



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 10, First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana October 2022

Welcome, Interim Pastor Janet Potter!

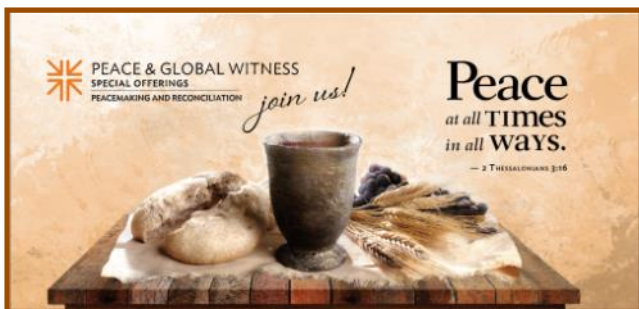


Rev. Janet
Potter

Rev. Janet Potter will serve as FPC Interim Pastor, beginning Oct. 17.

Pastor Janet retired from serving as solo pastor for Community Presbyterian Church of St. Maries, ID, in July 2021. Janet, along with her husband Leo (our church treasurer), joined their daughter and son-in-law in Helena. They have a son in Grand Junction, CO, and a son and daughter-in-law (and soon a granddaughter) in Portland, OR.

Janet enjoys reading, hiking, time with family, and traveling. Someday, she hopes to spend time fly-fishing.



World Communion Sunday Oct. 2

Peace and Global Witness – Week 5

Please give generously Sunday, Oct. 2nd, to the Peace and Global Witness special offering.

As you know, 25% of your donation will be given to the Helena YWCA. Its mission of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all is the essence of Peace and Global Witness. Additionally, the organization has a special need at this time to recover from the flooding in early July. The organization lost many items including mattresses, play pens, and towels.

They also need to replace larger furnishings like flooring, desks and couches damaged by the flood. While the flood impacted the physical spaces, it has not impacted the YWCA's mission of promoting peace and justice.

Thank you for your support.

~ FPC Mission Committee

Join us for worship!

Sundays, 10 a.m. in person or online at

www.fpchelena.org

Basin Community Worship preparing for fall

Basin Community Worship has been wrapping up a wet and hot summer. We have super cleaned the parsonage/church, cleaned up the yard, and with the help of Bill and Stu, have moved in a wood stove upstairs that Bill will continue to install.

Attendees recently decided to have fellowship the first Sunday of the month (rather than every Sunday) and we'll see how that sits with everyone for now. We have been blessed with visitors from Billings, Alyssa Brown and her family, Risa Paul and her family, Beth McCaw and Rose Leavitt.

Fall is definitely upon us, and several of us are planning to make it over to Helena to the Pumpkin Patch. If you are in our neighborhood Sunday morning, 10:30, please stop in and worship with us. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.

~ Mary Norris, Secretary

Congregational Fellowship Opportunities

Hand & Foot Card Playing

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

— Will NOT meet on Friday, Oct. 7 —

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

Pinochle Club

Tuesdays, October 4 & 18, 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, October 14, 6 p.m., Fellowship Room

Pizza, pop, and snacks at 6 p.m.

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

Lots of prizes to go around!

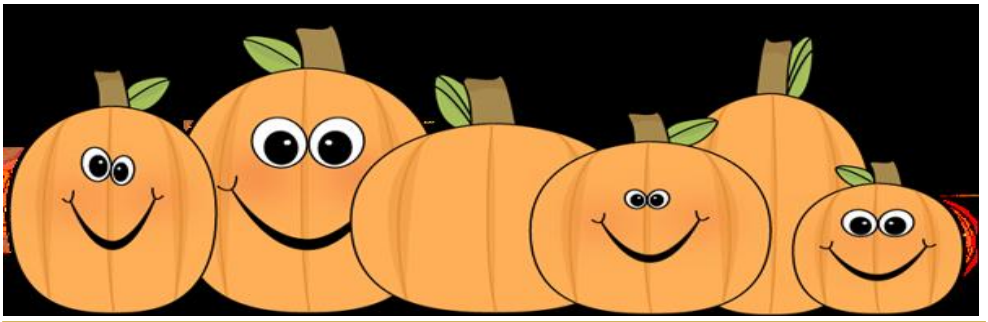


Lost Soles Walk

Sunday, October 16, 2 p.m.

Meet at the church parking lot.

Destination TBA.



Sign up now

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

The Education Committee with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop #228 will hold its annual pumpkin patch starting Saturday, Oct. 8! The Milford Hutterite Colony in Lewis and Clark County is providing the pumpkins. Your help is needed with set up, unloading pumpkins, covering up the pumpkins, and taking a shift to sell pumpkins. (And, of course, to buy pumpkins!)

Set Up: Thursday, Oct. 6, at 4:00 pm— Set shelves and straw bales in place

Unloading: Friday, Oct. 7, at 4:00 pm—Unload pumpkins

Pumpkin Patch Opens: Saturday, Oct. 8, at 10 am

The schedule this year is:

Monday - Friday 2:00—6:00

Saturday 10:00—6:00

Sunday 12:00—6:00

Sign up at the table outside the church office
or go to our online scheduled at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49aaa82da0fbc61-pumpkin>

John Coefield
Education Committee

Andrew Christofferson requests prayers

Andrew and his family will be departing for their new mission destination on Oct. 9. He has asked for specific prayers for:

- 1) "For a place where we could live and minister."
- 2) "That the Holy Spirit would lead us exactly where He wants us to base."
- 3) "That the Lord would start to prepare people that He would lead us to."
- 4) "For hearts open to relationships and open to Jesus."
- 5) "That we would have unity on our team and that grace and peace would reign amongst us."

More information is available on FPCH website >More>Mission Happenings.)

Boundary training here Oct. 8

Area pastors and elders are encouraged to attend a boundary training session Saturday, Oct. 8, at First Presbyterian Church of Helena.

Presbytery Leader Beth McCaw will conduct the training. Participants will learn how to respond in cases of abuse or violence, how to establish and maintain personal boundaries for comfortable relationships, how to reduce conflict and strengthen interpersonal communication in the church, and how to maintain routines and spaces to keep our youth and vulnerable adults safe.

To register, email Beth at:

Beth.glacierpresbytery@gmail.com

Confirmation class planned

The Christian Education Committee is planning to start a Confirmation Class.

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



SARAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.
(Contact: Sheryl Eriksen)

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Thursday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.
(Contact: Merle Korizek)

You are invited to the annual

Avon Community Turkey Feed

Sunday, October 9

Noon to 4 p.m.

Avon Community Center

All you can eat for \$8 per plate

Come and enjoy country cooking

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA
September 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:30 PM by Rev. Andy Smothers. Pastor Andy opened with a meditation using Lectio Divinia on Luke 3:15-23 followed by prayer. Pastor Andy moderated the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: The docket was amended to include a discussion on Pastoral Support during the time CP “Butch” Plowman is on vacation and the Interim Pastor has not yet assumed the pastoral duties. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the docket with the addition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of August 16, 2022, Session meeting as presented.

PULPIT SUPPLY PASTOR’S REPORT: CP “Butch” Plowman reported that at the court ordered mediation August 30-September 1, 2022, claims against Carol Gneckow, Elroy Letcher, and Mike Davis resulting from the deck collapse at Glacier Presbyterian Camp were settled and released from all claims. John Gneckow, Rose Leavitt, and “Butch” Plowman were also released from the claims from which they were previously dropped. First Presbyterian Church remains a defendant along with the other churches in the presbytery.

The mediation did not settle any claims against presbytery and/or any churches. Additionally, Truck Insurance Exchange (a subsidiary of Farmers insurance) has begun legal processes to limit its exposure should there be a liability judgement against the church in a trial scheduled for December 2023. Since the attorney representing us in the deck collapse suit is paid by Truck, he cannot represent us against Truck. So, we are looking at retaining counsel to advise/represent us against Truck.

We are waiting for a decision from our current insurance company Brotherhood Mutual regarding our claim for damages to the church from the July 3 storm. They have requested some clarifications from the field adjustor and will be in touch with us after he responds.

CLERK’S REPORT:

	Membership as of July 31, 2022		102
	Membership as of August 31, 2022		102

(Continued on page 6)

CLERK'S REPORT: Because of our involvement with the Basin church, the Clerk also reported that Synod through one of its restricted funds is giving the Basin Presbyterian Church a grant of \$500.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder Jim Meyer reported, and a written report was submitted.

Jim Meyer opened the meeting with prayer.

Treasurer Leo Potter reported that the financial report shows a positive cash flow for August.

FPC has repaid \$32,471 to the Lilly Foundation the grant for Pastor Scott's sabbatical that he will not be using.

As the lease on the copier has reached an end, we will look at purchasing the current printer/copier vs leasing a new up-to-date copier.

As we begin preparing a budget for 2023, we have noted several church expenses are reflecting significant increases. These expenses will be reviewed to look for ways to reduce these costs next year.

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.

John noted that costs for cleaning the church have gone up. He posed the question if it is time to revisit hiring an individual to do the cleaning work. No discussion at this time.

FPC is still waiting for the building insurance company to determine its liability for the water damage from the July 3 storm.

Sheryl Eriksen is looking at getting our church building on the historical registry.

CP "Butch" Plowman closed the meeting with prayer.

ACTION ITEM: To appoint Elder John Coefield, Treasurer Leo Potter, and Clerk of Session John Gneckow to review the restricted/designated funds and to recommend which one(s) may be used to pay for repairs caused by the storm in the event the insurance does not pay for any or all of the repair. Motion carried.

Christian Education Committee: Elder Mary Stiles reported, and a written report was submitted. CP "Butch" Plowman opened the meeting with prayer.

FPC workshops held on September 17 had 15 people in attendance. Participants indicated that the information was extremely valuable.

The committee is beginning to work on plans for a confirmation class to be held this Fall.

Chair Mary Stiles closed the meeting with prayer.

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

CP “Butch” Plowman opened the meeting with prayer.

During the coming year, the church will have a potluck in any month that has five (5) Sundays. The first potluck is scheduled for October 30 following the Sunday service.

The next date for bingo and pizza is October 16th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship area.

Elder Mary Stiles closed the meeting with prayer.

Memorial Committee: No report.

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

The next FPC hosting of Family Promise will be October 2nd & 3rd. The John Floridis concert will be December 14 at St. Paul’s Church.

The Peace & Global Witness offering will be October 2nd. The FPC 25% share will be donated to the YWCA to assist with flood repairs.

The United Way Backpacks for the Homeless will be the FPC Christmas project. Watch for information promoting this.

The Committee is considering adding Habitat for Humanity to the list of charities that FPC supports on a regular basis. Discussion tabled until January.

We will promote Town Pump matching funds for Food Share in October.

Deacon Joy Edgar closed the meeting with prayer.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Deacon Joy Edgar as a member of the Mission Committee. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Expects to begin meeting again in October.

Personnel Committee: Elder Vic Reiman reported that the committee as a whole did not meet, but the members of the Interim committee met and worked out an Interim Pastor contract and Position Description with Rev. Janet Potter.

Worship Committee: Chairperson Dianna Goodman submitted a written report. Dianna opened the committee meeting with prayer.

CP “Butch” Plowman will take vacation time in September. Pulpit supply for Oct. 2 is Tim Lanham, Oct. 9 is Beth McCaw, and Oct. 16 is Dianna Goodman.

Ann Swisher closed the meeting with prayer.

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar provided a written report of Board activities. Communion was served at Touchmark, and the Masonic Home. Two meals were provided to FPC members during the month. Two hospital visits were done.

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

Old Business: There being no Old Business or Carryover Business, Session moved on to New Business.

Session Minutes (continued from page 7)

New Business: A motion was made to accept the Interim Pastor Contract and Position Description as presented. Seconded and passed unanimously.

A discussion regarding who will be contacted with questions, requests, etc. during this period of time with no pastor or commissioned pastor readily available, John Coefield in his role as Corporation President indicated would assume responsibility as a contact person for the church.

With a funeral pending in the next week or so, and because the minister may come from pulpit supply outside FPC, a motion was presented to pay \$150 plus mileage for a person to perform a funeral service.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 9:00 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Reverend Smothers closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Regular Session Meeting: October 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

John Gneckow
Clerk of Session

Advent Planning Workshop

An "Advent and Ahead" Worship Planning Workshop will be held Oct. 10-12 at Glacier Camp. The workshop is open to anyone who is involved in planning worship services. For details or to sign up, visit the camp website at:

www.glaciercamp.org/adult-programs

Help Requested

The family of Jennifer Massman is requesting help with meals. To help, contact the church office at 442-4775 or email admin@fpchelena.org



intermountain
Caring Solutions ■ Strong Families ■ Healthy Communities

\$10,000 Giving Challenge

In our mission partnership with InterMountain, a campaign has been launched to find **20 Glacier Presbytery members and congregations to make monthly pledges of \$10+.** When 20 donors have registered, a donor will provide matches that can result in \$10,000 of giving to change children's lives! **Please consider being 1 of the 20!**

Sign up before November 20th at

intermountain.givingfuel.com/donate

and choose "monthly recurring" as the giving option

In Memory

Arlene Marie Peace Carpenter

Arlene Marie Peace Carpenter passed away Saturday, Sept. 3, following a brief illness.

Arlene was born Feb. 14, 1945, to Harry and Clairenda (Brannon) Peace. She grew up in California along with her siblings, Jim, Doug, and Mary Peace. Arlene met and married Robert Carpenter and they had two children, Susan (Carpenter) Alexander and Richy Carpenter. As things happen in life, the marriage ended in divorce and there became a long period of time in which she did not know where her children were. They were reunited with a phone call on July 7, 1982, as she describes as “the best day of her life.”

She was preceded in death by both of her parents and a grandson, Rory Christopher Alexander.

A private ceremony was held to celebrate her life on Sept. 10, 2022. She was laid to rest next to her grandson in Boulder Cemetery.



Arlene Carpenter
Feb. 14, 1945–Sept. 3, 2022

Jennifer L. Massman

Jennifer L. Massman, age 53, of Helena, passed away September 19, 2022.

A Celebration of Jennifer’s Life was held Wednesday, Sept. 28, at Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home. Inurnment took place at Forestvale Cemetery.

She is survived by husband David Schnittgen, sons Andrew Kaiser, Tyler Kaiser, and Zachary Kaiser, stepdaughter RaeAnna Schnittgen, mother Carole Massman, and brother Joe Massman. She was preceded in death by her father Joseph Roy Massman and her first husband L. Randall Kaiser.

Jennifer attended Helena K-12 schools and received her bachelor’s in psychology and juris doctorate from the University of Montana. She was an attorney for the State of Montana for 22 years. She and her family were members of First Presbyterian Church in Helena.

She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2017 and throughout the years, made as much time for being with her kids and new husband as possible. Her sense of humor and fighting spirit endured through the last days in the hospital. She was an inspiration to many others for her devoted parenting, strength in her decisions, and fortitude. She is so loved and will be deeply missed.



Jennifer L. Massman
Dec. 6, 1968–Sept. 19, 2022

OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time	3	4 10 am Sarah Circle 1 pm Pinochle 3 pm Education 5:30 pm Personnel	5 4 pm Administration 6:30 pm Choir	6 10 am Rebekah Circle 4 pm Pumpkin Patch set up	7 NO Hand & Foot cards today 4 pm Unload pumpkins	8 8:30 am Boundary Training 10 am Pumpkin Patch opens
9 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 11:15 Deacon Meeting	10 10 am Worship Committee	11 6:30 pm Mission	12 10 am Building & Grounds 2 pm CFC 6:30 pm Choir	13	14 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 6 pm Bingo	15
16 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 2 pm Lost Soles Hike	17 <i>Pastor Janet's first day in the office</i>	18 1 pm Pinochle 6:30 pm Session	19 6:30 pm Choir	20	21 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	22 3 pm Vazhdayer/Clement Wedding
23 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	24	25	26 6:30 pm Choir	27	28 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	29
30 10 am Worship 11 am Church Potluck	31	Church Potluck—Sunday, Oct. 30, 11 am <i>Please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert.</i>				

Prayer Chain Update

Candace Coefield is serving as prayer chain coordinator for the next several weeks, during Butch and Pearle’s absence.

To request prayers, please contact Candace at 406-461-3764 or email her at ccoefield@bresnan.net.

DEACON ON CALL

Art Bumgardner — 406-468-8341

OCTOBER LAY LITURGISTS

- Oct. 2** Dianna Goodman
- Oct. 9** Dianna Goodman
- Oct. 16** Joy Edgar
- Oct. 23** John Coefield
- Oct. 30** Kathy Chambers

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

22nd Andrew & Lexsey Carpenter



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9th Carole Massman
- 10th Michael Davis
- 10th Connie Fitzpatrick
- 10th Linda Bench
- 16th Amanda Grimmatt
- 17th James Moses II

- 17th Joe Strasko
- 22nd Eddy Crowley
- 22nd John Warren
- 23rd Lisa Lovell
- 27th Jeff Chaffee

DEADLINE

The deadline for the November newsletter is

Friday, Oct. 21

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

Monday, October 10

Monday, October 24

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.org

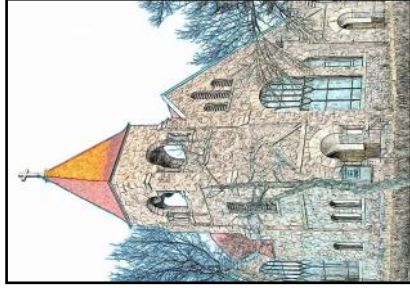
Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189
Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM

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

406-442-4775

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Celebrating 150 Years
1872-2022