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PASTOR'S PEN

Fall kickoff begins on Sunday, September 11

It has been a busy summer with a lot of activities taking place over the last two months. Construction on the office/bathroom project is nearing completion with a lot of progress made over the past several weeks. I took part in two trips with our awesome and highly energetic youth group: a mini mission trip to Stanford, MT in June where we led Vacation Bible School at the First Presbyterian Church; and a trip to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium conference at Purdue University in Indiana from July 17-26. We joined over 5,000 other young Presbyterians at this conference...what an uplifting and exhilarating experience!



The candidate that we had hoped would lead our children's and youth ministry program decided to take another job leaving us looking for the right person to fill this important position. Please continue to pray that God will lead us in this process.

I am excited to have you meet the staff from Better Together Preschool that will open their new pre-school program in our church on September 7. They have painted, decorated, prepared, and arranged the rooms in our upstairs education wing and are ready for lots of kids to begin classes.

Our 6th annual community block party was another rousing success with about 260 people attending. We had a great evening of warm weather, delicious food, great music, and fantastic games. Some of you have asked how many times I was dunked in the dunk tank and I lost track at 100! I am still trying to dry off two weeks later...uffda!

Our fall programs will kickoff with our Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 AM in the fellowship hall. Lots of information about fall programs will be available, along with free food, prizes, and refreshments. Join us for this special event. Worship returns to its 10:30 schedule on this morning as well.

Sunday school for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 18. I will be teaching a special five week series titled, *"Strength for Today; Lessons from the book of Philippians."* Paul's New Testament letter to the Christians at Philippi provides some wonderful lessons about strength, hope, and endurance that we all can benefit from in our Christian lives. This class is open to everyone and will be held in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM, beginning on Sunday, September 18.

It will be a busy fall semester as many groups resume the use of our church on a regular basis. Bible Study Fellowship, an ecumenical group that uses our church each Wednesday and Thursday, expects another record year as they will be studying the Gospel of John. Groups for both women and men, two support groups, and various fellowship groups are provided to those in our church on an ongoing basis.

I look forward to the fall season that is quickly approaching and hope you will take part in what we are doing at FPC. Let's together grow in our faith and celebrate the Good News that Jesus Christ is with us!

—Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Family Promise at our church from August 28-September 4
Better Together Preschool program begins on Wednesday, September 7
Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall is coming Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 AM
Fall worship schedule returns to 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 11
Youth group resumes on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 PM
Bible Study Fellowship resumes on Thursday, September 15 from 9:00-11:00 AM
Senior Singles meets on Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 AM
Sunday school classes resume on Sunday, September 18 at 9:15 AM
Lifeline Heath Screening will be held in our fellowship hall on Wednesday, Sept. 21

MEMORY JOGGERS FOR SEPT. 2016

<u>The 4th</u>	<u>The 11th</u>	<u>The 18th</u>	<u>The 25th</u>
Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder David Bauer Greeters Priscilla Laird Bob & Barbara Muir Ushers Bud & Joanne Leuthold Margie LaFontaine Sharon Mathews Liturgist Marcia Muir Van Driver Charles Leggate Sound Booth David Bauer	Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Heather McLean Greeters Chris Eriksen Bebe Spring Kay Doss Ushers Marlene Spencer Betty Nesmith Kurt & Mary Grabow Liturgist Coryn Martinez Van Driver Don Harr Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga Flower Delivery Sharon Lincoln	Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Sharon Lincoln Greeters Craig & Denise Hash Dottie Hilger Ushers Jerry Koch Bob Fedric Bill White Don Reed Liturgist Charlie Reed Van Driver Don Harr Sound Booth Chuck Leggate Flower Delivery Chuck & Cindy Leggate	Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Chuck Leggate Greeters Carl & Vickie Johnson Megan Lorentz Ushers Ken & Barbara Eichenberger Chris Eriksen Marjorie Stewart Liturgist Deb Wiens Van Driver Heather McLean Sound Booth Bob Culbertson Flower Delivery Chris Eriksen
Communion Heather McLean Sharon Mathews Chris Eriksen Paige Spalding Jim Hummel			

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Church Info

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30 am— 4 PM
406-252-3434
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
www.fpcbillings.org
Worship Celebration @ 9:30
Fall worship at 10:30 AM be-
gins on September 11

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson
Office Manager: Jeanne
Thompson-Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer

Class of 2017

David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018

Kathy Baskett
Marv Brown
Jeff Gruizenga
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019

Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

FOOD BANK
SUNDAY

Our church was one of the first churches in Billings to designate a monthly Food Bank Sunday. We invite you to bring some non-perishable food items with you on the first Sunday of each month as we help local people in need. Our next Food Bank Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 4 . Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

At the August 9th meeting of the session the property committee reported that the bathroom construction project is ahead of schedule at this time.

The Christian Education committee has ordered curriculum for the fall session of Sunday School. There will be another group added during worship time as there are more children attending. Robyn Bauer is in charge of coordinating the Sunday School program for younger children. Volunteers are still needed for this program. The committee is still searching for a Christian Education director and would appreciate your prayers as this process continues.

Financial snapshot

2016	Income	Expense	Net
August	\$ 28,389	\$ 34,936	\$ (6,547)
YTD	\$ 235,100	\$ 294,638	\$ (59,538)

Per-Capita is being received for 2016. Our church pays \$45 per member to the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly of the PC(USA) for it annual dues. If you would like to pay your share of the per-capita that would be appreciated. You can write a check to the church and indicate on the memo line “Per-Capita.” We appreciate your giving to help off-set this fund. Thank you!

AUGUST	2016
7 TH	133
14 TH	144
21 TH	153
28 TH	162
2016 AUGUST AVERAGE	148
2015 AUGUST AVERAGE	158

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillins.org? Just click the “Listen to Sermons” tab on the upper right front of our church’s homepage. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past twelve weeks are archived on our church’s website.

Church Mice:

Marge Myhra has been a loyal and hard-working supporter of IHN/ Family Promise since its beginning stages. She is a very bright, shining star but usually stays in the background living her faith through all of the hard work she does at First Presbyterian. Thank you Marge for the effort and energy you give to our congregation! It is greatly appreciated!



FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our flower sign-up sheet is located on the back table in the narthex. We invite you to sign up for a particular Sunday to sponsor the flowers either in honor or memory of someone or a special event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc. Suggested donation is \$30. Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of August. They are the “Stillwater Sistahs” in appreciation to Ralph and Jane Myhre for the use of their cabin on the Stillwater River this summer, Suzanne Braun in memory of her parents Mike and Marily Repka, and the Presbyterian Women’s group from our church. Following worship each Sunday, the flowers are distributed to church members and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, or among those who are unable to attend church.

BATHROOM/OFFICE REMODELING UPDATE

Our office/bathroom remodeling project is nearing completion. The project includes new bathrooms for men and women, a new family restroom, and updates to Pastor Dave’s office, conference room, and storage area. The total project cost is \$300,000. We continue to raise funds through a capital campaign with the goal of raising \$150,000 and the other half coming from church reserve funds. To donate to this fund, please indicated on your gift “Building Fund.” Any and all donations to this project would be greatly appreciated. For questions about this project, please talk with Jeff Gruizenga or Pastor Dave. We have raised over \$90,000 toward our \$150,000 goal. Thanks to all who have given. We look forward to having it completed soon!

Ministry Fair coming on Sunday, September 11

Join us on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Ministry Fair. Lots of information about our fall program opportunities will be available along wit a tour of our new preschool facilities. We might also be providing tours of the newly remodeled bathroom/office area. Free food, prizes, and beverages will be provided. Join us to learn more about our church and all that we offer.

Bridge Players wanted

If anyone is interested in joining our church’s bridge group, please call Louise Graff at 697-6870. More players are welcome and no experience is necessary. Bridge is a fun game which teaches teamwork and keeps the mind sharp. Oh and by the way, our bridge players have a lot of fun in playing games!

Our Church’s Leadership Team

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson
Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2017

David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018

Kathy Baskett (2)
Marv Brown (2)
Jeff Gruizenga (2)
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019

Chris Eriksen (2)
Jenice Fugere (2)
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

Deacons:

Class of 2017

Diane Noddings (2)
Kathy Ramage
Paige Spalding
Marjorie Stewart

Class of 2018

Janet Brown (2)
Pam Gore (2)
Ruth Kaufman
Charlie Pinnick

Class of 2019

Peggy Cluff
Dodie Cox (2)
Bob Fedric
Janice Ward

(2) denotes a second consecutive terms that is currently being served.

Grief Support and Caregiver Support Groups

Two support groups at our church meet monthly. Our Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help, hope, and healing to those dealing with grief and loss.

A new group, Caregivers Support Group, meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help to those who care for others. Both groups are open to anyone in the church and community and both are facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, a retired psychiatrist with a lot of years of experience.

Stephen Ministry Update

We have an active group of Stephen Ministers who are working to help others in our church and community. Each of our church’s Stephen Ministers are assigned a care receiver with whom they provide one-on-one skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM and includes time for continuing education and support. More information about Stephen Ministry is available through one of our church Stephen Ministry leaders who are JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave.

On a Personal Note



Lorrane Croymans celebrated her 90th birthday with a special cake provided by her family in her honor after worship on Sunday, August 14. Happy Birthday Lorrane!

Harry Cuff’s funeral was held in our church on Saturday, July 30. Judy and her family appreciates all of the prayers and kindness shown to her family during this time.

The funeral for Betty Nelson was held in our church on Thursday, August 18. Betty’s family expresses their appreciation for care and support during this time of Betty’s death.

Tom Dailey’s funeral was held in our church on Monday, July 11. Tom died unexpectedly at his home.


A memorial service for Mary “Scotty” Jones will be held in our church on Saturday, September 24 at 11:00 AM. A lunch reception will follow the service in our church’s fellowship hall.

Juli Dufresne has received great news. She underwent surgery last April and was found to have a very rare melanoma under the skin. There is always a primary and secondary source. So she has had 5 different tests and many blood tests. All tests are completely clear! Her cancer team is shaking their heads. Juli knows that she is cured because of the Lord and all the prayers of all of you dear friends. Thanks so much for praying for her. She is truly grateful!

Marian Rudolf was recently diagnosed with cancer and would appreciate prayers for strength and healing. She is living at The Vista on the campus of St. John’s Lutheran Ministries.

Dr. Paul Crellin wishes to express his appreciation to the congregation for your thoughts and prayers as he deals with some health issues.

John and Susan Stewart are recovering at home from injuries sustained in a car accident on August 28.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Family Promise here 1 Mission Committee Meeting 7 College Group	2 Family Promise here Church Office Closed	3 Family Promise here
4 Family Promise here 8:15 Family Promise Clean-Up 9:30 Worship Communion 11:00 WP worship	5 Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	6 12noon Property Committee Meeting	7 Preschool begins 9 BSF Workshop 10 Grief Support Group 12noon BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	8 Pastor Dave at Presbytery meeting in Bozeman 7 College Group 7 CE Committee	9 Office Closed 12 United Church Women Meeting 7:00 Up With People concert at Alberta Bair	10 7:00 Up With People concert at Alberta Bair
11 Worship Time Change 9:15 Ministry Fair 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	12 10 Worship Committee 12 Men’s Group	13 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women’s Bible Study resumes 7 Session meeting	14 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Caregivers Grp 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	15 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team Meets 7 College Group	16 Church Office Closed	17 10 Senior Singles Group
18 9:15 Sunday School begins 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	19 11:30 Stephen Ministry Leader’s Meeting	20 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women’s Bible Study	21 Lifeline Screening here PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	22 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 7 College Group	23 Church Office Closed Newsletter Deadline	24 11 Memorial service for Mary “Scotty” Jones
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship	26 12 Men’s Group 4 Deacons meeting in the Fireside Room	27 9:30 WBS 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision (downstairs coffee room) Board of Pension Tax Seminar Here	28 Board of Pension Tax Seminar Here 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	29 Board of Pension Tax Seminar Here 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 7 College Group	30 Board of Pension Tax Seminar Here	2016



Presbyterian Women

Are you a woman who attends First Presbyterian Church? If so, you are a Presbyterian Woman! The PW organization in our church has five different groups which meet monthly for study, fellowship, and often food. We offer groups that meet in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Consider joining one of our groups to grow in your faith in God and one another. For more information about the PW organization in our church, please talk with either Sandi Schoenberger or Marlene Spencer. PW groups will resume on Wednesday, September 21 and the PW board will meet on Wednesday, September 14 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Sunday school classes start on September 18

Sunday school for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 18 for children, youth, and adults. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!



Classes for Kids:

Kindergarten through 5th grade: This class meets at 9:15 AM
Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi

Sunday school during our worship service is held every week after the children’s sermon. A variety of teachers lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade. With the growing number of children attending Sunday school during worship we will be offering two classes this fall during worship. Additional teachers are needed for this growing program. If interested in helping teach, please talk with Robin Bauer.

Special Class for Adults:

Pastor Dave will be leading a special adult Sunday school class this fall titled, “Strength for Today: Lessons from the book of Philippians.” This five week class will begin on Sunday, September 18 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and is open for all adults. The New Testament book of Philippians has some of the best known verses in the Bible and will provide a lot of encouragement to all who walk with Christ. Join us!

Church and Society Class will resume on Sunday, October 16. Due to the remodeling project and with the Church and Society class being used for other purposes during the remodeling, the C & S class will have a bit later start this fall. Watch the October bulletin for class details. Shari Dayton provides the speakers each week.

Alzheimer's Walk Coming on Sunday, September 25

You are invited to join our church’s team on Sunday, September 25, 2016. Registration begins at 1:00 PM and the opening ceremony will be held at 2:30 pm. The walk will be held once again at ZooMontana, located at 2100 South Shiloh Road. To join the First Presbyterian Church team you can go online to: alz.org/walk Then go to Billings, Register, Join a team, Search - First Presbyterian Church

For questions about the walk or registration process please contact our team captains: Teri Pattee at 406-690-3476 or Doris Backus at 406-839-3152



Up With People coming to Billings September 9-10

Up With People is a global education, service and performing arts program that takes 104 students from 21 countries to a new destination each week while living with local host families. This group of students will be in Billings from Sept. 5-12 to contribute 1,000 hours of community service. On September 9 and 10, they will perform an international upbeat show at the Alberta Bair Theater. Our local beneficiaries of the shows are Landon's Legacy, Special K Ranch, Boys and Girls' club, Tumbleweed, Forever Families, Friendship house, and Center for children and families. Interested in becoming a host family? Please contact Britt van Rozendaal at 303.859.5972 or bvanrozendaal@upwithpeople.org. Don't forget to buy your tickets at www.upwithpeople.org/billings.

Youth News:

The summer was full of all kinds of activities for a number of youth from our church. Many of our youth assisted with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program from June 6-10. Some of our middle school and high school youth traveled with Pastor Dave to lead VBS in Stanford, MT from June 20-22. Eight high school youth from our church attended the Presbyterian Triennium Youth Conference in Indiana from July 17-26. A number of children and youth attended summer camp at Westminster Spires, located just south of Red Lodge. It was a good summer that was full of a variety of opportunities to grow closer to God and others.

Youth group will resume on Wednesday, September 14 from 6-8 PM. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us every week for a full meal, games, music, and learning. We have an active youth group that meets weekly and for special events throughout the year. If you would like to help provide a meal for one of our youth nights, please talk with either Jody Ferestad or Sandi Schoenberger. Friends are always invited to come to youth group.

We rely upon a great group of volunteers to keep the youth activities going and we continue to search for a full time person to work in this area. Please pray for the search process in finding the right person to lead our children's and youth ministry programs.



Fall worship schedule changes on Sunday, September 11

Our fall worship schedule will change on Sunday, September 11 with worship at 10:30 AM. Our annual Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 18 with classes available for all ages. Join us!



Better Together Preschool will begin soon

Our church will be the new home to the Better Together Preschool. This school is open for children ages 2 through pre-K and will meet in the upstairs educational wing. The preschool staff is comprised of five ladies, plus additional help will be asked of the parents. For more information, please contact Karen Norsworthy at 690-8481 or Karen Morrow at 281-0280.

Men's group

Our men's group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12noon in the Fireside Room. Join other men for a time of encouragement, fellowship, prayer, and study. This group is currently studying the New Testament book of 2 Timothy which encourages Christians to build a strong faith in the Lord. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Mission Committee	Thursday, September 1 at 1:00 PM
Property Committee	Tuesday, September 6 at 12noon
Christian Education	Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, September 12 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, September 14 at 9:30am
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, September 15 at 11:00 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, September 15 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, September 26 at 4:00 PM

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES EVERY MONTH

A grief support group within our church continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11. This group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group provide support, encouragement, and help to those facing grief, loss, or transitions in life. All are invited to join this special group. The next group meets on Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 AM at the church in the downstairs youth room.



September Birthdays

- 1 Mara Duncan

4 Carla Bracken

6 Cathie Bell

Kathy Butler

Sara Thompson

Jack Mahan

7 Robert Anacker

Hunter Skov

8 Andrew Letson

Jacob Schoenberger

9 Elise Keenum

12 Mary Grabow

Sarah Luse

13 Tiffany Bell

14 Heather Rosenfeld
- 15 Tom Davis

16 Robyn Bauer

18 Kallie Nagel

Lila Spring

19 Lois Maris

Diane Noddings

20 Ruth Drummond

21 Mary Ann Canan

22 Greg Wiens

23 John Stewart

24 Lisa Walker

27 Heather Leggate

Sandy Velin

30 James Hall

Margie LaFountain

Anniversaries

- 2 Dave & Judy Nusbaum

3 Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga

4 Cook & Kelly Murch

14 John & Joanne Leuthold

20 John & Debbie Oliver

24 Craig & Denise Hash

25 George & Heather Rosenfeld

Mission News

Please come and visit the Mission Committee's table at the Ministry Fair. We are a very active and fun group serving God's Children. Maybe you will want to join our committee or find out how you can help with a project or two.



The Mission Committee starts every meeting with prayer. We appreciate your prayers that we have wisdom to do God's work whether it is giving money to those in need, to serve personally, or to organize ways that you can serve.

Eagle Rock Sanctuary is available to Christian persons or groups in leadership roles. The sanctuary is to be used specifically for spiritual renewal activities: prayer, religious study, discussion, quiet meditation and worship. Eagle Rock Sanctuary is a cabin on a beautiful and peaceful piece of land near Billings. They survive through donations. Our Mission Committee was glad to help by donating \$5,000.

Many of the students in Billings need help filling their backpacks when school starts. We donated \$2,000 to help the local children get a good start to the school year.

We also helped the "Out of the Darkness" suicide prevention program by donating \$1,500 to their cause. We gave \$1,000 to the Alzheimer's walk.

Recently the Montana Rescue Mission was flooded. Some of our members delivered meals to the shelter in this time of need. The Mission Committee donated \$5,000 to help restore the damaged facilities. The MRM is receiving food items for their kitchen. For mores specifics of what is requested, please contact them.

Tumbleweed has an ongoing need for hygiene supplies. That would include things like shampoo, soap, deodorant, and razors. Either small travel sized or large sizes are welcome. There is a box in the closet by the office for all Tumbleweed donations.

Thanks to our great volunteers who helped with Family Promise during the week they were at our church!!
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." —Colossians 3:17

Block Party Appreciation!!

About 260 people attended this year's block party on Wednesday, August 17. We had a wonderful evening of great weather, food, games, music, and activities for all. Thanks to ALL of the members of the Fellowship Committee and ALL the Volunteers for their generosity of time and talent in planning, preparation and assistance in making this year's All Church Block Party a Huge Success!!! Special thanks to Bill Dimich and Pepsi for donating the pop and water and to Jack Bell for providing the music. —Sandi Schoenberger, Chair of the Fellowship Committee