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2017



PASTOR'S PEN

Excited for a New Fall Season



I am excited to begin a new fall season with all of you as we resume a number of activities this month. We will welcome Craig Carse as our new Ministry Intern and am excited to have Craig work with us in a number of ministry areas. He will be helping our growing church in many ways. You can read a brief bio of Craig below.

Worship will return to its 10:30 time on Sunday, September 10 when I will begin a new sermon series titled, *"Building a Faith that Lasts."* This series will be based on the Old Testament book of Nehemiah and the incredible example Nehemiah provides in building a robust faith in God.

Our annual Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as various groups and committees within the church will be sharing information about their programs and ways to become more involved. Sunday school resumes on Sunday, September 17 with a host of classes for children, youth, and adults. I'm looking forward to teaching a brand new class on angels and exploring an area that we don't talk too much about. Church and Society class returns for its 35th year with a different guest speaker every week. Class information can be found inside on page 3.

Youth group resumes on Wednesday, September 13 from 6-8 PM for youth in middle school through high school. We have a great group of volunteers who will be supporting Craig with this weekly program. Friends are welcome to join us for youth group and a meal sign up list is offered for weekly volunteers to help provide our weekly dinners.

As you can see there is much to be excited about as we resume our fall activities. We offer various groups for men, women, singles, children, youth, college students, and families to learn more about Jesus and to grow in your faith. Come and be a part of our faith-based community.

—Pastor Dave

Craig Carse joins us as new Ministry Intern

We are happy to welcome Craig Carse as our new Ministry Intern. Craig will be working with our church, especially in the areas of children, youth, and family ministries. Craig, a long time basketball coach at the collegiate level, will bring many years of educational, mentoring, and speaking experience to our congregation. Craig holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Physical Education. Craig and his wife Leslie have been married for 40 years and have two grown children and two young grandchildren. They will add a lot to our church family and community. Let's welcome Craig and Leslie.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Better Together Preschool program resumes on Wednesday, September 6
Fall worship schedule returns to 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 10
Ministry Fair coming on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 AM. Free food and prizes!
Youth group resumes on Wednesday, September 13 from 6-8 PM
Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) resumes on Thursday, September 14 at 9:00 AM
Sunday school for all ages begins on Sunday, September 17 at 9:15 AM

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MEMORY JOGGERS FOR SEPTEMBER

The 3rd

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Heather McLean
Greeters
Bob & Norma
Thiesen
Ushers
Carla Bracken
Teena Bracken
Jo Albin
Marjorie Stewart
Liturgist
Charlie Reed
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion

Paige Spalding
Jim Hummel
Ken & Barb
Eichenberger
Chris Eriksen

The 10th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Chris Eriksen
Greeters
Bob & Linda Fedric
Ushers
Cindy Leggate
Marian Shehein
Jim & Biff Hogue
Liturgist
Megan Ascherman
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Dave & Vicki
Thompson

The 17th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Ken Eichenberger
Greeters
Judy Cuff
Ushers
Marge Myhra
Ushers
Jerry Koch
Bob Fedric
Bill White
John Reed
Liturgist
Robyn Bauer
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga
Flower Delivery
Chris Eriksen

The 24th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
David Bauer
Greeters
Jack & Karla Mahan
Ushers
Sharon Brady
Marian Shehein
Marlene Spencer
Betty Ann Nesmith
Liturgist
Tonya Appelt
Van Driver
Heather McLean
Sound Booth
Robert Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Jack & Karla Mahan

Church Info

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30 am— 4 PM
406-252-3434
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
www.fpcbillings.org
Worship @ 9:30
Fall worship begins on Sep-
tember 10 at 10:30 AM
STAFF
Pastor: Dave Thompson
Ministry Intern: Craig Carse
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

Session Notes:

At its meeting on Tuesday, August 8, the session voted to receive Craig Carse as a Ministry Intern in our church beginning on September 1. Craig will be working especially in the area of children, youth, and family ministry. A bio of Craig can be found on the front page on this newsletter. We welcome Craig and his wife Leslie.

Committees of the session are busy preparing for the fall season. Many of the committees in the church will provide information about their ministries at our annual Ministry Fair which will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 10 starting at 9:15 AM. We welcome everyone to stop by and see what is offered by our church family and ways that you can become more connected to our congregation.

Financial snapshot

2017	Income	Expense	Net
August	\$ 15,786.45	\$ 27,857.98	\$ (12,071.83)
YTD	\$ 423,971.62	\$ 258,446.47	\$ 165,525.15

The increase in revenue for 2017 reflects several large contributions we have received from members and their estates. We appreciate the generosity of many who contribute to the life and ministry of our congregation.

AUGUST	2017
6TH	165
13TH	178
20TH	203
27TH	169
2017 AUGUST AVERAGE	179

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:

Many people in our church give time, energy, and resource at all levels to keep our church running smoothly. Among other service they are involved in, Jo Albin and Judy Nusbaum keep our attendance records in order. I imagine the attendance would increase quite a bit if they included the church mice in their count. Thanks Judy and Jo!
 We send our best to Judy and Dave Nusbaum who will be moving soon to Denver.



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 3. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

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 Marlene Spencer in honor of her grandchildren's birthdays, the “Stillwater Sisters” (Linda Haden, Greta Murray, Cathie Bell, Beth Morrow, Carol Harr, Joann Jones) in appreciation of Ralph and Jane Myhre and the recent use of their cabin on the Stillwater River; and Suzanne Braun in memory of her mother Marily Repka.

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.

Women’s Bible study resumes on Tuesday, September 12

Ladies are invited to the woman’s Bible study in the Fireside Room every Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM, beginning on Tuesday, September 12. Facilitated by Mary Lou Jacobson, this long standing group meets weekly for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. This group is always open to new participants. Throughout the year they will be studying the biblical blueprint of womanhood, using the book, *Her Name is Woman*. Questions about this group can be addressed to Mary Lou at 252-1315.

Ministry Fair coming on Sunday, September 10

Join us on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Ministry Fair. Lots of information about our fall program opportunities will be available along with 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.

Israel trip planned next June

Our church is planning an incredible trip to the Holy Land from June 11-22, 2018. The cost will be \$4,109 per person. Sights will include Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Jericho. The price is for double occupancy and includes airfare, lodging, transportation, and many of the meals. The deadline to sign up is not until later this fall, but space is limited. Let Pastor Dave know if you are interested in this trip.

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.

Support groups continue to meet monthly

Three support groups meet at our church on a monthly basis. They are:

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.

Caregivers Support Group, meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help to those who care for others.

RLI Group deals with “Real Life Issues” and meets the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM. This group meets to discuss issues pertaining to end of life, death and dying, and spiritual questions.

All three groups are open to anyone in the church and community and all three are facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, a retired psychiatrist with a lot of years of experience in helping people cope and grow through their loss. Each of these groups maintain a high level of confidentiality and they all meet in our new conference room.

For questions about any of these support groups, please talk with Dr. Don Harr or Pastor Dave.

On a Personal Note



We extend our condolences to the family of Don Reed who passed away on August 10 at the Hospice House at St. John’s. Don’s funeral service was held on Saturday, August 19 at our church. We extend our condolences to Steve and Sue Bentley on the death of Steve’s brother. Brian’s funeral service was held in our church on July 29. We share our sympathies with Dan and Karen Sanford-Gall. Both of Karen’s parents, Al and Betty Sanford, passed away this summer in Casper, Wyoming. We share our condolences with Lois Dalton on the death of her mother, Mary Cann. Mary passed away in Butte in July at the age of 102. We express our condolences to Sharon Lincoln and their family. Sharon’s daughter-in-law, Lynette Lincoln, recently passed away at the age of 57. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. Bonnie Grossheusch has been hospitalized at St. V’s from complications from a recent fall. Congratulations to David and Madison Culbertson on the birth of Edward Liam Culbertson, born on August 28. Congratulations to Eric Leggate who recently graduated from basic training in the Air Force in San Antonio, Texas. Alex Leggate, Eric’s wife, continues to recover from Lyme disease she contracted at the end of July. Janice Ward is feeling much better after having surgery last month. Chris Eriksen continues to undergo radiation treatment for prostate cancer. Mary Ann Canan is improving after several recent falls in her apartment. We wish God's blessings upon Dave and Judy Nusbaum who will be moving to the Denver area soon.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship	4 Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	5 12noon Property Committee Meet- ing	6 Preschool begins 9 BSF Workshop 10 Grief Support Group 12noon BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	7 1 Mission Commit- tee meets 7 College Group 7 CE Committee	8 9-1 Preschool	9
10 Worship Time Change 9:15 Ministry Fair 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	11 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Com- mittee 12 Men’s Group	12 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women’s Bible Study re- sumes 7 Session meeting	13 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Caregivers Grp 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	14 9 Bible Study Fel- lowship (BSF) 7 College Group	15 9-1 Preschool	16 10 Singles Group meets
17 9:15 Sunday School begins 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	18 9-1 Preschool	19 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women’s Bible Study	20 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	21 9 Bible Study Fel- lowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team Meets 7 College Group	22 Newsletter Deadline 9-1 Preschool	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Wor- ship	25 9-1 Preschool 12 Men’s Group 4 Deacons meet- ing in the Fireside Room	26 9:30 WBS 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision meets in the Fireside Room	27 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	28 9 Bible Study Fel- lowship (BSF) 7 College Group	29 9-1 Preschool	30

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 20 and the PW board will meet on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Block Party Appreciation!!

About 300 people attended this year’s block party on Wednesday, August 23— our biggest turnout yet! 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, water, and ice and to Jack Bell for providing the music. —Sandi Schoenberger, Chair of the Fellowship Committee

Sunday school classes start on September 17

Sunday school for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 17 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 will resume on Sunday, September 17 after the children’s sermon. A variety of teachers will 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 Craig Carse or Robyn Bauer.

Special Class for Adults:

Are there angels among us? Do angels really exist? What does the Bible have to say about angels? Join Pastor Dave for a four week class beginning on Sunday, September 17 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room as we explore this fascinating subject. Dave will look at biblical evidence and consider some personal beliefs about angels and the spiritual realm. As Presbyterians, we don’t often talk about this area of faith, but join us as we explore this area and ask the question, “Are angels real?”

Church and Society Class

Our church and Society Class, facilitated by Shari Dayton, is in its 35th year at our church. This class meets every Sunday morning in the Church and Society Room and welcomes a different guest speaker every week. The topics all relate to church and society in one way or another. If you have a suggestion for a guest presenter, please let Shari know. Our guest for the month of September is:

SEPTEMBER 17: Dr. Jay Cassel, Retired Professor of Religious Studies at Rocky Mountain College. His topic will be “Writing Jesus.” This will be the first of a two part series. Sometime in the late first century, the story of Jesus got written up four different times, in four different ways. What historical circumstances might have provoked the gospels? Did their writing signal a new understanding of Jesus (and of God)? Can the new understanding of the first century give us a clue to another new understanding of Jesus and God for the twenty-first century?

SEPTEMBER 24: Dr. Jay Cassel will continue this two part series, “Writing Jesus.” Join Dr. Cassel as he continues this fascinating topic of the gospels of why they were written and what they reveal about Jesus Christ and our understanding of God.

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 5-9. Some of our middle school and high school youth traveled with Pastor Dave to lead VBS in Stanford, MT from June 12-14. Some 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 13 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 Craig Carse, our new Ministry Intern. Friends are always invited to come to youth group.

Our fall retreat will be coming October 19-21. This annual retreat is sponsored by our Presbytery. More information will be coming soon about location and costs.

We rely upon a great group of volunteers to keep the youth activities going. If you would like to assist with our children's or youth ministry programs, please talk with Craig.

Fall worship schedule changes on Sunday, September 10

Our fall worship schedule will change on Sunday, September 10 with worship at 10:30 AM. Our annual Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 17 with classes available for all ages. Join us!



Better Together Preschool will begin soon

Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool and they will resume classes on Wednesday, September 6. This school is open for children ages 2 through pre-K and will meet in the downstairs classrooms. 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 Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes which addresses our purpose in life. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, September 5 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, September 7 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, September 11 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30am
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, September 21 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, September 25 at 4:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, October 26 at 11:00 AM

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.

Birthdays

- 1 Mara Duncan
- 3 Jo Ausk
- 4 Carla Bracken
- 5 Zach Morrow
- 6 Cathie Bell
- Kathy Butler
- Sara Thompson
- 7 Robert Anacker
- Hunter Skov
- 8 Andrew Letson
- Jacob Schoenberger
- 9 Elise Keenum
- 12 Mary Grabow
- Sarah Luse

- 14 Heather Rosenfeld
- 15 Tom Davis
- 16 Robin 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
- 30 James Hall

Anniversaries

- 2 Dave & Judy Nusbaum
- 3 Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga
- 4 Cook & Kelly Murch
- 5 Jay & Cassie Kouba
- 14 Bud & Joanne Leuthold (60th)
- 20 John & Debbie Oliver
- 21 Joe & Judy Gerbase
- 24 Craig & Denise Hash
- Jase & Karen Norsworthy
- 25 George & Heather Rosenfeld



Mission News

The mission committee had the honor of listening to Charles and Melissa Johnson, PCU-SA missionaries in Zambia. Charles teaches agriculture classes to help the people use the land better to feed their families and have something to sell. Melissa serves in the health department as a health education programs facilitator. They ask for prayers for the work they do serving the people of Zambia. Our noisy offering in October will go to this important ministry.



We continue to help Eagle Rock Sanctuary with an annual gift of \$2,500 and we continue our financial support for Friendship House with a gift of \$3,000. Peace Lutheran Church serves the community with their food pantry program. We are donating \$750 to help them help these needs.

We will be helping with the building of another Habitat for Humanity house this fall. We are donating \$2,000 toward the building of a house along with 11 other churches. We will be having a pancake breakfast in September/October to kick off the building project

We thank you for your support so that we as a church can better help God's children.

Special thanks to our Family Promise volunteers

Thanks to all who helped with our Family Promise week from August 13-19. Four homeless families stayed at our church that week through the local Family Promise chapter. Thanks to those who helped with set-up, providing meals, overnight hosting, and clean-up. Family Promise comes to our church 3-4 times a year on a rotation basis and we will host them once again at Christmas time. Chris Eriksen and Marv & Janet Brown serve as our church's Family Promise coordinators. Our next rotation of Family Promise will be December 24-30.

Young Adult Mission Trip Appreciation

"Dear Pastor Dave and FPC Billings,

On behalf of the whole congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Taos, New Mexico, I want to let you know how incredibly grateful for the work accomplished by the energetic and hard working college/young adult group who spent a week with us earlier this month. They recoated 12,000 square feet of roof, painted the hallway in our back building, and removed and replaced all of the pews so that our sanctuary carpet could be professionally cleaned. They saved us over \$6,200 in contract labor.

Along with their good work, we so enjoyed having them with us. Their joy and humor were contagious, their insights on what makes healthy youth ministry was thoughtful and valuable, and their tastes in roof-painting music were fabulous. We are so very thankful for our time with them and all they did for us. We hope that our churches can establish a mutual long-term relationship. Please give our sincere love and thanks to Jody Ferestad, Lee Webber, Dani Repka, Hunter Skov, Tamara Lucht, Leah Wright, Ruth Letson, and Samantha Cormier.

In the Faith We Share,
The Rev. Ginna Bairby, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Taos, New Mexico