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NOVEMBER
2018



PASTOR'S PEN

"An Opportunity to Give"



It's that time of year again when we seek your help and assistance in making a financial commitment to our church's ministry. We often view this period of stewardship campaigning as merely of giving money to the church. Most of us approach stewardship campaigns with groans and sighs as we know that it is our obligation to give. In some ways I tend to feel like a salesman during this period, trying to "sell" our ministry and having you "buy" into our product. In the end, this process often leaves me feeling a bit uncomfortable and uneasy.

Instead of thinking of stewardship as some form of obligation, I would like to think of it as an opportunity. Instead of approaching our giving as something we do out of compulsion, I want us to think of it as a way of showing our appreciation to God and others. The Apostle Paul reminds in his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). When we view our stewardship as a way of using God's resources and that our resources were entrusted to us by God, we begin to have a better understanding how God can use us to make a difference in our community and world.

Leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 18, you have been hearing and will continue to hear more about this approach to giving. We have been placed on the earth, by the very breath of God, to make a difference in the lives of others. Through the ministry we carry out, we provide compassion, care, counsel, and education to a number of people within our church and far beyond our physical property. We are making a difference through the work of Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, Presbyterian missions, and others.

Within the coming week, you should receive a pledge card in the mail inviting you to share in the ministry of our church. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will use your time, talents, and treasures to respond to God's call upon your life. We provide a number of ways for you to express your faith and I would love to help you explore avenues in which God is calling you to share your gifts. When we respond through giving for the glory of God, we certainly do make a difference in the lives of others and our lives as well! I look forward to worshipping with you on the next Lord's Day!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Daylight savings time ends on November 4– turn clocks back an hour
Presbytery meeting in Bozeman on November 2-3
New members' class begins on Sunday November 4 at 9:15 AM
Global Village items for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 11
Free senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 PM
Community Thanksgiving worship at St. Stephen's on Sunday, November 18 at 3:00 PM
Christmas decorating coming on Saturday, December 1 at 4:00 PM
RMC Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 2 at 3 PM and 7 PM

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MEMORY JOGGERS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

The 4th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Phyllis Brown
Ron Sperry
Ushers
Ken & Barbara
Eichenberger
Greg & Deb Wiens
Liturgist
Sara Thompson
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion
Jo Albin
Doris Backus
Bill & Colleen
Lorentz
Sharon Matthews

The 11th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Carl & Vicki Johnson
Ushers
Cindy Leggate
Jo Albin
Sandi Schoenberger
Marjorie Stewart
Liturgist
Coryn Martinez
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Jack & Karla Mahan

The 18th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
George & Heather
Rosenfeld
Ushers
Jerry Koch
Bob White
Bob Fedric
John Reed
Liturgist
Dick Bailey
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga
Flower Delivery
Chuck & Cindy
Leggate

The 25th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Thelma Riggs
Dottie Hilger
Ushers
Marlene Spencer
Sharon Brady
Betty Ann Nesmith
Linda Luse
Liturgist
Biff Hogue
Sound Booth
Robert Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Sharon Lincoln

Dec 2nd

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Jim & Louise Graff
Ushers
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Bob & Cathy
Culbertson
Liturgist
Jenice Fugere
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion
Marv & Janet Brown
Jim Hummel &
Paige Spalding
Marlene Spencer

Church Info

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30 am— 4 PM
406-252-3434
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
www.fpcbillings.org
Worship @ 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 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, November 4. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes: Frank Witt from Merrill Lynch was a guest at the October 9th meeting of the session. He explained specifics of the endowment fund that is a gift from the estate of Lois and Quentin Dyce.

Ken Eichenberger, Mission committee chair, reported on the recent visit that the committee made to the Young Families facility. During the visit it was noted that the program is doing a fine job of supporting these young people. As a result the committee opted to support them financially and by sponsoring a diaper drive.

Chris Eriksen was elected as our elder commissioner for the Presbytery meeting in Bozeman on November 2-3, 2018. Pastor Dave will also be attending.

Financial snapshot

2018	Income	Expense	Net
October	\$ 32,249	\$ 32,857	\$ (608)
YTD	\$ 370,292	\$ 410,516	\$ (40,224)

Our expenses are up due to increased mission giving and as a result of some of the improvements we have made to our facilities. We appreciate your gifts to help make up this deficit.

OCTOBER	2018
7 TH	206
14 TH	246
21 ST	212
28 TH	186
OCT Avg	213

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that 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. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past twelve weeks are archived on our church’s website.

Church Mice:

Big things come in small packages is an adage the church mice have heard over and over. It rings true when we think about the many, many people in our congregation who do so much for others and aren’t recognized. This is particularly true of those who transport individuals who otherwise wouldn’t get to attend special gatherings.

We want to thank Jo Albin, Sue Bentley, Marv and Janet Brown, Pat Clark, Juli Dufresne, Ken and Barb Eichenberger, Don Harr, Pat Hastings, Margie LaFontaine and our super transporter/bus driver Dave Sanderson. They play an important role in making life easier for those needing transportation.



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 in October. They were Richard & Lynne Bailey in honor of their children, Kenton Collins and family in memory of his wife Violet, Gary & Jean Schneider in memory of June Pierce and Lois Maris, and George & Heather Rosenfeld in memory of their parents..

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 continues on Tuesdays

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

Senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 14

Our church’s annual Senior Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 PM in the church’s Fellowship Hall. All senior adults (60+ years of age) are invited to join us for this annual free dinner provided by the youth group from our church. This is a way for the youth to give back to the congregation and to express their appreciation for the support of so many from the church. Please sign up in the gallery or RSVP to the church office at 252-3434. Transportation is available by contacting Pastor Dave.

Stephen Ministry Update

A new training session for Stephen Ministers began on Thursday, October 4 with 12 people from our congregation who are currently taking the training. This is the largest group we have had in a training class in a number of years. 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 6 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.

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 term 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

Nina LaSeur has moved to West Park Village after rehabbing at Bella Terra Nursing Home. Jerry Broderson is recovering from outpatient surgery on his arm on October 24. We share our condolence with the family of Alta Dakolios. Her funeral was held in our church on October 18. We extend our sympathies to Marlene Spencer’s family upon the death of her grandson, Richie Spencer. His funeral was held in our church on October 13. Ken Eichenberger has begun chemotherapy after being diagnosed with cancer last month. Mary Carey has returned to The Vista at St. John’s after having pace maker surgery several weeks ago. Mary Grabow is happy to share that a recent MRI showed that she remains cancer free. Jerry & Lois Dalton wish to thank the congregation for the expressions of kindness and caring after Jerry was hospitalized in Canada while on vacation. They have returned to Billings. Special thanks to those who helped with the Legacy Luncheon following worship on Sunday, October 28. A note from the Suicide Prevention Board: “Greetings, We are most grateful to the FPC for the use of the parking lot and chairs for our Yellowstone Valley Out of the Darkness Walk. We also appreciate your team which participated in this annual suicide prevention event. Currently we have raised \$88,105 which funds education, research and advocacy. Donations are accepted through December. For more information on free trainings in suicide prevention, support after suicide loss and other support for people struggling with life-death situations, please contact Joan Nye at 406-321-0591. Sincerely, Fredericka Gilge, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.”



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		November 2018		1 Bible Study Fellowship 1 Mission Comm 7 CE Committee 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training	2 9-1 Preschool Presbytery meeting in Bozeman	3 10 Gluten Intolerance Group Presbytery meeting in Bozeman
4 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship	5 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 6 BCCA 6 Nominating Mtg 7 RMC Event	6 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 6 Young Lives to use Coffee Room	7 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	8 9 Bible Study Fellowship 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training	9 9-1 Preschool	10 10 Yellowstone Calligraphy Group Bistro room
11 Global Village 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	12 9-1 Preschool 12 Men’s Bible Study Group	13 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 7 Session meeting	14 9-1 Preschool PW Circles 10 RLI Group 6 Senior Dinner 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	15 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team Meets 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training	16 9-1 Preschool	17 10 Singles Group to meet at Western Emporium
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Stewardship Sunday 11:00 West Park	19 9-11 BSF Leaders No Preschool	20 9-11 BSF 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 10 Grief Support 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision Fireside Room	21 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT No Youth Group No Choir No College group	22 Thanksgiving gather thankful blessed grateful together blessings november	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship	26 9-1 Preschool 12 Men’s Bible Study Group 4 Deacons meeting in the Fireside Room	27 9:30 Women’s Bible Study Giving Tuesday!	28 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 12-1 Rocky Rehearsal 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	29 9 Bible Study Fellowship 9-1 Preschool 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training	30	

Presbyterian Women



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 of Marlene Spencer. The PW board will meet on Wednesday, November 7 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, November 14 with two groups meeting in the morning, two groups meeting in the afternoon, and a group that meets in the evening. Talk to Marlene Spencer about meeting times and locations. Please note that both of these meetings are a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Sunday school classes for all ages



Sunday school for all ages continues 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 continues each week after the children’s sermon. Our student interns are leading this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Classes for Adults: The Great Physician: Dr. Heidi Duncan and Pastor Dave continue their class titled, “The Great Physician: The Healing Power of Christ.” This five week series is looking at the healing power of God from a medical, spiritual, and emotional perspective. This class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and will continue through Sunday, November 18.

Church and Society Class Our Church and Society class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM with a different guest speaker each week. Here is the upcoming schedule of speakers for November:

November 4: Michelle Erickson-Jones, Montana Grain Growers President. She will present, “Food for Peace and Food for Progress; What are they?” As part of the Farm Bill, Food for Peace and Food for Progress are programs that oversee humanitarian aid. Join Michelle in learning how farmers are able to provide products internationally for those in need. Michelle grew up in our church and is the daughter of Bart and Lynne Erickson and the granddaughter of Biff and Jim Hogue.

November 11: Dr. Don Harr, Retired Psychiatrist, will share, "A Comparison of the Effects on WWII Veterans to Today’s Veterans." Don will be discussing the effects, both positive and negative, on military and civilians during WWII. What was the attitude of those veterans during the war and in its aftermath? Learn how those experiences are different from those of today’s veterans. In honor of Veterans Day all veterans are invited to our Church and Society Class. Each veteran is welcome to briefly describe their service to our country and be recognized for that.

November 18: Denise Smith, Community Relations Officer from the Montana Rescue Mission, will share "Home for the Holidays." While many of us are spending time with family and friends during the holiday season, there are some in our community who rely upon the services of the Montana Rescue Mission. MRM provides safe and adequate shelter and warm meals throughout the entire year. They also provide a daily chapel service as they live out their mission "to reflect the love of Jesus Christ, by providing emergency, temporary, and rehabilitative care for those experiencing hunger and homelessness." Denise will update the class about new programs offered through MRM and how to become more involved in their ministry.

November 25– There will be no class held on Sunday, November 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Youth News:

A nice group of middle and high school group meets very Wednesday from 6-8 PM for dinner, games, worship, and Bible learning. The group participates in a mission event once a month. Last month the kids each took their “Pay it Forward” \$10 seed money and purchased items at the Dollar Store to bless others. Scarves, laundry detergent, food, greeting cards, and gift cards were distributed to the less fortunate and those in our church who could use some encouragement.



Thanks to those who provided youth group meals during the month of October. They were Biff & Jim Hogue, Kerry & Jeff Gruizenga, Paige Spalding & Jim Hummel, Russ & Janet Kline, and David and Robyn Bauer.

Thanks to all who made our annual pie auction another successful event on Sunday, October 16. \$4,700 was raised to support our youth ministry programs. Thanks to all who helped with the meal and al who made and purchased pies. Special thanks to Russ and Janet Kline for coordinating the meal and to Chris Eriksen for the \$2,000 matching funds he provided for this event. Thanks also for our wonderful kitchen crew!

Our annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. All senior adults from our church are invited to join us for a free meal provided by the youth group. This is a way for the kids to “give back” and to show their appreciation to the congregation. Sign up sheets for this special dinner are provided in the galley and on the youth bulletin board near Pastor Dave’s office.

Thanks to all who volunteer and contribute to our youth ministry programs!!

Better Together Preschool continues with full enrollment

Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool with a full enrollment of 44 children. Children ages 2 through pre-K meet three days a week in four of the downstairs classrooms. The preschool staff is comprised of five ladies, plus additional help will be asked of the parents. For more information about the preschool, please contact Karen Norsworthy at 690-8481 or Karen Morrow at 281-0280.

Singles group to meet on Saturday, November 17

Our church’s Singles Group will be meeting on Saturday, November 17 at 10:00 AM at the Western Emporium Restaurant, located at 3141 King Ave West. All single adults are invited to join this group which meets monthly. Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-News for the meeting location. Questions about this group can be directed toward Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.

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 studying the Sermon on the Mount which Jesus gives in Matthew 5-7. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 12 at 12 noon. All men are invited to join us.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in November

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

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

New Member’s Class to begin on Sunday, November 4

A class specifically designed for those wishing to become members of our church and/or those who would like to learn more about our church will be offered on two consecutive Sunday mornings, starting on Sunday, November 4. Join Pastor Dave on Sundays November 4 and 11 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room for this special class. He will be talking who we are as a faith community, our Presbyterian heritage, and the goals and mission of our church. Breakfast treats will be served. New members will be introduced during worship on Sunday, November 18.

Birthdays

- 1 Josephine Bartels
- Jerry Broderson
- 5 Cherrie McRae
- Janet Brown
- 7 Cook Murch
- Janice Ward
- 9 Beth Morrow
- Lynne Bailey
- 10 Chris Eriksen
- Bernice Phillips
- 12 Deborah Oliver
- 14 Marlei Stenner

- 15 Barbara Muir
- 16 Julie Michalsky
- Lis TenHarmsel
- 17 Steve Bentley
- 18 Donna Bowersox
- 19 Emma McLean
- Roger Hutchison
- 20 Helen Zottnick
- 24 Jim Hummel
- 27 Colleen Lorentz
- Gail Janiak
- 28 Heather McLean
- Kathy Dubs

- Cheryl Nagel
- Anniversaries
- 23 Bill & Trina White
 - 27 Jim & Jo Ausk
 - 28 Ken & Ann Chase
 - Bruce & Bernice Phillips



Mission Committee News

It’s time once again to “Pay it Forward”!! Do you have your \$10 seed money to help others? Be creative, prayerful, and even silly as you seek ways to use your funds to help others. Let Pastor Dave know what you did, so he can share your idea with the rest of us. Lots of creative and generous things have been done with our \$10 seed money. One of the youth in our church purchased \$10 worth of gas in his lawn mower to mow lawn for the less fortunate. Another family in our church donated their \$10 plus an additional \$100 of their own money to a local food bank. Another individual used his \$10 as seed money and then found others who were willing to donate \$10 each from his Rotary Club. The money grew to \$600 through a grant given through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to purchase polio vaccines. 6,000 vaccinations were purchased at a cost of 10 cents each. Now that is creative! Continue to share your stories with Pastor Dave.



We asked the congregation to donate diapers for the children at Young Families/Early Head Start through the month of October. Thank you so much for bringing in lots and lots of diapers!! They greatly appreciated them!

Global Village items will be on sale on Sunday, November 11 before and after worship in the fellowship hall. Global Village supports fair trade practices with third world countries. Come and do some shopping.

On Sunday, November 18th we will be having another noisy offering. This offering will go to support the Presbyterian mission agency in purchasing a “Family Farm Bundle” for a 3rd world country. Your offering will go to purchase chickens, livestock, grain, and equipment to help establish a farm. We invite you to give generously.

Before Thanksgiving, we will have the Angel Tree up with this year’s gifts going to support Presbyterian missions. The tree will be filled with a variety of gift ideas, ranging in price from \$10 on up to \$100.

We are again thankful to be able to donate \$1,250 to Lewis & Clark Middle School for their food pantry.

Dwight Welch, the new campus minister at MSU-B, has already tripled the student involvement in his worship services and coffee hours. We will send him a check for \$1,000 to support their campus ministry.

We gave \$500 to Lisa Laird for her work with iEmergence in Canada, a Christian based organization working with the indigenous population. Lisa is the daughter of Priscilla Laird.

Thank you to Betty Ann Nesmith for shopping for items that the Gateway House needs. She used \$500 of the mission committee’s money to take care of the domestic violence shelter needs.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God.” —Philippians 1:9-11

Christmas decorating to be held Saturday, December 1

We invite you to join us to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 1 at 4:30 PM. We will be decorating trees, hanging wreaths, arranging the nativities, and placing our Christmas banners around the church. A free meal will be served by the Presbyterian Women’s organization. Please join us as many hands will make the work much easier!

