (Ascension Electric) and Jeff Otto (EZ Handyman) to discuss the electrical and cabinetry modifications in the kitchen to accommodate installation of two new stoves.

ACTION ITEMS: See motions under the Administration Report requesting permission to hold two fundraisers to pay for the parking lot maintenance and kitchen modifications to accommodate the new stoves.

Our insurance carrier Brotherhood Mutual inquired as to whether FPC had generator or waterflow shut off valves on our water system. Mark and Butch consulted with Todd Clark of Clark's Plumbing and Heating. He recommended that we not install these devices even if our premiums were affected. The committee concurred and informed Brotherhood Mutual of our decision.

We also notified Brotherhood Mutual to discontinue our coverage for the van as FPC is offering the van to any one organization that wants it.

Church Mutual Insurance has been advised that FPC will remain with our current carrier Brotherhood Mutual.

Next B&G meeting: May 14 at 10:00 AM.

Friendship Committee: Chair Sheryl Eriksen reported and a written report was submitted to Session.

Special treats will be offered after the Easter Sunday service.

We will assist the Worship Committee with celebration of Dianna's commissioning as a CLP.

The committee will offer carnations to the women on Mother's Day.

The FPC summer picnic will be in August.

Several proposed outings for members are being discussed. Among them are Our Ladies of the Rockies in Butte, First Peoples Buffalo Jump at Ulm, or the old Deer Lodge Prison and Museum.

Next fifth Sunday potluck is June 29.

The next meeting date: May 14 at 1:00 pm in the FPC library.

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

New Cuddle Buddies are ready to be distributed.

Three Love Quilts were distributed since our last meeting.

A YWCA Diaper drive is being held on Mother's Day. FPC will support the drive with a Diapers and Wipes drive from April 20 through May 11.

ACTION ITEM: Session permission to hold a Diaper and Wipes drive. Motion passed.

The next meeting: May 12, at 1:00PM.

Nominating Committee: No updates this month.

Personnel Committee: Chair Jeff Chaffee reported that the committee did not meet, but the committee did give Julie Young flowers and a gift card on the anniversary of her second year of employment with FPC.

Property Oversight Committee: Pastor Janet reported for the committee.

Another glitch has occurred with the proposed lease of church property as a day-care center.

When John Warren presented paperwork to the City and County delineating Spanglish as occupying Suite Two and the new daycare center as Suite One at the church's address, he was told to expect approval the next day. However, the next day he received information on city/state fire codes and daycares.

If the second floor is used for daycare, a building must have a sprinkler system in the event of a fire.

County daycare sanitation codes require appropriate handwashing and bottle washing stations in rooms used by children in diapers.

The plumber will be asked to provide an estimate of the costs to bring plumbing to a classroom.

Per the lease, the lessee will be responsible for any necessary building construction and costs needed for occupancy on their part.

The committee will notify our realtor, Mark Runde with Green and Green Commercial Real Estate, to begin pursuing tenants from other business categories.

Synergos Committee : Elder John Warren reported that the Synergos board will soon meet and is still planning on August for introducing the new seminary graduates to the churches enrolled in the program.

Worship Committee: A written report was submitted to Session.

Dianna will handle the Maundy Thursday service which will be held at 7:00 pm and will include Communion.

Dianna will be in the pulpit for Good Friday services. The service is at noon.

Cards have been printed to give to friends encouraging them to attend Holy Week events and the Easter morning service. Posters are being distributed around town inviting people to FPC for Easter and Holy Week events.

The Worship Committee is planning a Commissioned Lay Pastor Recognition Celebration for Dianna who completed the three-year CLP training. This will be held on May 4 following the worship service. There will be a special cake and treats for all.

The Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison to FPC, Pam Chigbrow, has been invited to attend, and Dianna plans to invite her Montana program mentor to the celebration.

Liturgist training/refresher course was held for March 23. Vicky Bryan, Ria Caussyn, and Barb Leland are the three new liturgists. Many of the current liturgists also attended the session.

June 8 (Pentecost Sunday) will be the last Sunday that the choir will sing before their summer break. FPC will focus on all the various ministries of the church and those who serve.

The next Worship Committee meeting: May 13 at 10:00 AM.

Deacon Report: A written report was submitted to Session.

Moderator BJ Burns opened the meeting with prayer. She also shared a devotional from “Jesus Calling” based on Chronicles 16:11 and Matthew 6:33.

During March, communion was served to eight people at Touchmark, none at Son Heaven, and none at home. Two people were visited in the hospital. Four meals were supplied to homebound individuals.

Pastor Janet closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Old Business: See report under Property Oversight Committee.

New Business: none


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

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:15 PM.

The next Regular Session Meeting: May 20 at 6:30 PM.

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am Rebekah Circle 11 am Psalms Study 6:30 pm Chat Bridge 7 pm AA	2 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 5:30 pm District AA	3
4 10 am Worship w/Communion & commissioning celebration 11 am Social Time	5 2 pm Sarah Circle 5 pm Xpress Singers	6 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	7 2 pm Choir	8 11 am Psalms Study 7 pm AA	9 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11:15 Deacons	12 Noon Christian Education 1 pm Mission 5 pm Xpress Singers	13 10 am Worship 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	14 10 am Building & Grounds 1 pm Friendship 2 pm Choir 4 pm Admin	15 11 am Psalms Study 6:30 pm Chat Bridge 7 pm AA	16 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	17
18 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	19 5 pm Xpress Singers	20 11:30 am Bridge 6:30 pm Session 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	21 2 pm Choir	22 11 am Psalms Study 6:30 pm Bridge 7 pm AA	23 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	24
25 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11 am 'Gift of Empathy' study <div>Hosting Family Promise</div>	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> 5 pm Xpress Singers	27 11:30 am Bridge 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Scouts	28 11:30 PW Luncheon 2 pm Choir	29 11 am Psalms Study 7 pm AA	30 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	31



May Birthdays



1st Chris Goodman
1st Ruth Williams
3rd Justice Gard
5th Tim Borsberry
5th Hezekiah Rowland

14th Julie Chaffee
18th Pearle Plowman
20th Joe Steffens Jr.
24th Hunter Foster
27th Kathy Chambers



May Anniversaries

12th Rex & Kathy Seeley

22nd Josh & Shannon Koutecky



*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 March net giving is here:

	March 2025	YTD
Income	\$25,036	\$70,577
Expenses	<u>\$21,616</u>	<u>\$65,602</u>
	\$3,420	\$4,976

The online giving program can be found on the 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!*

Remembering those 
who have gone before us



Marsha Davis
March 20, 2025
Service: June 18

Corky Lord
April 4, 2025
No services planned



*The church office
will be closed Monday,
May 26, for the
Memorial Day holiday.*

Cover photo
Mount Helena blossom

Trivia Answer
He couldn't see. (Acts 9)

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



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

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

406-442-4775

admin@fpchelena.org

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