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February
2019



Pastor's Pen

Our church's annual congregational meeting was held last Sunday, January 27 as a number of reports were presented from various committees and organizations in our church. In all, 2018 was a good year for our congregation and we approach the new year with high hopes and expectations.



During our meeting the following members were elected to serve on our leadership team: Session members elected to a three year term are Dick Bailey, Kristy Catlin, Heather McLean, and Bruce Phillips. Heather is coming back to serve a second three year term, which is permissible via our by-laws. Deacons elected to three year terms are Peggy Cluff, Pam Harr, Len & Bonnie Richards, and Janice Ward. Peggy and Janice are both returning to serve a second term.

Four people were elected to serve on our church's nominating committee in 2019. These individuals will be working with me this coming fall to come up with nominees for elders and deacons to present at our congregational meeting next year. Those who were elected to serve on the nominating committee are Larry George, Teri Pattee, Bernice Phillips, and John Stewart.

Our 2019 budget was presented and will be approved at our February session meeting. A budget of \$434,896 includes \$50,000 in charitable mission giving (a 10% increase over last year), a 2% cost of living raise for staff members, and a few adjustments to committee budgets. We also have funds set aside for a staff person to work in the area of Christian education and youth ministry. We are currently receiving applications to fill this role.

In March we will commission our newest group of Stephen Ministers. This group of 11 has been meeting every week to fulfill the requirements of the 50 hours of training needed to become certified Stephen Ministers. Once commissioned they will be given a care receiver, someone who they will meet with regularly to provide spiritual support and encouragement.

I am excited to see our reFUEL group on Sundays evenings off to such a good start. We have about 25 people attending this evening study on 1 John. I would like to see us offer more small group studies as a way for people to draw closer to God and one another.

It's fun to see many in our church working on a goal through our "New Start 2019" series. Many are making significant life changes through the challenge I posed last month. We will culminate this with a New Start 2019 Celebration on Sunday, February 17 with a party after church. Bring your favorite goodie to share and we will celebrate your accomplishment.

During the season of Lent, beginning on Sunday, March 10, I will be preaching a five part sermon series titled "Going Deeper." We will be looking at ways to deepen our faith and trust in God.

—Pastor Dave

Memory Joggers for February 2019

February 3rd

Preaching
David Thompson
Greeters
Pam Harr
Jo Albin
Ushers
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Bob & Cathy
Culbertson
Liturgist
Deb Wiens
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion
Bill & Colleen
Lorentz
Kathy Baskett
Phyllis Brown
Sharon Mathews

The 10th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Peggy Wilson
Sonja Bennett
Ushers
Jim & Jo Ausk
Cindy Leggate
Chris Eriksen
Liturgist
Shirley Shirley
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Sharon Lincoln

The 17th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Juli Dufresne
Jody Mercer Wallace
Ushers
Bud & Joanne
Leuthold
Ron Stowe
Marjorie Stewart
Liturgist
Rhonda Stennerson
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga
Flower Delivery
Edna Carlson

The 24th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Len & Bonnie
Richards
Ushers
Carla Bracken
Teena Bracken
Sharon Mathews
Larry George
Liturgist
Bruce Hoffman
Sound Booth
Robert Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Dave & Vicki
Thompson

March 3

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Phyllis Brown
Ron Sperry
Ushers
Gary & Judy
Lohnbakken
Kurt & Mary
Grabow
Liturgist
Meghan Ascherman
Sound Booth
David Bauer
Communion
Niki Youngbear
Rhonda
Stennerson
Marv & Janet Brown
Sandi
Schoenberger
Dottie Hilger

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Coming Attractions:

New Start 2019 Celebration— After worship on Sunday, February 17
Youth Ski Retreat coming to Butte on February 22-24
reFUEL group continues on Sunday evenings from 6-7 PM
Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 PM

Church Info

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30 AM— 4:00 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, February 3. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

At its first meeting of the year, the session thanked Chuck Leggate, Jenice Fugere, and Chris Eriksen, elders who have completed their terms on the session.

The Christian Education committee was given approval to move forward with plans for the college students to take a mission trip to Zambia Africa in August. This committee is actively searching for someone to fill the position of youth leader.

The property committee was given permission to ask Kent Fellingham to work up to an additional ten hours per week to take care of maintenance. The committee will also complete the work proposed in replacing lights in the chancel area and adding spot lights as well as investigate the lighting at the main entrance.

Pastor Dave's request to accompany the youth group on a ski trip to Butte on February 22-24 was granted.

Financial snapshot

2019 Income Expense Net
January \$ 27,086 \$ 39,336 \$ (12,250)

Expenses were a bit higher in January due to per capita payment to our Presbytery and insurance premium that was due.

| JANUARY | 2019 |
|----------------------------|------|
| 6th | 199 |
| 13th | 193 |
| 20th | 182 |
| 27th | 176 |
| January Average Attendance | 187 |

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:

Every year we lose several beloved and valued members of our church family. For some reason 2018 seemed to be especially difficult for the church mice. We would like to fondly remember the following hard-working, dedicated members of our church who passed away this past year:



Ralph Myhre, Shirley Harr, George Schuman, Bill Young, June Pierce, Lois Maris, Dick Gall, Ed and Alta Dakolios, Royal Johnson, and Charlene Switzer. These individuals are much loved and missed and we appreciate all that they did to contribute to our church family.

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 Sunday to sponsor the flowers either in honor or memory of someone or a special event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc. We now provide one bouquet of flowers each Sunday for a suggested donation is \$25.

Special thanks to those who donated flowers in January. They were Carol Harr in memory of Scott Harr, Ken & Barb Eichenberger for blessings of family and friends, and John Reed in memory of his brother Tom and parents Hanks and Mary. Following worship each Sunday, the flowers are distributed to church members and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, or those who are unable to attend church.

Our new sign up list is now available for 2019 in the narthex and lots of spots are available in the New Year.

New Start 2019 Goals

Are you working on a specific goal in this new year? Many in the church have taken Pastor Dave's challenge to improve your life in 2019. Here are some of the goals people are working on: losing weight/physical fitness; getting organized; being more caring and polite; having less anxiety/worries; going back to school to finish a degree; overcoming an addiction of smoking/drinking/gambling; praying every night before bed; giving up drinking soda pop; reading the Bible every day; and learning to type the right way.

It is good to have goals and to look to improve our lives. On Sunday, February 17 we are going to celebrate our accomplishment—even if they are just small steps. We invite you to bring a special treat with you to church to share following worship in the fellowship hall. We will have some fun ways to celebrate our small steps of accomplishments on that Sunday!

Donation receptacles have been moved

Are you curious as to where the donation boxes are for eye glasses, PW toiletries, Gateway House Tumbleweed or Lost & Found? Check out the mahogany cabinet in the hallway between the Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall. Still not sure? Ask Sandi Schoenberger or Pastor Dave

Stephen Ministry Update

Our Stephen Ministry training continues each Thursday evening at 6 PM in the Fireside Room and will continue through February 28. The commissioning of our newest group of Stephen Ministers will likely take place in March. 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.

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 2020

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

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger (2)

Class of 2022

Dick Bailey
Christy Katlin
Heather McLean (2)
Bruce Phillips

Deacons:

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

Class of 2022

Peggy Cluff (2)
Pam Harr
Len & Bonnie Richards
Janice Ward (2)

(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:

Ken Eichenberger underwent 11 hours of surgery in Denver on January 24 to remove cancer. He and Barb appreciate all of the prayers that have been offered for them.

Bo Bronson, infant grandson of Judy Cuff, had liver surgery last month in Minneapolis. He was back in the hospital with an infection.

Jeanne Hekkel was hospitalized at the Billings Clinic last month with blood clots and has returned home. She has included the following note of appreciation. "What a wonderful church family. Thanks you, thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my absence. I look forward to getting back to worship services soon. I especially thank Pastor Dave and his family (who are neighbors of mine) for keeping my sidewalks and driveway free of snow."

Peggy Ostund underwent knee replacement surgery last month at St. V's.

Sue Bentley is home following successful knee replacement surgery last month. She thanks everyone for the wonderful cards and especially the prayers as she heals and strengthens. And yes she is faithfully doing her exercises.

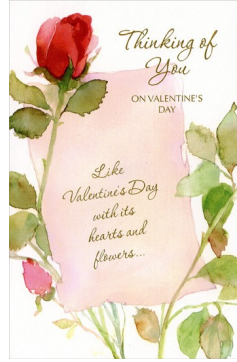
Gary and Judy Lohnbakken would appreciate your prayers as they both are dealing with health issues. Gary was hospitalized last month at St. V's with heart issues.

Diane Noddings remains at her daughter's house in California where she is recovering from a broken ankle.

Roger Gipson, son of Ruth Ewen, has moved to a cottage at St. Johns after being hospitalized last month.

Bob Shirley was hospitalized at the Billings Clinic last month with pneumonia.

We extend our condolences to Don and Peggy Cluff as Peggy's sister, Sharon Dickerson, unexpectedly passed away last week. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| February 2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 1 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed | 2 10 Gluten Intolerance Group meets downstairs |
| 3 Food Bank Sun. 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship No reFUEL group | 4 9-1 Preschool 6 Billings Child Care Meeting | 5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Property Com- mittee Meeting | 6 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 10 Grief Group 12noon PW Lunch 7 Choir Rehearsal 6 Youth Group 7 College group | 7 9 Bible Study Fellowship 11 Fellowship Committee Mtg 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training | 8 No Preschool Church Office Closed | 9 |
| 10 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship 6 reFUEL group | 11 No Preschool 10 Worship Com- mittee Meeting 12 Men's Bible Study Group | 12 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Finance Com- mittee Meeting 7 Session Meeting in the Fireside Rm | 13 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12 noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal | 14 9 BSF No Stephen Minis- try Training  | 15 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed | 16 10 Singles Group to meet at Western Emporium |
| 17 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship 6 reFUEL group | 18 9-1 Preschool Presidents Day | 19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group | 20 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool PW Circles 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal | 21 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training | 22 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed Youth Ski Retreat Departs at 4 PM | 23 Youth Ski Retreat in Butte |
| 24 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Wor- ship 4 Ski Retreat Back 6 reFUEL group | 25 12 Men's Bible Study Group 4 Deacons Meet- ing in the Fireside Room | 26 9:30 Women's Bible Study | 27 9- BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7College group 7 Choir Rehearsal | 28 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship 6-8:30 Stephen Ministry Training and SM Supervi- sion meets | | |



Presbyterian Women

The PW organization in our church has five different groups which meet monthly for study, fellowship. Groups 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.

The PW Birthday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 6 at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join us for this special lunch.

The PW board will meet on Wednesday, February 13 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, February 20 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.

The PW is also responsible for serving at funeral receptions and for providing cookies and refreshments after worship each Sunday. We appreciate the good work of the PW groups as they help our congregation in many ways.

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 Adventure: Traveling with the Apostle Paul— Come and learn about the Apostle Paul from his birth, his early years, his conversion experience, to his imprisonment in Rome. Pastor Dave is helping us to see how this man of incredible faith handled adversity and hardships, from riots in Ephesus to being shipwrecked on the Mediterranean. This six week class will continue through February 17 in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

Church and Society Class Schedule for February:

Our church and society class is held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Church & Society Room. A different guest present every week. Here is the lineup for February:

February 3: TerraBeth Jochems, Retired Literacy and English Teacher. She will present, "God's Plan for a Literacy Ministry." TerraBeth will share her story about how God encouraged her to help children and families deal with dyslexia, a reading disorder. Realizing that 1 out of 5 students have dyslexia, TerraBeth in the past 2 years has served over 25 families and trained 4 tutors. Meghan and Lily Ascherman will speak briefly about Lily's success overcoming dyslexia and their upcoming presentations to the Montana Legislature about dyslexia funding.

February 10: Erika Willis, Executive Director of Tumbleweed. Join us to hear about Tumbleweed's vision to end homelessness in our community. Serving over 700 youth last year, many of them at imminent risk, Erika will describe their 5 programs, including intervention and prevention. Bill Jones, Billings author of "Homestead Soldiers" about child abuse, will speak briefly about his book. He is donating all the proceeds to Tumbleweed.

February 17: Carissa Welsh, Director of Volunteer Services at St. John's Lutheran Ministries. She will present, "A Prescription for Good Health—Volunteer!" Carissa will describe research findings about the benefits of volunteering, especially during retirement. She will also discuss the history and ministry of St. John's Lutheran Ministries. As Billings' first retirement community and one of the largest in Montana, we'll learn about the vast array of services for seniors, families, and children. These services meet the mission of providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love.

February 24: Russell Rowland, Billings author, "In Open Spaces, Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey, and other titles." Russell will talk about the role of faith in his storytelling as well as the process of writing and publishing. Russell graduated from Billings West High in 1976, and his family attended First Presbyterian when they first moved to Billings in 1969.

Youth News:

Our middle and high school youth group meets every Wednesday for dinner, games, worship, and Bible learning. We always welcome friends and others to join us each week to a safe place where we nurture kids to grow in their faith toward God.

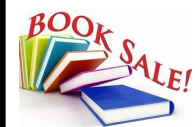


We appreciate those who provided our meals during the month of January. They were Allison & Jason Murphine and family, Rhonda Stennerson, and Dan Ehlang & Barb Whittle. Our meal sign up sheet is now full for the spring semester as we appreciate all who provide such wonderful meals each week.

The youth participate in a monthly service project and we are looking for ways that we can make a positive impact in our community as we share the love and grace of Christ.

Our annual ski retreat is coming February 22-24. We will be traveling to Butte that weekend and staying at the First Presbyterian Church there. We will be skiing at Discovery Basin Ski Resort on Saturday. The cost of the retreat is only \$20 and skiing is extra. Scholarships are available if needed. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like to join us. The registration deadline is February 18.

We rely upon a great group of volunteers to keep the youth activities going and we continue to search for a full time person to work in this area.



February Book sale

The Presbyterian Women's group will once again be having a book sale starting on Sunday, February 3. They have received a variety of books, including both religious and secular. The proceed from the sale will go toward the Presbyterian Woman's organization in our church. For questions about the books sale, donations, or prices, please talk with Marlene Spencer.

Singles group to meet on Saturday,

Our church's Singles Group will be meeting on Saturday, February 16 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. 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, February 11 at 12noon. All men are invited to join us.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in November

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

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

Come and reFUEL on Sunday evenings

Do you have a desire to get to know people in the church in a more personal way? Do you wish to study the Bible and see how God's word applies to your life? Join us for reFUEL (Fellowship, Understanding, and Encouragement in the Lord) on Sunday evenings from 6-7 PM in the Fireside Room for an eight week study on 1 John. Co-led by Bruce Hoffman and Pastor Dave, this series will include time of sharing, study, and prayer. This series will continue through Sunday, March 10. For more questions, please talk with Dave.

New Start 2019 sermon series continues

Pastor Dave is in the midst of a sermon series titled, "New Start 2019." In this seven part series, Pastor Dave is helping us see how God wants us to begin the New Year in a new way. Don't look just to survive in 2019, but to thrive in this new year. This series will continue through Sunday, February 17.

Birthdays

- 2 Kerry Gruizenga
- 3 Nicholas Wiens
- 5 Monica Parker
- 7 Marvin Brown
- 8 Carol Harr
- 9 Caitlin McRae
- 10 Earl Henderson
- 12 Lauren Wright
- 13 Bill Letson
- 13 Alexander Repka
- 13 Dani Repka
- 14 Jody Mercer Wallace
- 15 Michael Repka
- 16 Kathy Ramage
- 17 Carl Johnson
- 19 Skip Hayes
- 21 Nichole Ferestad
- 22 Robert Thiesen
- 23 Bill Lorentz
- 24 Jean Marshall
- 24 Linda Franson

- 25 Susan Stewart
- 27 Jason Pattee
- 29 Ruth Kaufman
- Karen Morrow

Anniversaries

- 10 Gary & Jean Schneider



Mission News

The Mission Committee is excited to start a new year of helping God's children in His name. We have some exciting ideas for the future, so look for them in the coming months. Our total mission budget for 2019 will be \$85,500 and of this \$50,000 is designated for charitable giving to those in our community and beyond. In addition our church supports the weekly worship service provided through our West Park Ministry Team, our bus ministry that goes out each Sunday to West Park and St. John's, mission support to our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, a Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help people in crisis, fellowship outreach and advertising, and the Stephen Ministry program.



During this past month our church provided meals to homeless served through the HUB in downtown Billings. The HUB provides a noon meal each day and are always looking for groups to provide a warm meal for their population.

We also provided a meal to the Habitat for Humanity work crew last month. Habitat is a Christian organization whose primary purpose is to build affordable housing for low income families. They have completed nearly 80 homes in the Billings area. Our church is sponsoring the building of a Habitat house this summer. Look for ways that you can get involved in either helping with the construction, providing a meal. Some from our church will be attending Habitat's annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 6.

Our mission committee is always open to new ideas and ministries that we can support. We look for ways that we can impact people in our communion, throughout our region, and around the world. We support three missionary families who work through the Presbyterian church, coming along side of them to support them with our prayers and finances.

Our youth group engages in a mission project every month as a way to teach young people the value of giving. We look forward to partnering with St. John's Ministry, the Montana Rescue Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, and other organizations in town to build relationships between our youth group and their clientele.

In response to our Noisy Offering and Angel Tree gifts to Presbyterian missions at Christmas we received the following note, "Thank you for your generous giving, which is a testament to your concern for people in need. Gifts like yours are helping to change the lives of families and communities throughout the world. You are improving the physical well-being of people and nurturing hope. I invite you to continue to learn more about the impact that you and others are making in the lives of thousands of people across the globe."

In Christ's name,
Bryce Wiebe— Director, Presbyterian Giving Catalog

We hold on to this great promise: The day will come when God wipes our tears. But for now we are called to help each other as he calls us to do. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. —Revelation 21:4