



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 11 First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana November 2022

October has come and gone at FPC in a brilliant array of colors — from vibrant handmade hats and scarves to the orangey orbs of the pumpkin patch, and even a shower of sunset leaves drifting over heavy equipment on Rodney Street.

This month, Pastor Janet Potter outlines five focus areas for the congregation in her column on page 3.

She's looking forward to visiting with the congregation and welcomes you to come by for a visit. She does have a number of meetings scheduled, so please call before coming, to make sure she'll be available.

You can call the church office: 442-4775 or email: admin@fpchelena.org

If you need to reach Pastor Janet directly, please call or text 815-226-8783 or email her at pastor@fpchelena.org or jhp1016@gmail.com



Willing Workers Lucille Letcher, Rena Bumgardner, and Mary Brainard offered warm hats, scarves, and smiles to the Helena Farmers Market shoppers last month.



Pumpkin Patch Helpers from Boy Scout Troop #1228 and the Milford Hutterite Colony unload and arrange an assortment of pumpkins at the church.

Join us for Worship
Sundays, 10 a.m.
in person at 535 N Ewing
or online at
www.fpchelena.org

Helena Food Share Drive

Once again this year, Town Pump will match donations made to Helena Food Share during the month of November.



Creating a Hunger-Free Community

Currently one in every nine Montanans is experiencing food insecurity. To leverage your donation and reach more of our neighbors in need, please take advantage of this opportunity.

You may give with a check in the offering plate or mailed to FPCH. You may also give online through the church's website (specify Helena Food Share) or Helena Food Share's website.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Congregational Fellowship Opportunities

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 Card Games

Tuesdays, November 1 & 15, 1 p.m.

If you've never played this fun card game before, don't worry, we can teach you. If there aren't enough people to play 4-handed, we can play 3-handed or even 2-handed.

Bingo!

Friday, November 18, 6 p.m., Fellowship Room

Pizza and snacks at 6 p.m.

Bingo starts at 6:30. Bring friends and family.

Lots of prizes to go around!



Lost Soles Walk

Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m.

(Weather Permitting)

Meet at the Folf Park, at the south end of Saddle Drive.

From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this reflection for the Mustard Seed, everything around is changing. Leaves are turning color and are falling, we have fewer hours of daylight, the air feels cooler, football season is well underway and Halloween (the first of the big holiday season) is upon us. We welcomed a new grandbaby (Iris Potter) and what a change that is!



Rev. Janet Potter

Now together we are in the midst of change in this interim time between your permanent pastors. Since June, you said farewell to Pastor Scott, been led by Butch, navigated weeks between pastoral leadership, pulpit supply and now said hello to me! Talk about change and transition!

Now together (yes, this very much involves you and the entire congregation!) we will focus on five different areas during this interim time.

1. Heritage and History: We will study past history, traditions and stories to see where we have come from and what got FPC where she is today. Who are we?
2. Mission: We will evaluate the mission and vision statements in light of current realities. Who is God calling us to be today?
3. Connections: We will explore the relationships that exist outside of the congregation with other churches, agencies or organizations. Who is our neighbor?
4. Leadership: We will review the membership's current needs for leadership and offer a spiritual gifts assessment. Who are the leaders God is raising up?
5. Future: We will recommit to FPC's God-given mission as we live into the emerging future. What are faithful practical responses to new opportunities or possibilities?

These focus points are not a check list but more like a spiral. They will come around and flow through many discussions and sermons. Through them (and prayer), we evaluate where we've been, where God is calling and discern God's plan for the future.

May God guide and direct our path during this exciting time!

Blessings,
Pastor Janet

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Welcoming Carroll College students



Kathy Chambers and Les Cramer offer information and treats to students during the Carroll College Church Connect event Oct. 10.

(Photos by Les Cramer & Kathy Chambers)

Help Requested

The family of Jennifer Massman has requested help with meals.

To offer assistance, contact the church office at 442-4775 or email admin@fpchelena.org

Scholarship available

The Young Presbyterian Scholarship provides an opportunity for Presbyterian students to apply to Westminster College in Pennsylvania.

The scholarship of \$96,000 over four years is for qualified high school seniors entering college in Fall 2023.

For details, contact the church office at 442-4775 or by email:

admin@fpchelena.org

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA
October 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:30 PM by Reverend Janet Potter. Pastor Janet opened with prayer. Pastor Janet guided us through Ezekiel 37:1-14 using “Dwelling on the Word” followed by prayer. Pastor Janet moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present in the church facility: Elders Sheryl Eriksen, Karen Witte, Rose Leavitt, Carol Stebbins, John Coefield, Barb Leland, Mary Stiles, and Jeff Chaffee. Also in attendance: Treasurer Leo Potter (on zoom), Deacon Joy Edgar, and Clerk of Session John Gneckow. Elders Vic Reiman, Mary Wright, Jim Meyer, and “Butch” Plowman were excused.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: The docket was amended to include addressing the resignations of Elders Vic Reiman and Mary Wright from Session and Deacon Marie Fuhrman from the Board of Deacons. Elder Karen Witte requested Session discuss evangelism. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket with the additions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022, Session meeting as presented.

	Communion		30 in person, 14 online, 4 at home	
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CLERK’S REPORT:

	Membership as of Aug. 31, 2022		102
	1. Deaths	Arlene Carpenter 9/3/2022	
		Jennifer Massman 9/19/2022	
	Membership as of Sept. 30, 2022		100

CLERK’S REPORT: The Clerk reported that FPC received thank you notes from Intermountain Children’s Home and two from Food Share.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: John Gneckow reported for the Committee Chairman and a written report was submitted.

Jim Meyer opened the meeting with prayer.

Treasurer Leo Potter reported that preliminary report shows a small operating income for September, but a full financial accounting was not available as of the meeting.

Session Minutes (continued from page 5)

The value of the Vanguard accounts dropped markedly in accordance with the stock market.

The church has been given an extension until December 15 to respond to the lawsuit filed by Farmers/Truck. We are still investigating obtaining an attorney to represent us in this action.

The plan for the stewardship campaign, is similar to the recent years when we will ask people to send in their pledge sealed in an envelope. However, we will not mail the pledge back as we have done in the past. We need to contact Pastor Janet to schedule a stewardship Sunday.

Approved \$600 from Anderson Trust funds to purchase Advent books for the congregation.

Review of Northwestern Energy bills show that the solar panels offset 50-60% of our current use compared to 2019.

Marsha Davis closed the meeting with prayer.

Building and Grounds: Elder John Coefield reported and a written report was submitted. John opened the meeting with prayer.

Brotherhood Mutual has finished the review of the flooding from the roof on July 3 and sent a report and a check for \$10,000. Now we can pursue getting the flooring and edging repaired.

The sprinklers have been blown out.

Training is being scheduled for John C, Julie, and Pastor Janet on the building alarm.

Because of cleaning cost increases, we are still considering the possibility of hiring a custodian.

Mark closed the meeting with prayer.

Christian Education Committee: Elder Mary Stiles reported and a written report was submitted.

The FPC workshop Future Vision was a success with 12 attendees and 5 presenters. The attendees included people from the community in addition to church members.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Sheryl Eriksen reported and a written report was submitted.

Kathy opened the meeting with prayer.

The church will have a potluck on October 30 following the Sunday service. The congregation is being asked to bring a main dish, dessert, or salad.

The next church group walk is scheduled for November 13 (if the weather is still nice) at the Folf Course on Saddle Drive.

The next date for bingo and pizza is November 18th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship

area.

Kathy closed the meeting with a Thank You Prayer.

Memorial Committee: Does not meet on a regular schedule. Meetings are held when business dictates.

Mission Committee: Elder Karen Witte reported and a written report was submitted. Karen opened the meeting with prayer.

We will be promoting Food Share in November. Town Pump will match our contribution

ACTION ITEM: To hold a Warm Hearts Drive in January. Donations of blankets, towels, etc. will be solicited for Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Associates of Helena, who will distribute them in Helena to needy people. Motion passed.

Deacon Joy Edgar closed the meeting with prayer.

Nominating Committee: The committee has started reviewing church records for candidates for Session and Board of Deacons.

Personnel Committee: The committee did not meet.

Worship Committee: Pastor Janet reported. She has met with the committee to review Advent plans. These will be finalized once she is back in Helena.

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar provided a written report of Board activities.

Communion was served at Touchmark and the Masonic Home. No meals were provided to FPC members during the month. One hospital visit was done.

Deacons made 220 contacts with their flock members.

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

Old Business: There was an error in the contract. Christmas day is Sunday not December 26.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to correct the December error.

John Coefield noted that the money from Brotherhood Mutual was received and a contractor hired to work on the carpeting and molding. John Coefield, John Gneckow, and the Treasurer are to meet in the next week or so to look for some funds to pay for some additional work in the church.

New Business: Session reviewed the resignation request of Marie Fuhrman from the Board of Deacons. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept her resignation with regrets and thanks.

Session reviewed the resignation request of Vic Reiman from Session. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept his resignation with regrets and thanks.

Session reviewed the resignation request of Mary Wright from Session. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept her resignation with regrets and thanks.

Session Minutes (continued from page 7)

Karen Witte led a discussion on evangelism. She had watched the day of introduction by the churches to Carroll College students and the Jewish celebration of reacquiring their former Synagogue. She wondered if we could put together a small group of people who would be on call to represent FPC at events such as these.

Pastor Janet asked her to have her committee work on a plan toward this end.

Pastor Janet then talked about Going Forward. First, we must focus on:

Who we are as a congregation

Who is God calling us to be

Who is our neighbor

Also, we will have to look at

Our heritage and history

Our mission and vision statement

Our community connections (locally, state, Presbytery)

Leadership for congregation, worship, etc.

Our electronic communications

Future goals

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 8:15 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Pastor Janet closed the meeting with prayer.

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

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session

Deacons' Benevolence Fund

Is it the end of your pay period and you need some groceries? Have you had an unexpected dental emergency? Did your medical expenses exceed your budget this month? Need gas? Did your refrigerator blow up? We can help!

The Deacon's Benevolence Fund is for folks who attend our church. There are No Strings Attached! If you need help, call the pastor's office. She will contact the Benevolence Committee and explain your need. We will get a check cut to the doctor, the dentist, Home Depot, your grocery store, etc. This is held in the strictest confidence and not even the committee knows who we are helping.

This is possible because of the generous contributions of the people of First Presbyterian. God bless our donors!

*To the good-hearted First Presbyterian Church family ...
we wanted to thank you all:*

For the many cards and telephone calls. For visiting the hospital.

For lifting up your prayers.

For the beautiful flowers. For the delicious food. For coming to Jennifer's funeral.

We are so deeply appreciative of your tender support and affection. Thank you.

Carole Massman

Tyler Kaiser and Zachary Kaiser

Joe Massman and Julie Bir

David Schnittgen

Coupon collection continues

Please bring in your coupons for those in need in our community.

You can drop them in the basket in the lobby as you come in the front door. Contact Tonna Strasko for details.

Confirmation class

A Confirmation Class for ages 13 years and up is being planned this fall. Anyone interested can contact Mary Stiles at 401-474-1517 or email: dagrod41@gmail.com

Happening at Camp:

"Come to the Waters"

Falling in Love with Creation: Beauty, Tragedy, and Compassion



November 6-8 at Glacier Camp

**Leader: Dr. Wendy Farley—Rice Family Chair of Spirituality
San Francisco Theological Seminary**

Sign up online at <https://www.glaciercamp.org/adult-programs>

Email: timothy@glaciercamp.org

Donor Appreciation Dinner & Auction

Live and silent auctions to raise funds for camp scholarships

Sunday, November 20 at Glacier Camp Spruce Lodge

Fellowship 4:30 p.m.—Dinner 5 p.m.

Make reservations by emailing timothy@glaciercamp.org

Advent On-line Bible Study

Beginning Sunday, November 27 at 5 p.m.

Email timothy@glaciercamp.org to be added to the email list for this study

NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 am Sarah Circle 1 pm Pinochle 5:30 pm Personnel	2 6:30 pm Choir	3 10 am Rebekah Circle	4 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	5
6 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> <i>(Move clocks back one hour)</i>	7 3 p.m. Education	8 6:30 pm Mission	9 10 am Building & Grounds 2 pm CFC 4 pm Admin 6:30 pm Choir	10	11 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards <i>Veterans Day</i>	12
13 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11:15 Deacons 2 pm Lost Soles Walk	14 10 am Worship Committee	15 1 pm Pinochle 6:30 pm Session	16 6:30 pm Choir	17	18 Noon Bible Study 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 6 pm Bingo	19
20 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	21	22	23 6:30 pm Choir	24 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <div>~ Church office closed ~</div>	25	26
27 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	28	29	30 6:30 pm Choir			



SARAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.
(Contact: Sheryl Eriksen)

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Thursday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.
(Contact: Merle Korizek)

DEACON ON CALL

Julie Chaffee — 406-431-3400

NOVEMBER LAY LITURGISTS

Nov. 6	Dianna Goodman
Nov. 13	John Coefield
Nov. 20	Art Bumgardner
Nov. 27	Karen Witte

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21st Scott & Merilee Wipperman
24th Butch & Pearle Plowman

25th Joseph & Susan Steffens



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5th Jerry Klein
11th Scott Wipperman
21st Deanna Albert
23rd Gabriel Drynan
24th Ellen Westenbarger
25th Susan Steffens

25th Mary Wright
27th Louise Cramer
28th Lucille Letcher
28th Rena Bumgardner
29th William Uthman

DEADLINE

**The deadline for
the December
newsletter is**

Tuesday, Nov. 22

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

Monday, November 14

Monday, November 28

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.org

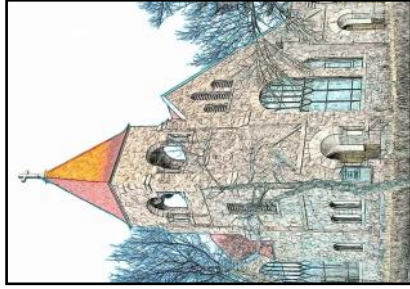
Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189
Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM

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

406-442-4775

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