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2018

"A Time to Celebrate"

The month of May provides many opportunities to celebrate. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and graduations are just a few of the common May occurrences that offer us a time to celebrate a special occasion.

Celebrations lie at the heart of the Christian faith. 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. King David danced before the Lord and played his harp in appreciation to God. 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. We will be celebrating Mother's Day with special flowers and gift cards for the ladies. We will welcome new members into the life of the church and will baptize five children on Sunday, May 13. On that same Sunday we will help celebrate Bill Dimich's birthday with a cake and band in the fellowship hall. We will recognize our graduating seniors with a cake following worship on Sunday, May 20. We will recognize our veterans on Sunday, May 27.

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 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 gift of Jesus Christ!

In Christ,
Dave



MEMORY JOGGERS FOR MAY

May 6th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Carla Bracken
Greeters
Bruce & Bernice Phillips
Ushers
Carla Bracken
Teena Bracken
Peggy Wilson
Marjorie Stewart
Liturgist
Bob Culbertson
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate

Communion

Doris Backus
Heather Rosenfeld
JoAnn Jones
Marvin & Janet Brown

The 13th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Kurt & Cathy Grabow
Ushers
Jerry Koch
Bill White
Bob Fedric
John Reed
Liturgist
Kristy Catlin
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Jack & Karla Mahan

The 20th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Sandi Schoenberger
Greeters
Linda Broderson
Sandi Schoenberg
Ushers
Paige Spalding
Jim Hummel
Jack & Karla Mahan
Liturgist
Shirley Shirley
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga
Flower Delivery
Chuck & Cindy Leggate

The 27th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
George & Heather Rosenfeld
Ushers
Marlene Spencer
Sharon Brady
Marian Shehein
Betty Ann Nesmith
Liturgist
Tonya Appelt
Sound Booth
Bob Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Sharon Lincoln

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Church Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 12 from 9-11:30 AM
Mother's Day celebration with flowers for the ladies and several gift cards to be given out!
Worship time change on Sunday, May 27 with worship at 9:30 AM
Vacation Bible School: June 4-8 from 9-12:15 every day
Family Promise returns to our church June 10-17
Trip to the Holy Land from June 11-22

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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 @ 10:30 AM

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 2019

Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

Class of 2020

David Bauer
Carla Bracken
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger

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 6. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

The session met on Tuesday, April 10 for its regular stated meeting. The property committee reported that the “Monday Morning Crew” has completed several projects recently. The new coffee maker has been installed and is working well. For its last meeting the mission committee journeyed to the Tumbleweed facility downtown and were very impressed by the operation. As a result they are making a sizeable donation. Pastor Dave is beginning a new series of sermons on Acts. Along with Heidi Duncan he is conducting a Sunday class on dreams, and looking towards a new members’ class starting on April 29. Chris Eriksen was elected to be our representative at the next Presbytery meeting at Harlowton on May 4th and 5th. Pastor Dave will also attend the meeting.

Financial snapshot

2018	Income	Expense	Net
April	\$ 37,226	\$ 42,590	\$ (5,364)
YTD	\$1,027,887	\$162,350	\$865,537

Per-capita for 2018 is \$52 per member. We invite each member to pay their own per capita as a way to contribute to the ministry and mission of our church. Per-capita goes to support the work of our presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

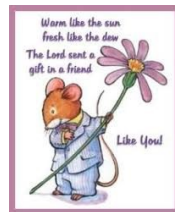
Sermons available on-line

You can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillings.org? Just click the “Listen to Sermons” tab on the upper right front of our church’s homepage. The past 12 weeks are archived on our church’s website.

APRIL	2018
1ST (EASTER)	372
8TH	217
15TH	240
22ND	212
29TH	203
2018 APRIL AVERAGE	249

Church Mice:

We are fortunate to have great music at our church - thanks to Sandi Rabas, organist/accompanist; Janie Sutton, choir director; and our excellent choir. Let’s all make an effort to be respectful during the prelude and give everyone an opportunity to hear their beautiful muse. We would appreciate you to enter the sanctuary in a respectful manner and prepare for worship while the prelude is being played. There is ample time for other fellowship and visiting opportunities.



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 April. They are Diane Noddings in memory of her mother’s birthday; Karla & Jack Mahan in memory of Karla’s mother, Cheryl Weamer; Suzanne Braun in honor of Sarah Repka’s 95th Birthday, Peggy Wilson in honor of faith, family, and friends; and the Presbyterian Women’s organization 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.



Found Wedding Ring

A men’s silver wedding band was found in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that was collected amid all of the coins. We assume that the ring was not intended to be included in the offering. Jeanne has it in safe keeping in the church office and we hope to return it to its rightful owner. See Pastor Dave for further information.

Bus service continues on Sunday mornings

Our church offers free bus transportation on Sunday mornings to and from worship with pick ups at St. John’s/ Mission Ridge (9:40 AM) and West Park Village (10:00 AM). To get on the bus schedule please contact David Sanderson (591-4250) who serves as our bus driver. We are happy to provide this bus service weekly to anyone in the church or community. The bus schedule will change on May 27 when we go to our summer worship schedule.

Singles group to meet on Saturday, May 19

Our church’s singles group will be meeting on Saturday, May 19 at 10 AM at a location to be determined. Our singles group meets monthly for various activities. For more information about this group, please contact either Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown. Watch the Sunday bulletins and weekly E-News for more info.

Israel trip departs June 11

Our church trip to the Holy Land from June 11-22 is drawing near. Our group size is 44, including singles, couples, adults, and youth. Sights of interest will include Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Jericho. Our final trip meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Anyone is invited to join us for these group meetings, even if you don’t plan to travel with us. A commissioning service for our travelers will be held during worship on Sunday, June 10.

Montana Women’s Run coming May 12

Our church will be having a team participate in the run on Saturday, May 12. The race begins downtown at 9 AM. There is a 2 mile and 5 mile option to either walk or run. You can register on-line at www.womensrun.org. Register as team First Presbyterian Church, code 1234, and then click employee. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. For more information, please contact Carlene Taubert for questions at 406-698-2205. Let’s have some fun together!



Worship time change

Our summer worship time change begins on Sunday, May 27 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 9. Sermons are available on our church’s website at www.fpcbillings.org for those who would like to stay connected even when you away or on vacation during the summer months.



Support groups continue to meet monthly

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

2. Our RLI Group deals with “Real Life Issues” and meets the second 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.

Both groups are open to anyone in the church and community and maintain a high level of confidentiality. Both of these groups meet in our new conference room.

For questions about any of these support groups, please talk with Dr. Don Harr or Pastor Dave. Dr. Harr is a retired psychiatrist with a lot of years of experience in helping people cope and grow through their loss. We are especially grateful for Dr. Harr and giving of his time and expertise to these groups and helping people cope with many issues.



On a Personal Note



We extend our condolences to the family of Chris Repka. Her father, Ray Leone, passed away on April 15 and his funeral was held at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.

A memorial service for Cheryl Weamer, Karla Mahan’s mother, will be held at our church on Monday, May 14 at 2:00 PM. You are invited to join us. A reception will follow in the church’s fellowship hall.

A memorial service for Marge Pemble will be held on Saturday, July 7 at 11:00 AM at our church. Marge passed away last fall in St. George, Utah and was a long time member of our congregation.

Birthday Celebration: Join us after worship on Sunday, May 13 as Bill Dimich’s family will be providing a cake in honor of Bill’s 87th birthday. The Peach Pickers Band from Molt will also be playing. Join us!

Bob Thiesen has returned home follow heart valve replacement surgery on April 18.

Bebe Spring is recovering from back surgery she had on April 26.

Ginny Helmer was hospitalized last month with several health issues. She is now recovering at Bella Terra (formerly Valley) Health and Rehabilitation and hopes to return to West Park Village soon.

Bev Pinnick has returned home from the emergency room after dealing with some acute health issues recently. Prayers are appreciated for Jason Pattee, son of Mark and Teri, who is serving in the military near Syria.

Dorothy Leeds has returned home after being hospitalized last month.

Memorial Day– Join Pastor Dave at Yellowstone Valley Memorial Cemetery, located at 3605 Grand Avenue, on Monday, May 28 at 11:00 AM for a special Memorial Day remembrance. He will offer several prayers, scripture readings, and a reflection. Military honors will also be present.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 12 Property Committee Meeting	2 9-1 Preschool 9-11 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support	3 9-11 BSF 1 Mission Committee Meeting 7 Christian Ed Meeting	4 9-1 Preschool 12noon Presbytery begins in Harlowton 7:30 RMC Baccalaureate	5 10 Gluten Intolerant Group Presbytery Mtg cont.
6 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun School 9:15 New Members' Class 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park	7 9-1 Preschool	8 10 Area Clergy Gathering 12:30 Presbytery Committee Mtg 7 Session Meeting in the Fireside Rm	9 9 BSF Leader 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	10 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Last One till September	11 9-1 Preschool	12 8 Montana Women's Run 9-11:30 Church Clean Up Day
13 Mother's Day 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Introduction of New Members Party for Bill Dimich 11:00 West Park	14 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Comm 12 Men's Group 2 Cheryl Weamer's Memorial Service	15 10 Grief Support 6 Israel Trip Meeting in the Fireside Room .	16 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet last one till fall 12noon BLT 6 VBS Planning and decorating	17 12 Congregational Care Team	18 9-1 Preschool 5 Wedding Rehearsal	19 10 Singles group 2 David Culbertson & Madison Evans Wedding
20 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Graduation celebration after worship 11:00 West Park	21 9 Preschool 11:30 Stephen's Min Leaders Mtg 4 Deacons Meeting in Fireside Rm	22 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision in Fireside Room	23 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 VBS Planning and decorating	24 11 Fellowship Committee meets in the Fireside Room Newsletter Deadline	25 9-1 Preschool	26
27 (Summer Worship Time Begins) 9:30 Worship 11 West Park 6-8 Open house at Thompsons (2212 St. Andrews Dr.)	28 Church Office Closed 	29	30 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 VBS Planning and decorating	31		

Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women’s organization is an active group in our church offering a variety of opportunities for women to draw closer to God. They provide monthly Bible studies, occasional luncheons, and special events throughout the year. The PW group also sponsors our sanctuary flowers four times a year. For questions about PW, please talk with Marlene Spencer.

Our church’s PW Board will be meeting on Wednesday, May 9 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will be meeting on Wednesday, May 16. 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 continue

Sunday school for all ages continues each Sunday for children, youth, and adults. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!



Classes for Kids:
Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi.

Sunday school for children grades K-5 is held during our worship service continues for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Adult Education Classes:
Dreams Class: Ever wonder why you dream or what your dreams mean? Join Pastor Dave and Dr. Heidi Duncan for this seven week class on this fascinating subject. This class continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room through Sunday, May 20. All are invited to join us.

New members’ class will continue through Sunday, May 6 at 9:15 AM in the Conference 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. New members will be introduced during worship on Sunday, May 13.

Church and Society Class has taken a break until the fall. Special thanks to Shari Dayton for once again organizing the guest speakers each week in this class.

Clean-Up Day coming on Saturday, May 12

Join us on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00-11:30 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 the entire time, come and join us and let’s take care of the house of the Lord.

Hats Off to our Graduates

Congratulations to the class of 2018. Our graduating seniors are:
Skyview High School: John Thompson, Kenzie Ketchum, and Chase Comes at Night
West High School: Hunter Spring and Bryen Martinez
College: Beaux LaFontaine from Arizona State University



We will be recognizing all of our graduating seniors, both high school and college, on Sunday, May 20 during worship and with cake following worship. Please let Pastor Dave know if there are other graduates who are not mentioned on this list who we should recognize.

Youth News:

Youth group at our church will continue on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM through May 9. We gather each week for a full meal, games, worship, and learning. Special thanks to all who provided meals for our youth group in the month of April. They included Heidi Duncan, Colleen & Bill Lorentz, Kelly & Cook Murch, Michelle Lee, and Russ Kline.

Our annual vacation Bible school program will be held from June 4-8 from 9-12:15 each day. We will also be taking a mini mission trip to the First Presbyterian Church in Stanford, Montana, from July 16-18 where we will be taking our VBS program on the road. This trip will include some fun in Great Falls at the water park and a church picnic with the Stanford congregation.

Summer camping opportunities at Westminster Spires (just south of Red Lodge) are abundant in July. Elementary camp will run from July 8-13; Middle school camp will be held July 15-20; and senior high camp will be July 22-27. We invite kids of all ages to attend camp as it provides a wonderful week of fun and learning. Camp scholarships are available if needed. Camp information can be found at the church or on the presbytery's website at www.yellowstone.pcusa.org.

Thanks again to the many volunteers who help with our youth programs!



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 Deuteronomy which addresses the history of Moses and the people of God. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 14 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in May

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, May 1 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, May 3 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 PM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 9 at 9:30AM
Worship Committee	Monday, May 14 at 10:00 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, May 17 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, May 21 at 4:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, June 28 at 11:00 PM

Mission News

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

The Mission Committee met at Tumbleweed last month got a tour and also had the opportunity to ask questions. Tumbleweed serves at risk youth from 13 years through 20 years of age. They now have an evening "Drop in Center" and counselors available. The teens may sleep overnight, if they don't have a place to stay. The kids may also attend life skill classes after school. Our group was impressed by their various programs.



Many times the Tumbleweed youth are "the brokenhearted" and "those who are crushed in spirit" that the Psalmist talks about. The Lord is close to them and so many others of us. He uses us, His children to take care of them. The Mission Committee voted to donate \$4,000 to Tumbleweed. Finances are only part of the ways that we can help. We also take hygiene products to the kids so that they can feel and smell clean. We give them gifts through the Angel Tree at Christmas and we are looking at other ways we can help such as supplying meals from time to time. If you want to help, talk to Pastor Dave, or Ken Eichenberger.

Biff Hogue has introduced us to her sister-in-law, Esther Wakeman, who is a missionary of the Presbyterian World Mission in Thailand. For over two decades she has been teaching, mentoring and counseling at Payap University. We will send Esther \$2,500 to help in her ministry and look forward to learning more about her ministry and ways we can help and get to know her.

Once there is a final tally of the church members' donation to "One Great Hour of Sharing" the committee will match their contribution up to \$2,500.

The summer is always a busy time at Friendship House and to support their kids we will send the organization a check for \$5,000.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you." —Psalm 66:3

Birthdays

- 2 Cindy Hessler
Royal Johnson
- 6 Cathy Culbertson
Marty Wallace
- 7 Linda Fedric
Alicia Nelson
- 8 Karen Finstad
- 9 Heidi Duncan
- 10 Kenton Collins
- 11 Don Goettel
Karla Mahan
- 12 Bill Dimich
- 13 Lois Munger
- 18 Vickie Johnson
Ken Eichenberger

- 19 Jeff Gruizenga
 - 20 Matt Lorentz
 - 23 Meiriona Anacker
 - 24 Dave Marshall
 - 25 Amanda Webber
 - 26 Tamara Lucht
 - 28 John Wright
 - 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
- 29 Richard & Martha Davidson
- 30 Bob & Linda Fedric
Jerry & Linda Broderson



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.

Church Security and Safety

A car was stolen on Sunday, April 22 from a family during our morning worship service. Keys were found on top of one of the coat racks and the car was taken and recovered several days later. Please take the following precautions: 1. Keep all valuables (purses, keys, wallets, cell phones, etc.) with you at all times. 2. Lock the doors of your vehicle, even if just running into the church for a few minutes. 3. Be vigilant and if you suspect suspicious activity please let Pastor Dave or one of the ushers know. Let's work together to make FPC a safe place.

RMC Baccalaureate held here on Friday, May 4

Our church will once again host Rocky Mountain College's baccalaureate service on Friday, May 4 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.



Graduation Open House

Pastor Dave & Vicki Thompson would like to invite you to an open house in celebration of John's high school graduation. Join us on Sunday, May 27 for an open house from 6-8 PM at our home at 2212 Saint Andrews Drive in the Heights. Dinner and refreshments will be served. We hope you will join us for this special celebration as a way to express our appreciation you have shown our family and helped to nurture John through the years.

Snow Melt Prediction Winner

Many entered our Snow Melt Prediction Contest with the winner being Edna Carlson. She correctly picked the date of Saturday, April 28 when all of the snow melted from the church's property. She won \$106.10, which was the record setting amount of snow in inches Billings received this winter. The dates ranged from April 10 to July 4, and one even predicted the snow would melt "when Christ returned." This was a fun way to bring to an end to a long winter. Other finalists were Chris Eriksen, Charleene Hayes, and Lois Dalton.