



First Presbyterian Church

# The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 09, First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana September 2022

## Session visiting with candidate

Progress is being made in bringing an interim pastor to FPC.

FPC's Session is in discussions with a potential candidate. The candidate's identity is being withheld to allow the candidate to give proper notice to others who will be affected. Watch bulletins for updates.



Work on Rodney Street continues, along with the trimming and removal of several trees. In the meantime, be prepared to use Ewing Street to access our parking lot.

## Planning workshops offered here Sept. 17

A series of workshops titled "Future Vision" will be presented at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The workshops are designed to help participants plan for the future.

Presenters and their topics are: Jim Hitson: "Trusts and Wills;" Rob Hagen (*from the Presbyterian Foundation*): "Wealth of Your Life;" James Olson: "Day Care, Provide Care. Bring Joy;"

Karissa Bennett: "Palliative Care, Hospice Care, Advance Directives;" and Al Castro: "Funeral Planning."

The workshops are free, and the Presbyterian Foundation will provide lunch and snacks. The program is open to the community.

Registration is limited to 30 participants. To register, contact the church office at 406-442-4775 or send an email to: [admin@fpchelena.org](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org)

**Join us for worship!**

Sundays, 10 a.m. in person or online at [www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)

## Family Promise

# Fundraiser Sept. 8; hosts needed in Oct.



The Family Promise Comfort Food Challenge and BBQ will be Thursday, Sept. 8, 5-7 p.m., at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 3580 Benton Ave. This is an indoor/outdoor fundraiser for Family Promise. Tickets are \$15. For details, call FPC's Family Promise co-chairs Joy Edgar at 406-202-2200, or Lucille Letcher at 406-431-8406.

Our next hosting of Family Promise will be Oct. 2-3 (Friday-Saturday) at First Christian Church. We are looking for at least two overnight hosts. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet at the welcome station in the Narthex. For details, call Joy or Lucille.

## **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 Club**

**Tuesdays, September 6 & 20, 1 p.m.**

First Presbyterian's new "Pinochle Club" will meet Tuesdays, Sept. 6 and 20. 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, September 9, 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 Hike**

**Sunday, September 18, 4 p.m.**

Meet at the church parking lot.

We will go to a walking trail by Ashgrove Plant near Montana City.

No host dinner afterwards, probably at Montana City.

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

**H**ere we go again. Summer will soon be a fleeting memory. The official astronomical calendar would have us believe fall begins with the Autumnal Equinox at 8:04 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22. Social and cultural realities say summer ends at twilight on Labor Day when we remove the picnic paraphernalia from the trunk. Labor Day, historically a day for union parades and picnics, is summer's last hurrah.



Interestingly the two major proponents for Labor Day, a holiday honoring workers, were Peter McGuire of the Brotherhood Carpenters and Matthew Maquire of the Association of Machinists. While both were advocates, they were not collaborators. Nevertheless, both McGuire and Maquire marched in the first ever Labor Day parade on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. McGuire said it was appropriate and desired to have a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

By 1894, 23 states had adopted the holiday. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. One could question whether President Cleveland understood his signature on the Labor Day legislation began with the Protestant Reformation.

In the Middle Ages the church held a divine call to "religious life" was the place where vocation had meaning. God called some to a vocation as a priest, nun, or monk. Vocation was a special calling to "religious" life. It was considered a superior way.

The reformer Martin Luther disputed the supremacy of a "special calling" or "vocation" to the "religious life." Luther resisted the idea that any type of work or vocation was superior. He believed the call of God comes to each Christian in their daily tasks, even the most mundane work. Luther did not limit vocation to a calling to a particular kind of "religious life," arguing that all Christians have a vocation, a calling, and every type of work performed by Christians is vocation.

Luther stressed that vocation is not first about what we do. Rather, it is about what God does through us.

Concepts about work developed out of the Protestant Reformation were based on the combined theological teachings of Luther and Calvin. They encouraged work in a chosen occupation with an attitude of service to God. They viewed work as a calling and avoided placing greater spiritual dignity on one job than another.

In the *Message* Eugene Peterson paraphrased verse fifteen of the Genesis 2 Creation story as follows:

God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

God saw value in work, expecting our spiritual ancestors to care for His garden. The dignity of work, even manual labor, was established, with Adam the caretaker.

# Pastor's Desk . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

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God's vineyard is the entire earth, and the "workers" in the vineyard are all of God's people, earning our daily bread as co-creators with God, no matter our craft (Matthew 20.)

It is right and proper that we have a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Do not hesitate to recognize the dignity of our fellow creators in God's vineyard.

*- Arlyn "Butch" Plowman  
Commissioned Lay Pastor*

## Circle Bible studies resume in September

Both of FPC's Circle Bible studies will resume meeting this month.

Sarah Circle will meet Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m., and meets the first Tuesday of each month. For details, contact Sheryl Eriksen.

Rebekah Circle will resume Thursday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., but typically meets the first Thursday of each month. (An exception was made in September, due to Labor Day Weekend.) Contact Merle Korizek for more information.



## Peace & Global Witness giving begins Sept. 4

Peace and Global Witness giving begins Sept. 4 and ends with World Communion Sunday on Oct. 2. The purpose of this campaign is to connect with each other, confront systems of injustice, and promote reconciliation in places around the world and right here at home. Our congregation retains 25% of all giving to use in our community.

Your Mission Committee has chosen YWCA Helena as the recipient of our support this year.

The same storm and flooding that impacted our building also impacted Helena YWCA. The organization lost many items including mattresses, play pens, and towels. But they also need to replace larger furnishings like flooring, desks and couches because of the flood. But while the flood impacted their physical spaces, it has not impacted their mission to prevent homelessness and provide safe and supportive housing for women and their children. Their services restore hope, self-sufficiency and happy and healthy lives.

Please give generously to Peace and Global witness and help our neighbor in need at Helena YWCA. You can give in all of the usual ways. Thank you!

# Camp TIM Talk explores 'End Times'

Glacier Camp's third TIM (Theology in Ministry) Talk will take place Sept. 18-20 at the camp near Lakeside.

The theme will be "End Times, The Final Judgment, and Christ's Return in Glory: Exploring the Bible's Witness to These Realities."

Participants will look at the importance of understanding the end, and the teachings of Scripture that



surround this subject. Jesus has a lot to say in response to his disciples' question: "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"

Scholarships are available for anyone traveling more than 100 miles to camp. For details or to sign up, go to the website at [glaciercamp.org](http://glaciercamp.org) or email [timothy@glaciercamp.org](mailto:timothy@glaciercamp.org)

## Glacier Presbytery offers 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.glacierpresbytery@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.glacierpresbytery@gmail.com)

## IT'S CHOIR SEASON!

Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The first Sunday for performance for worship will be Sept. 18.

Welcome to returning members, and to potential new singers.

We will sing a mix of old favorites, and some exciting new anthems and arrangements.

It will be a fun and satisfying year, so join us!

*Les Cramer*  
*Director*



# MINUTES OF THE SESSION

August 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., by Elder and CLP “Butch” Plowman. Butch opened with a meditation centered on Ephesians, followed by prayer. Butch moderated the meeting.

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

**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 the June 21, 2022, Session meeting as presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the Called Congregation meeting of June 5, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed.

**PULPIT SUPPLY PASTOR’S REPORT:** CP “Butch” Plowman reported that FPC submitted a grant application for \$2,000 to the Helena Area Community Foundation for money raised to assist nonprofits with damage incurred from the July 3, 2022, rainstorm. The application was rejected as the Foundation did not make it a practice to fund religious organizations. The prohibition could be overcome if FPC could demonstrate nonsectarian community involvement.

Julie with help from the Mission committee compiled a list of charitable work and resubmitted the application. The list follows:

FPC supports:

- United Way backpack program
- Good Samaritan financial and material support
- God’s Love financial and material support
- Florence Crittenden financial and material support
- Intermountain financial support
- Stuff the Bus

FPC active participation

- Family Promise
- Providing meeting space for Boy Scouts
- Meeting space for Al Anon and AA
- Provides meal bags for people in need
- Providing gas and meal cards

**CLERK’S REPORT:** The Clerk reported that FPC received thank-you notes from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Mission Engagement & Support offices.

The Clerk reported that we have two attorneys who may be interested in representing FPC in the Farmers/Truck legal actions to deny liability in the Glacier Camp Deck collapse of June 2017. We should know more about their interest in representing us within the next week or so.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Jim Meyer opened the meeting with prayer. Leo Potter reported that the financial report shows a positive cash flow for July.

The Lilly Foundation has requested return of the \$32,471 grant for Pastor Scott's sabbatical that he will not be using.

Approved use of Anderson Trust money for Dianna Goodman to use for expenses related to her pursuit of Commissioned Lay Pastor designation.

As the lease on the copier has reached an end, Leo will contact Leaf Company for information about purchasing it.

John Warren closed the meeting with prayer.

**Action Item:** Approval of Elder Jeff Chaffee as a member of the Administration Committee. Unanimously approved.

**Building and Grounds:** Elder John Coefield reported, and a written report was submitted. John opened the meeting with prayer. Building use fees are outdated. John will update the fee schedule.

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

The Rodney Street contractor has asked for permission to park their vehicles in the church parking lot. Okay so long as there is plenty of parking space for Sunday church service attendees.

**Christian Education Committee:** Elder Mary Stiles reported, and a written report was submitted. FPC will host workshops on Sept. 17 for church members, the Helena community and surrounding area. Lunch will be served to participants courtesy of the Presbyterian Foundation. Topics include: Legacy Giving; Wills and Trusts; Home Care; and Hospice/Palliative Care/Advance Directives.

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

CP "Butch" Plowman closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Mary Stiles opened the meeting with prayer. Lona's memorial service went well. The urn with her ashes was placed in the ground next to the church foundation on the west side (North Ewing St. side) of the building near the south door and ramp. A metal memorial plaque marks the location.

Hand and Foot continues on Fridays; Bingo night will be Sept. 9; and a Lost Soles hike on the trail near Ash Grove plant is scheduled for Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. The church picnic is scheduled for Aug. 21 at the county fairgrounds and a church potluck is scheduled for Oct. 30 following the Sunday service.

Linda Bench 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 Prom-

## Session Minutes, (continued from page 7)

ise will be Oct. 2-3. The Family Promise BBQ fund raiser will be Sept. 8.

The Peace & Global Witness offering will be Oct. 2. 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.

Elder Kathy Chambers closed the meeting with prayer.

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

**Personnel Committee:** Elder Vic Reiman reported, and a written report was submitted. CP “Butch” Plowman opened the meeting with prayer. Personnel is recommending a 5% COLA for FPC paid staff. Vic Reiman closed the meeting with prayer.

**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. Choir rehearsal will return September 7. 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. No meals were provided to any FPC members during the month. No hospital visits were done. Marie Fuhrman has resigned as a Deacon.

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

**Old Business:** CP “Butch” Plowman asked Elder Vic Reiman to be the point person on the writing and submission of the Ministry Information Form (MIF) needed to begin the pastor search process. Elder Jeff Chafee volunteered to help Vic with completing and submitting the form.

**New Business:** There being no new business CP Plowman requested that the Session move into Executive Session.

**Executive Session:** After non-Session Elders departed, CP “Butch” Plowman gave each Session member a copy of a Pastor’s Information Form (PIF). The PIF is from a Pastor interested in filling the FPC Interim Pastor position during the coming Pastoral search. CP “Butch” explained the role of the interim pastor for those members who have not been involved in the pastoral search process. Since the Session is charged with selecting an Interim Pastor, members expressed an interest in interviewing the candidate. CP “Butch” will arrange an interview.

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

**Next Regular Session Meeting: September 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm.**

John Gneckow  
Clerk of Session



## In Memory

### David “Dave” Donaldson

Former FPC member David “Dave” Donaldson, 62, passed away Aug. 11, 2022.

Dave was born and raised in Helena. He and his wife, Brenda, were youth group leaders at the First Presbyterian Church in Helena for several years. According to his obituary, he fondly remembered taking the group to intercity Los Angeles one year to serve the least of the least.

The couple moved to Bozeman in 2016.

Dave is survived by his wife, two daughters, Katy and Jessica, and numerous family members. His obituary is listed on the Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service, Bozeman, website.

A celebration of life was held Aug. 20 at the Springhill Legacy Site in Belgrade, MT. Memorials may be sent to the Gene Donaldson Scholarship at Montana State University in Bozeman (P.O. Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717-2750.)

Cards for the family may be sent to: Brenda Donaldson, 41 Valley Grove Drive, Bozeman, MT 59718.



**Dave Donaldson**  
8/26/59—8/11/22

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## Thank You

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### ‘Stuff the Bus’ grateful

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for being part of something wonderful in Helena! Because we are limited to collect supplies, your generous bags of school supplies will help schools and their students in need be school ready!

You are part of the “success story” that ensures all students are prepared!

Thank you so much!

The Angel Fund

### Lay liturgist training set

A training session for people interested in serving as lay liturgists will be held Sunday, Sept. 18, right after the worship service.

Grab some coffee, and join Diana Goodman in the sanctuary.

### Confirmation class planned

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

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](mailto:dagrod41@gmail.com)

# SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	3
4 <b>10 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>11 am</b> Social Time	5 <b>Labor Day</b>	6 <b>10 am</b> Sarah Circle <b>1 pm</b> Pinochle <b>3:30 pm</b> Education <b>5:30 pm</b> Personnel	7 <b>7 pm</b> Choir	8 <b>10 am</b> Rebekah Circle	9 <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards <b>6 pm</b> Bingo	10
11 <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>11:15</b> Deacon Meeting	12 <b>10 am</b> Worship Committee	13 <b>6:30 pm</b> Mission	14 <b>10 am</b> Building & Grounds <b>2 pm</b> CFC <b>4 pm</b> Administration <b>7 pm</b> Choir	15	16 <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	17 <b>9 am-4 pm</b> Future Vision Workshops
18 <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time <b>11 am</b> Lay Liturgist Training <b>4 pm</b> Lost Soles Hike	19	20 <b>1 pm</b> Pinochle <b>6:30 pm</b> Session	21 <b>7 pm</b> Choir	22	23 <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	24
25 <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Time	26	27	28 <b>7 pm</b> Choir	29	30 <b>1:30 pm</b> Hand & Foot Cards	

# SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Barrie & Bill Heinecke  
4th John & Kay Warren  
15th Mike & Colleen Cleary-Boyer



20th Linda & Pete Test  
30th Lisa Lovell & Mark Mattioli

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Bob Korizek  
6th Lonna Weidemann  
10th Charles Lovell  
14th Marie Fuhrmann  
14th Judy Bayless  
19th Bonnie Fisher  
19th John Fitzpatrick  
21st Bruce Luke  
21st BonnieBlu Belden

25th Terry Healow  
26th Tyler Kaiser  
26th Zachary Kaiser  
27th Steve Granzow  
30th Mark Goodman  
30th Gay Lilly Cavagnolo  
30th Mike Swisher  
30th Art Bumgardner

## DEACON ON CALL

BJ Burns — 406-439-4026

## SEPTEMBER LAY LITURGISTS

**Sept. 4** Dianna Goodman  
**Sept. 11** John Coefield  
**Sept. 18** Kathy Chambers  
**Sept. 25** Patti Borsberry

## SEPTEMBER COMMUNION SETUP

Sunday, Sept. 4 — BJ Burns

## DEADLINE

**The deadline for  
the September  
newsletter is**

**Friday, Sept. 23**

## FINANCIAL DEADLINES

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

**Monday, September 12**

**Monday, September 26**

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

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

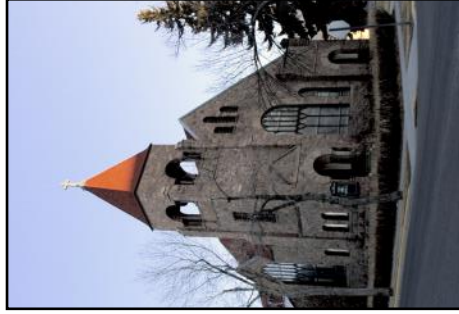
**Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189**  
**Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM**

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

**406-442-4775**

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