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2018



## PASTOR'S PEN

Wow...it has been a full and busy summer! Normally at this time of year I am gearing up for a busy fall season, but it seems that the summer has come and gone amid a flurry of activities. Vacation Bible School kicked off our summer with a full week of activities with nearly 100 kids attending. Thanks to all who helped make our VBS week another great success. Special thanks to Jody Ferestad for once again leading the VBS campaign!

Our trip to Israel came on the heels of VBS where a group of 44 from our church and community experienced an unforgettable trip to the Holy Land. It was a special trip with so much to see and take in. In many ways it was a life changing trip for all of us who were able to go. I will be leading a "Holy Land Highlights" class beginning on Sunday, September 16 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room that will share of our experiences to this special place.

Two trips with our youth group also were highlights of the summer. Our first trip was to Stanford, Montana, where we took our VBS program on the road to the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Jack Bell appreciated our group that led VBS for kids in their community. Our high school youth spent a week in San Diego on their summer mission trip working with a number of inner-city agencies. This group worked extremely hard at the San Diego Rescue Mission, Feeding San Diego food distribution site, city parks, and with the Presbyterian Urban Ministry organization.

The summer came to an end with our annual block party that was once again a success. Lots of people enjoyed free food, music, games, and more during an evening in which we can be good neighbors to those in our area. I want our church to be recognized more than just a building, but as a group of people who care about those in our midst.

Add a family vacation to Denver, time on the lake, a few weddings and funerals, our summer church picnic at Kaleva, and our Tippet Rise tour...yes, it was a busy summer in a number of ways.

Now we turn our focus to the fall and a myriad of activities that will resume. We provide these activities for one purpose: to help people draw into a closer and deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Join a Bible study group, take part in our Sunday school classes, become active in our youth ministry programs, join the choir, or serve on a committee to deepen your commitment to the Lord.

As your pastor, I cannot do it alone. I rely upon many of you to help further the ministry and in doing so being God's hands and feet in our community and beyond. I look forward to all that God has in store for us and the surprising ways God will continue to use this church and us for God's purpose.

—Pastor Dave



## MEMORY JOGGERS FOR SEPTEMBER

### The 2nd

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Greeters**  
Bob & Linda Fedric  
**Ushers**  
Ed & Edna Stauber  
Earl & Sharon  
Henderson  
**Liturgist**  
Rhonda Stennerson  
**Sound Booth**  
John Thompson

**Communion**  
Jo Albin  
Gary & Judy  
Lohnbakken  
Sharon Brady  
Marlene Spencer

### The 9th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Greeters**  
Bud & Joanne  
Leuthold  
**Ushers**  
Jerry Koch  
Bill White  
Bob Fedric  
John Reed  
**Liturgist**  
Martha Davidson  
**Sound Booth**  
Chuck Leggate  
**Flower Delivery**  
Jack & Karla Mahan

### The 16th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Greeters**  
Bob & Cathy  
Culbertson  
**Ushers**  
Marlene Spencer  
Sharon Brady  
Marian Shehein  
Betty Ann Nesmith  
**Liturgist**  
Janet Kline  
**Sound Booth**  
Jeff Gruizenga  
**Flower Delivery**  
Chris Eriksen

### The 23rd

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Greeters**  
Dottie Hilger  
Sharon Mathews  
**Ushers**  
Chris Eriksen  
Edna Carlson  
Carla Bracken  
Teena Bracken  
**Liturgist**  
David Sanderson  
**Sound Booth**  
Robert Culbertson  
**Flower Delivery**  
Chuck & Cindy  
Leggate

### The 30th

**Preaching**  
Dave Thompson  
**Greeters**  
Ed & Edna Stauber  
**Ushers**  
Paige Spalding  
Jim Hummel  
Gary & Judy  
Lohnbakken  
**Liturgist**  
Bill Lorentz  
**Flower Delivery**  
Sharon Lincoln

## COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Better Together Preschool program resumes on Wednesday, September 5  
Fall worship schedule returns to 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 9  
Ministry Fair coming on Sunday, September 9 at 9:15 AM. Free food and prizes!  
Youth group resumes on Wednesday, September 12 from 6-8 PM  
Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) resumes on Thursday, September 13 at 9:00 AM  
Sunday school for all ages begins on Sunday, September 16 at 9:15 AM

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SESSION NOTES/ FINANCE/CHURCH	2
SUNDAY SCHOOL/ PW/CHURCH AND SOCIETY CLASS	3
YOUTH NEWS/ EVENTS/ NOTICES	4
BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES/ MISSION NEWS	5
PERSONAL NOTES/ CALENDAR	6
CHURCH LEADER- SHIP TEAM/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	7
MEMORY JOGGERS	8

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 9 at 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, September 2. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

**Session Notes:** During the regular meeting of the session on August 14, the property committee reported that the parking lot has been restriped and new signs erected. Additional parking is now available. Crews are working to install a new heating system and air conditioning in fellowship hall. The committee was granted permission to purchase stoves and ovens for the kitchen and to complete the required remodeling adjustments and to install all items as soon as possible.

Approval was given for Pastor Dave to baptize Kate McNaney, daughter of Brian and Laini McNaney on August 25, 2018 at a family ceremony at our church. It was also voted to allow the baptism of Valarie Braun, daughter of Eric and Natalie Braun during worship on Sunday November 11, 2018.

Financial snapshot

2018	Income	Expense	Net
August	\$ 39,774	\$ 30,580	\$ 9,194
YTD	\$1,166,557	\$ 285,612	\$880,945

The increased year to date income is due to a very generous donation from the estate of Quenten and Lois Dyce.

AUGUST	2018
5TH	145
12TH	156
19TH	158
26TH	155
AUG AVE	154

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:** Family Promise makes a valuable contribution to the Billings Community. Along with thirteen other churches, First Presbyterian participates in this program which helps families in transition. It is a huge endeavor and requires the efforts of many people to make it functional. Our church is fortunate to have St. Stephens and St. Thomas churches work with us approximately 3 times a year when it is our turn. However, we need help and participation by our congregation as a whole rather than just a few people to keep it going.



Please give your support and help to this program by volunteering to cook meals, stay overnight or set up and clean up as seldom as once or twice a year. Contact Marv & Janet Brown, Chris Eriksen, or Pastor Dave to offer your services. We wish to thank the current volunteers who work overtime to keep this program running at our church.

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 summer months. They are Deb and Greg Wiens and Janet & Russ Kline in memory of their parents, the Rev. Norman and Iris Austin; Jeff, Tonya, and Morgan Appelt in celebration of Morgan’s 7th birthday and Father’s Day; Carol Annin and her sisters in celebration of Tom & Ruth Drummond's 64th wedding anniversary; Lewis & Sandi Schoenberger in celebration of July birthdays; our church’s Presbyterian Women’s organization; Chuck & Cindy Leggate in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary; Pat Clark in memory of Ted, and Marge Myhra in memory of Don.

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 11

Ladies are invited to the woman’s Bible study in the Fireside Room every Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM, beginning on Tuesday, September 11. 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. They will begin the year with an eight week study on the Beatitudes from the New Testament book of Matthew. Questions about this group can be addressed to Mary Lou at 252-1315.

Ministry Fair coming on Sunday, September 9

Join us on Sunday, September 9 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.

Stephen Ministry Update

We are excited to announce a new training session for Stephen Ministers which will begin on Thursday, October 4 from 6-8:30 PM at our church. We have a lot of interest in people wanting to take this class and become a Stephen Minister. Upon completion of the class, each of our church’s Stephen Ministers will be assigned a care receiver with whom they provide one-on-one skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Please let Pastor Dave know if you are interested in this special opportunity.

Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 12noon 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.

Our Church’s Leadership Team

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

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)

Class of 2021

Janet Brown  
Jim Hummel  
Bud Leuthold  
Sandi Schoenberger (2)

Deacons:

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)

Class of 2021

Jo Ausk  
Sharon Brady  
Charlie Pinnick (2)  
Jean Schneider

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

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.





On a Personal Note



Congratulations to Jody Ferestad and Kevin Anderson who were married in a small family ceremony on August 9 at our church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of June Pierce who died on July 4. Her funeral was held at our church on July 10.

We share our condolences with the family of Lois Maris who died on July 7. A memorial service was held in our church on August 8.

We share our condolences with Juanita Stovall and her family. Juanita's son Tyler passed away unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack and his service was held in our church on Sunday, July 15.

Jack Mahan is recovering from a broken leg he suffered after being hit by a car while riding his bike.

Marian Shehein has moved to Colorado to be closer to her daughter. We wish Marian well in her new community.

Juanita Stovall has returned home after being hospitalized last month with some heart and lung issues.

Nina LaSeur has returned home after falling last month and breaking her hip.

We wish God's blessings upon Pam Gore who moved to be closer to her daughter and their family in Tennessee. Her new address is: Viera Cool Springs; 300 North Royal Oaks Blvd Apt 301, Franklin TN 37067.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Food Bank Sunday 9:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship	3 Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	4 12noon Property Committee Meeting	5 Presch begins 9 BSF Workshop 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	6 1 Mission Committee meets 7 CE Committee	7 9-1 Preschool	8 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIg)
9 Worship Time Change 9:15 Ministry Fair 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	10 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study resumes 10 Presby Leaders 7 Session meeting	12 9:30 PW Brd 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	13 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Resumes	14 9-1 Preschool 6 Presbytery Preaching Workshop	15 10-2 Presbytery Boundary Training in C & S Room
16 9:15 Sunday School begins 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	17 9-1 Preschool	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support 12 West Park Ministry Team Lunch	19 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	20 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team Meets	21 9-1 Preschool Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship	24 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacons meeting in the Fireside Room	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Stephen Ministry Supervision meets in the Fireside Room	26 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	27 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee	28 9-1 Preschool	29
30 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Wor						

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 19 and the PW board will meet on Wednesday, September 12 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

The PW Circles will kick off the new year on September 19<sup>th</sup> with a potluck at the Church at 11:30 AM. This meeting will combine our Thank Offering luncheon and the first Circle meeting. Biff will give a report about the PW Gathering where she was scheduled to attend a class about our study this year. She may be able to give an abbreviated version the first lesson. After the lesson, each Circle will meet to conduct any business they may have. Miriam and Elizabeth Circles are responsible for the devotions, program, etc. However, all we need to do for sure is to receive the Thank Offering.

Sunday school classes start on September 16

Sunday school for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 16 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 16 after the children's sermon. Our student interns will lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Classes for Adults:

"Holy Land Highlights" will begin on Sunday, September 16 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and will share highlights from our church's recent trip to the Holy Land. Join Pastor Dave and others as we share of our experiences and bring the Bible to life. This is a great class to better acquaint you with Israel or to relive the experience that many from the church enjoyed in June. This class will continue on Sundays through October 14.

Church and Society Class

SEPTEMBER16

Dr. Jay Cassel, Retired Professor of Religious Studies, Rocky Mountain College. Despite what biblical literalists want to believe, evolution by natural selection is the single organizing principle for all of modern biology and we cannot deny it. It has, however, significant theological implications we ought to think through. Historically, what did "natural selection" mean to belief when Darwin and Wallace came up with the idea? What larger movements of thought was this idea part of? And for us in the 21st century, what does evolution mean for our ideas of God and humanity and God's relation to humans and the world? Can we forge a theology of creation that takes account of "natural" selection?

SEPTEMBER 23

Dr. Jay Cassel, retired professor at Rocky Mountain College, will be back to continue his presentation from the previous week.

SEPTEMBER 30

Dr. Lottie Eaton, MD, "Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors." Join Dr. Eaton to learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease. She will also be sharing updated information on the latest drug research. The 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's will be at Zoo Montana on October 7th. Contact Teri Pattee to join our team at First Presbyterian.

Youth News:

Our youth had a busy summer of activities that began with a full and fun week of Vacation Bible School. Many of our youth assisted as crew leaders, providing lots of help to the nearly 100 children which attended.

In July, a group of youth traveled to Stanford, Montana, with Pastor Dave to lead Vacation Bible School at the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Jack Bell greatly appreciated our group that has come to Stanford the past three years.

Our high school youth enjoyed a week in San Diego on their mission trip working with a number of inner city agencies among the poor and homeless. The group of 16 worked very hard and encountered much in this week. They also enjoyed some time at the Pacific Ocean and Sea World.

Youth group will resume on Wednesday, September 12 from 6-8 PM for all middle and high school students. Each night will include a meal, games, music/worship, and Bible sharing time. Meals are once again needed each Wednesday evening. Please talk with Sara Thompson, our new meal coordinator, if you would like to help provide a meal for a Wednesday evening.

Thanks to all who help support our youth activities. We have an active group and appreciate the opportunities we have to share God's love with our children and youth.



Fall worship schedule changes on Sunday, September 9



Our fall worship schedule will change on Sunday, September 9 with worship at 10:30 AM. Our annual Ministry Fair will also be held on Sunday, September 9 at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 16 at 9:15 AM.

Better Together Preschool will begin September 5

Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool and they will resume classes on Wednesday, September 5. 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 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 Old Testament book of Deuteronomy which addresses Moses and the Israelites' journey to the Promise Land. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 10 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, September 4 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, September 6 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, September 10 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, September 12 at 9:30am
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, September 20 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, September 24 at 4:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, September 27 at 11:00 AM

Block Party Appreciation!!



Over 200 people attended this year's block party on Wednesday, August 22— another successful Block Party! 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 Community Block Party a Huge Success!!! Special thanks to Bill Dimich and Pepsi for donating the pop, water, and ice and to John Thompson for providing the music. —Sandi Schoenberger, Chair of the Fellowship Committee



Birthdays

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mara Duncan        | 16 Robyn Bauer     |
| 3 Jo Ausk            | 18 Kallie Nagel    |
| 4 Carla Bracken      | Lila Spring        |
| 5 Zach Morrow        | 19 Diane Noddings  |
| 6 Cathie Bell        | 20 Ruth Drummond   |
| Kathy Butler         | 21 Mary Ann Canan  |
| Jack Mahan           | 22 Greg Wiens      |
| Sara Thompson        | Jane Brewington    |
| 7 Robert Anacker     | 23 John Stewart    |
| 8 Jacob Schoenberger | 29 Howard Klovstad |
| Andrew Letson        | 30 Helen Hall      |
| 9 Elise Keenum       | Margie LaFountain  |
| 12 Mary Grabow       |                    |
| Sarah Luse           |                    |
| 14 Heather Rosenfeld |                    |

Anniversaries

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 3 Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga      |
| David & Robyn Bauer           |
| Ken & Barbara Eichenberger    |
| 4 Cook & Kelly Murch          |
| 5 Jay & Cassie Kouba          |
| 14 John & Joanne Leuthold     |
| 19 Skip & Charlene Hayes      |
| 20 John & Debbie Oliver       |
| 21 Joe & Judy Gerbase         |
| 24 Craig & Denise Hash        |
| Jase & Karen Norsworthy       |
| 25 George & Heather Rosenfeld |

Mission News



Peace Lutheran Church has an excellent food pantry program. We are continuing to help them with a quarterly donation of \$750.

We are also sponsoring our church team for the Alzheimer's walk with a donation of \$1,500. The walk will be at Zoo Montana on October 7 from 1:00 to 4:00.

We also continue to support Gateway House. Betty Ann will see what they need at this time and has been authorized to spend \$500 for their needs.

At our September meeting we will meet at Young Families, Early Head Start to learn more about their program and tour their building. If anyone from the church wants to join us, please be at the church at 12:30. We will travel together for the tour. If you want to meet us there, the address is 1020 Cook Ave.

In the fall we plan to have the "Pay It Forward" program again. We look forward to hearing how you make your \$10.00 seed money grow for the glory of the Lord.

At Christmas time, we will again have the Angel Tree up. There will be names to give gifts to some needy folks. In many cases, our gifts are the only ones they receive for Christmas.

Special thanks to our Family Promise volunteers

Thanks to all who helped with our Family Promise week from August 12-18. 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 November 18-24, 2018.

MSU-B 2018 Annual Dinner and Fundraiser "Gathering at a Common Stream."

Our Annual Dinner in support of United Campus Ministry's work at MSUB will be held Tuesday, October 2. The event will take place in the Great Room at City College (3803 Central Ave) starting at 5:30 p.m.

Over dinner we'll share stories about UCM from students and Rev. Welch. A silent and live auction will be held. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by sending a check to UCM at MSUB at 1500 University Drive; Billings MT 59101. Churches can purchase a table of 6 for \$400 and will receive special recognition.

The Rev. Marc Stewart, Conference Minister of the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ, is our keynote speaker. He will share his experiences in crossing the religious and social divides of our time with his talk "Gathering at a Common Stream."

