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2017

## PASTOR'S PEN

### "A Time to Celebrate"

The month of May provides many opportunities to celebrate. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations, and confirmations are just a few of the common May occurrences that offer a time to commemorate a special occasion. Some of the lesser known celebrations during the month of May include National Bike Month, National Salad Month, and National Barbeque Month. How about a bike ride and then coming home to grill a salad on the barbeque? Sounds healthy!

Celebrations lie at the heart of the Christian faith. Many think that the Christian life is one of solemn reflection and quiet devotion. Solitude and reflection certainly have a place in the Christian faith, but to discount the idea of celebration takes something away from our faith and our rich heritage.

As Christians, we are people of hope and victory, people of joy and new life. Moses and Mariam praised God as they made their way across the Red Sea which God had parted. King David danced before the Lord. A certain woman celebrated when she found her lost coin, a shepherd celebrated when the lost sheep was found, and the father celebrated when the prodigal returned home. Even Jesus had reason to celebrate as he attended weddings and festivals.

The Apostle Paul, whose life was drastically changed by Jesus on the road to Damascus, had much to celebrate. In his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul writes, "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15: 56-57). As people of hope and new life, we are invited to take time to celebrate the redeeming gift of God's grace that has been given to us freely through Christ.

Within our church, we have much to celebrate as well. This time of year brings a time of transition as many of our regular church programs take a break for the summer months. I would like to thank all of you who have taken an active role in the life of our church as we transition to summer. We depend heavily upon volunteers: from Sunday school teachers, to Bible study leaders, to our worship helpers, to those who sing in the choir and provide special music, to those who serve on our church's leadership teams and various committees, to those who serve communion, write cards, deliver flowers, offer transportation, provide hospital and nursing home visits, and help with youth activities.

I look forward to the many celebrations that this month brings. I give thanks for our mothers, salute our veterans and those currently serving (and their families), and offer congratulations to our graduating seniors. Amid these celebrations, let us not forget the greatest reason to celebrate—the new life offered freely through Jesus Christ.

In Christ,  
Dave



## MEMORY JOGGERS FOR MAY 2017

### May 7

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Key Elder**  
Chris Eriksen  
**Greeters**  
Phyllis Brown  
Ron Sperry  
Judy Cuff  
**Ushers**  
Chris Eriksen  
John Thompson  
Pat Clark  
Peggy Wilson  
**Liturgist**  
Marcia Muir  
**Sound Booth**  
David Bauer  
**Van Driver**  
Chuck Leggate  
**Communion**  
Jo Albin  
Chuck & Cindy  
Leggate  
Heather McLean  
Diane Noddings

### May 14th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Key Elder**  
Ken Eichenberger  
**Greeters**  
Edna Carlson  
Ed & Alta Dakolios  
**Ushers**  
Ken & Barb  
Eichenberger  
Carla Bracken  
Teena Bracken  
**Liturgist**  
Bob Culbertson  
**Van Driver**  
Don Harr  
**Sound Booth**  
Jeff Gruizenga  
**Flower Delivery**  
Chris Eriksen

### May 21th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Key Elder**  
Chris Eriksen  
**Greeters**  
Dottie Hilger  
Bob & Norma  
Thiesen  
**Ushers**  
Jerry Koch  
Bob Fedric  
Bill White  
Don Reed  
**Liturgist**  
Russ Kline  
**Van Driver**  
Don Harr  
**Sound Booth**  
Chuck Leggate  
**Flower Delivery**  
Jack & Karla Ma-  
han

### May 28th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Key Elder**  
Paige Spalding  
**Greeters**  
Jim Hummel  
**Ushers**  
Sharon Mathews  
Ed & Edna Stauber  
Marjorie Stewart  
**Liturgist**  
Shirley Shirley  
**Sound Booth**  
Bob Culbertson  
**Van Driver**  
Heather McLean  
**Flower Delivery**  
Chuck & Cindy  
Leggate

### COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Church Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 6 from 8:30-11:30 AM  
Mother's Day recognition during worship on Sunday, May 14  
Summer worship time change begins on Sunday, May 28 at 9:30 AM  
VBS coming June 5-9 from 9:00-12:15 each day

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## Church Info

**Office Hours:**  
**Mon—Thurs 8:30 am— 4 PM**  
**406-252-3434**  
**mainoffice@fpcbillings.org**  
**www.fpcbillings.org**  
**Sunday School @ 9:15 AM**  
**Worship Celebration @ 10:30**

### 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 2018

Kathy Baskett  
 Marv Brown  
 Jeff Gruizenga  
 Sandi Schoenberger

#### Class of 2019

Chris Eriksen  
 Jenice Fugere  
 Chuck Leggate  
 Heather McLean

#### Class of 2020

David Bauer  
 Carla Bracken  
 Ken Eichenberger  
 Sharon Lincoln

## 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, May 7. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

## Session Notes:

During the April 11 meeting of the session the property committee reported that it is still seeking bids for repair to a section of the roof. Bruce Phillips, a new member of the committee has repaired some vacuum cleaners.

The Christian Education committee is still interviewing candidates to work as the director of youth ministries.

The baptism of Judith Wright, the infant daughter of John and Lauren Wright was approved. She will be baptized during worship on Sunday, June 11.

Chris Eriksen was elected to represent our church at the Presbytery meeting in Dillon on May 12-13.

## 2017 Financial snapshot

	Income	Expense	Net
April	\$ 34,090	\$ 24,860	\$ 9,230
YTD	\$ 172,568	\$ 115,854	\$ 56,714

Special thanks to all who have given to our church during this past year. We have accomplished much through your generosity. A full financial report from 2016 is available through the church office. Per-capita for 2017 is \$48. If you would like to pay your per-capita payment, you can submit a check to the offering plate or church office. Thanks!!

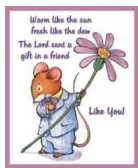
APRIL	2017
2ND	180
9TH	189
16TH (EASTER)	331
23TH	178
30TH	192
2017 APRIL AVERAGE	214

## Sermons are now back on-line

We were having some technical difficulties in getting sermons to our church's website. The issue has been remedied and we once again have sermons available on our website at [www.fpcbillings.org](http://www.fpcbillings.org). You can click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper right front of our church's homepage. This allows you to stay connected even when you are away.

## Church Mice:

The church mice are more than pleased to see Mary and Kurt Grabow once again active in our church. After all they have been through with Mary's brain cancer diagnosis and treatment, they continue to live their Christian faith by serving both the church and community. Mary and Kurt are again distributing hot meals from the Salvation Army to people on the street. The Grabow's are the kind of individuals who inspire the rest of us to be better people



## FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our new 2017 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 Marge Myhra, Juanita Stovall, Peggy Wilson, Bonnie Grosshuesch, Jody Mercer Wallace, and Jim & Biff Hogue who donated flowers during the month of April. 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.

We will also recognize all who donated Easter lilies in honor or in memory of loved ones with an insert in this newsletter.

## A Trip to the Holy Land

Pastor Dave is considering organizing a trip to the Holy Land in the summer of 2018 and would like to see if others have an interest in going. The trip would likely be around 12 days and the cost would be in the neighborhood of \$4,000 per person. Sights would include Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Jericho. Pastor Dave will be holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room to see who might be interested in this great experience. This trip has been known to change people lives as it allow the Bible to come alive as people experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of this very special and unique place.

## Our Church's Leadership Team

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

#### 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

#### Class of 2020

David Bauer (2)  
 Carla Bracken  
 Ken Eichenberger (2)  
 Sharon Lincoln (2)

Deacons:

#### 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

#### Class of 2020

Kathy Ramage (2)  
 Lorrie Rimpe  
 Paige Spalding (2)  
 Marjorie Stewart (2)

(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.

Our 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

Stephen Ministers continue to meet monthly for education and support. They meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in the Fireside Room. If you know of someone who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please talk with JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, or Shirley Shirley. Stephen Ministers are available to help provide support and care to those going through difficult times, such as the loss of a spouse or other family member, health concern, transition in a job, or other life change that brings stress.

## Clean-Up Day coming on Saturday, May 6

Join us on Saturday, May 6 from 8:30-11:30 AM as we spruce up the church. Your help would be appreciated as we tackle a number of jobs. We will clean gutters, trim trees, weed flowerbeds, clean the parking lot, among other jobs and tasks. Whether you can give an hour or all three, come and join us and let's take care of the house of the Lord.



## Special Mother's Day Celebration

Join us on Sunday, May 14 during worship for Mother's Day as we celebrate this special occasion by giving free flowers to all moms and some gift cards to local businesses and restaurants. This special occasion is being provided by the fellowship committee.



On a Personal Note



We extend our sympathies to Carol Harr and her family on the death of her husband Scott. His memorial service will be held in our church on Friday, May 5 at 2:00 PM.

A memorial service for Lois Dyce was held in our church on Saturday, April 29.

Dottie Hilger has returned to Valley Health and Rehab after complications from a pelvis injury.

Carol Drum’s son, Christopher Drum, died in California on April 4. Please keep Carol and her family in your prayers.

Helen Montgomery would like to thank the church for their prayers, flowers, and cards given to her during her bac surgery. Many prayers were answered during Helen’s recovery.

Bev Pinnick has returned home after being hospitalized at St. V’s last month.

Ed Stauber is undergoing rehabilitation at Aspen Meadows after falling and injuring his leg last month.

Ralph Myhre is now under hospice care at St. John’s after being hospitalized at the Billings Clinic last month.

Kit and Sarah Stewart (John and Susan Stewart’s son and daughter-in-law) have returned home after being involved in a serious car accident last month near Roberts.

Juli Dufresne would appreciate your prayers as she recovers from recent surgery.

Jean Schneider is doing much better after having recent eye surgery.

Peggy Ostlund is home recovering from back surgery she had recently. Her recovery time is about three weeks.

Diane Noddings has been in a lot of pain as she awaits hip replacement surgery at the Billings Clinic on May 18.

Singles group to meet on Saturday, May 20

Our church’s singles group will be meeting on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 AM at the McCormick Café located at 2419 Montana Avenue. All single adults from our church or community are invited to join this group which meets monthly. Questions about this group can be directed toward Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2017	1 6 Billings Child Care Meeting	2 12 Property Com- mittee meeting	3 9-1 Preschool 10 Grief Support 12 PW Luncheon 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	4 Dave in Bozeman 9–11 BSF 1 Mission Comm 7 College Group 7 Christian Ed	5 9-1 Preschool 2 Scott Harr’s Memorial Service 7:30 RMC Baccal Service	6 8:30-11:30 Clean Up Day 10 Gluten Intoler Group
7 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun School 9:15 New Mem- bers’ Class 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	8 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Comm 12 Men’s Group	9 8-3 PW Presbytery meeting in the Fireside Room  7 Session Mtg.	10 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Caregivers Grp 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	11 9–11 BSF (Last one for the year) 7 College Group	12 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed Presbytery meet- ing in Dillon be- gins at 1:00 PM	13 Presbytery meeting in Dillon con- cludes at 12noon
14 Happy Mother’s Day 9:15 Sun School (last day of SS) 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	15 9-1 Preschool	16 6 Holy Land Infor- mational Meeting in the Fireside Room	17 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders PW Circles 12 BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	18 12 Congregational Care Team 12 PEO in Coffee Room 7 College Group	19 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	20 10 Singles Group meets at McCor- mick Café (2419 Mon- tana Ave)
21 9:15 Sunday School (Last one till Sept 17) 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	22 9-1 Preschool 12 Men’s Bible 4 Deacon’s Meet- ing in Fireside Room	23 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	24 9-1 Preschool (Last day of pre- school) 10 Real Life Group 12 BLT 6 VBS Planning	25 7 College Group	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Worship time change begins 9:30 Worship 11 West Park	29 Memorial Day– Church office closed	30	31 12 BLT 6 VBS Planning– supper provided			

Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women’s group will be holing their annual installation luncheon on Wednesday, May 3 at 12noon in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend this special lunch and program.

PW groups will be meeting on Wednesday, May 17. Five different circles are offered: two in the morning, two in the afternoon and one in the evening. Check with Marlene Spencer if you would like further information about our PW groups.

The PW circles will take a break over the summer and will resume again in September. Thanks to all who have provided leadership to this special organization through the PW Board and those who have taken a role as hostess and Bible study leaders.

Sunday school classes

Sunday school for all ages continue through Sunday, May 21. We will then be on summer break until the fall.



Classes for Children and Youth

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 clas- ses this fall during worship. Additional teachers are needed for this growing program. If interested in helping teach, please talk with Robyn Bauer.

New Members Class currently offered

A new members’ class will begin on Sunday, April 30 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Led by Pastor Dave this class is offered for those who would like to join the church and/or those wishing to learn more about our church, denomination, and what we believe. This class will continue for two consecutive Sundays with new members introduced during worship on Sunday, May 14.

Church and Society Class takes a break until Fall

The Church and Society will be on summer recess until the fall. Talk with Shari Dayton if you have program ideas for the fall schedule. Special thank to Shari who has done so well in coordinating this class and all of the guest speakers she schedules. The class will resume in September. Watch the September newsletter for the schedule as the class will resume.

Yellowstone Presbytery News

Revamp the Camp:

Head out to Red Lodge the weekend of June 5-6 to help prepare Westminster Spires Camp for this year’s camp season. There will be plenty to do for a variety of skill levels. Hope you can make it!

2017 Camp Dates for Westminster Spires Camp:

Elementary Camp will be July 9-13 (\$210 for the week); Junior High Camp will be July 16-21 (\$235 for the week); and Senior High Camp will be July 23-28 (\$260 for the week). Applications for camp can be found on the Yellowstone Presbytery’s website at [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org) or are available in the church office from Pastor Dave. Camp scholarships are once again available if needed.

May Presbytery meeting to be hosted in Dillon:

Pastor Dave and Chris Eriksen will be representing our church at the upcoming Presbytery meeting in Dillon on May 12-13. At this meeting there will be several amendments to the Constitution that the delegates will be voting on. One of the primary changes is to the Directory of Worship that sets guidelines and policies for worship, communion, weddings, funerals, etc. within our denomination. We will also be examining Sandra McKee, a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, who is seeking to become a Certified Lay Pastor.

Youth News:

Youth group for all 6-12 grade youth will continue through Wednesday, May 17. We will then transition to Vacation Bible School decorating for the next two Wednesdays, leading up to our VBS week which is June 5-9. VBS will run each morning from 9-12:15 with helpers needed to lead various stations of crafts, games, music, Bible adventures, and snacks.



Congrats to two of our graduating seniors: Jacob Nagel will be graduating from Senior High and Rachel Kraft from West High. Our church will provide a graduation party to recognize this special accomplishment for these two graduates and their families.

We thank those who provided meals during the month of April. They included Enoch & Lisa Walker, the Repka family (Dan, Chris, and Dani), Russ Kline, Jody Ferestad, and Carla & Teena Bracken. Thanks to all who have provided meals during the year.

Flower sales underway

The college/ young adult ministry group from our church is selling flowers on Sunday mornings in the gallery. Please talk with Jody Ferestad for flower options. Orders will be taken through Sunday, May 7 with flowers being delivered on Mother’s Day, May 14. All proceeds from the flower sales will go to support our church’s college ministry program and their upcoming summer mission trip to Taos, New Mexico.

FPC Foundation Update

The First Presbyterian Foundation would like to thank the family of Willeen Dailey for her generous donation to the FPC Foundation. She left a percentage of her IRA which was deposited into the Restricted Reserves of the FPC Foundation Funds. When visiting with her son Leonard about her estate gift, we talked about Willy being a “warrior for Christ” and she wanted a part of her hard work and blessings to be used by the Church. I shared with Leonard that I remembered her as a Logos table parent and he talked of her work on the Session. To all those who are “fighting for Christ” we say Thank You! —Trina White

If you are wondering how to set up a gift, or plan a gift visit with any of the Foundation Members. Those members are Trina White (chair), Tonya Applet, Secretary, Robyn Bauer, Robert Dayton, Jim Hummel, Jerry Koch, John Wright, and Charlie Pinnick. Chris Eriksen serves as the session representative to the Foundation.

Men’s group

Our men’s group meets 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 Hebrews which encourages Christians to remain faithful to God in all circumstances. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 at 12noon in the Fireside Room.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, May 2 at 12 (noon)
Mission Committee	Thursday, May 4 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, May 8 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 10 at 9:30AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, May 18 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, May 22 at 4:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Next meeting will not be until Thursday, August 10 at 11:00 AM

Worship time change

Our summer worship time change begins on Sunday, May 28 at 9:30 AM. Our summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend and then will revert back to our 10:30 AM worship on Sunday, September 10. Sermons are available on our church’s website at [www.fpcbillings.org](http://www.fpcbillings.org) for those who would like to stay connected even when you away or on vacation during the summer months.



Birthdays

- 2 Cindy Hessler
- Royal Johnson
- Ralph Myhre
- 6 Cathy Culbertson
- Marty Wallace
- 7 Linda Fedric
- 8 Karen Finstad
- 9 Heidi Duncan
- 11 Don Goettel
- 12 Bill Dimich
- 13 Lois Munger
- 18 Vickie Johnson
- Ken Eichenberger
- 19 Jeff Gruizenga
- 20 Matt Lorentz
- 23 Meiriona Anacker
- 24 Dave Nusbaum
- 25 Amanda Webber

- 29 Ruth Van Fossen
- 30 Alta Dakolios

Anniversaries

- 12 Bob & Cathy Culbertson
- 14 Greg & Deb Wiens
- 19 Bill & Sharon Dimich
- Carl & Vickie Johnson
- 23 Earl & Sharon Henderson
- 25 Gary & Judy Lohnbakken
- 30 Bob & Linda Fedric



Mission News

OGHS fishing derby weigh-in had a total catch of 163 lbs. of fish. We received a total offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in the amount of \$2,593.84. This total is up from our last year’s catch. These funds have been matched by our church’s mission committee bringing the total amount to \$5,187.68. Thanks to all who helped contribute to this worthwhile cause to help the less fortunate.



Gateway House needs bath towels, household cleaning supplies, and full sized hygiene products. The people who leave Gateway are given things they need to set up a new home of their own. This helps them get a new start. There is a red and green tub in the coat closet by the office for Gateway House donations.

Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s “The Out of Darkness Walk” will be on Sunday, September 17 at Veteran’s Park. Check in is at 12:45. The walk is to raise funds to inform people, to remove the stigma of mental illness, and to prevent suicides. The committee is giving \$2,500 to this important cause. Hopefully people from FPC will come to the walk. It is ok if you only walk a very short distance.

We received 3 very nice thank you notes from the following organizations:

- 1. Peace Lutheran Church thanked us for the \$750 we gave them to support their food pantry. In a recent week, 20 families received food assistance from Peace Lutheran. The note said “feeding the hungry cannot be a one congregation effort so we know it takes the work of many.”
- 2. The second note was from Lewis and Clark school. They are grateful for our “loyal and generous support.”
- 3. The third note was from Young Families/Early Head Start. They thanked us for the Nosy Offering of \$1,507 that was received in January. They enjoyed hearing about what a noisy offering is.

“Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.” —Philemon 1:7

RMC baccalaureate held here on Friday, May 5

Our church will once again host Rocky Mountain College’s baccalaureate service on Friday, May 5 at 7:30 PM in the church’s sanctuary. This long standing tradition continues once again this year. The community is invited to attend this special worship service where the graduates receive the Lord’s blessing.