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2019



Pastor's Pen

"A Month to Celebrate"



The month of May provides many opportunities to celebrate. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations, and confirmations are just a few of the common May occurrences that offer a time to commemorate a special occasion. Some of the lesser known celebrations during the month of May include National Bike Month, National Salad Month, and National Barbeque Month. Yes, May's weather can give us opportunities to get outside and enjoy picnics and bike rides.

The spirit of celebration is at the heart of the Christian faith. Many think that the Christian life is one of solemn reflection and quiet devotion. Solitude and reflection certainly have a place in the Christian faith, but to discount the idea of celebration takes something away from our faith and our rich heritage.

As Christians, we are people of hope and victory; people of joy and new life. Moses and Mariam danced and praised God after crossing the Red Sea during their journey to the Promise Land. Jesus tells us in Luke 15 that a woman celebrated when she found her lost coin, a shepherd celebrated when he located his lost sheep, and the father celebrated when his wayward son returned home. Jesus tells of wedding celebrations and great banquets to commemorate special occasions.

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. 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 special 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, help with youth activities, and assist with our programs to women and men alike

I look forward to the many celebrations that this month will bring. I give thanks for our mothers, salute our veterans and those currently serving (and their families), offer congratulations to our graduating seniors, and welcome new members and baptized children. Amid these celebrations, let us not forget the greatest reason to celebrate—the new life offered freely through Jesus Christ.

Dave

Coming Attractions:

Church Clean-Up Day– Saturday, May 18 from 9-11:30 AM
Recognition of graduating seniors and new members during worship on Sunday, May 19
Summer worship schedule begin on Sunday, May 26 at 9:30 AM
Vacation Bible school coming June 3-7 from 9-12:15 each day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Session/Finance/ Church Mice	2
PW/Sunday School/ Church and Society class	3
Youth News/ Events/ Notices	4
Birthdays/ Anniversaries/ Mission News	5
Personal Notes/ Calendar	6
Church Leadership Team/ Announcements	7
Memory Joggers	8

Memory Joggers for May 2019

<u>May 5th</u>	<u>The 12th</u>	<u>The 19th</u>	<u>The 26th</u>
Greeters Jack & Karla Mahan	Greeters Gary & Jean Schneider	Greeters Melanie Dyce Thelma Riggs	Greeters Peggy Wilson Sonja Bennett
Ushers Sharon Mathews Larry George Jaki Harada Megan Lorentz	Ushers Bud & Joanne Leuthold Gary & Judy Lohnbakken	Ushers Jerry Koch Bill White Bob Fedric John Reed	Ushers Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Betty Ann Nesmith Linda Luse
Worship Assistant Janet Kline	Worship Assistant JoAnn Jones	Worship Assistant Vicki Thompson	Worship Assistant Sara Thompson
Sound Booth David Bauer	Sound Booth Chuck Leggate	Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga	Sound Booth Bob Culbertson
Communion Jerry & Bobbie Koch Chuck & Cindy Leggate Kristy Catlin Sharon Mathews	Flower Delivery Jack & Karla Mahan	Flower Delivery Chuck & Cindy Leggate	Flower Delivery Sharon Lincoln

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 2020

David Bauer
Carla Bracken
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019

Dick Bailey
Kristy Catlin
Heather McLean
Bruce Phillips

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 this Sunday, May 5. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes: The regular meeting of the session was on Tuesday, April 9 at 7pm.

The property committee reported that it is working to upgrade and improve the heating system throughout the facility. The date of the annual church cleanup day has been changed and will occur on May 18, 2019 starting at 9:00 AM until 11:30. Pastor Dave was given approval to baptize Raigen Elizabeth Fellingham and Evan James Fellingham, children of Kent and Stacey Fellingham and Brady James Padilla, daughter of Jessica Fellingham on May 19th during the worship service.

Pastor Dave was given permission to officiate at the marriages of Tyler Sackman and Kaylee Rowilson on Saturday, June 1 at the Swift River Ranch in Billings, Rachel McDonald and Davin Birge on Saturday, June 8 at our church, and Travis Harr and Cassandra Kaufman-Stewart on September 21 in our church.

Approval was given for Pastor Dave to take vacation time from June 11-21. He will arrange for a pulpit supply in his absence.

Our next session meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room when we will welcome new members and confirmation youth

Financial snapshot

2019	Income	Expense	Net
April	\$ 47,401	\$ 27,081	\$ 20,320
YTD	\$ 212,637	\$ 137,534	\$ 75,103

APRIL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	2019
7th	205
14th	233
21st (Easter)	406
28th	155
April Average Attendance	250

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: Don Harr has been a pillar of our congregation for many, many years. He has served in every capacity (except with the Presbyterian Women's organization) with enthusiasm and expertise. Add to that his kindness, intelligence, and sense of humor and we have the one and only, unique Don Harr. A special thanks to him for continuing to lead the monthly grief support groups and co-lead the Real Life Issues (RLI) group with Pastor Dave. Don also has been our church's team captain for the annual Suicide Prevention walk that is held every September at Veterans Park. Don is an integral part of our church and we appreciate him very much.



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 April. They were Peggy Wilson for faith, family and friends and Lorrie Rimpe in memory of her mom Eleanor and son Jason. Special thanks to the many who donated Easter lilies for Easter Sunday.

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.



Worship time change

Our summer worship time change begins on Sunday, May 26 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 8. 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.

Montana Women's Run coming May 11

Our church will be having a team participate in the run on Saturday, May 11. 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 01, and then click employee. The registration fee is \$27 and includes a t-shirt. For more information, please contact Carlene Taubert for questions at 406-698-2205. Let's have some fun together!



Stephen Ministry Update



Eleven of our newest Stephen Ministry trainees just completed their training and their commissioning was held on March 3. Each are in the process of being assigned a care receiver with whom they provide one-on-one skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Our new Stephen Ministers are Lynne Bailey, Jane Brewington, Linda Broderson, Juli Dufresne, Dan Ehlang, Karla Hoffman, Michelle Cormier-Lee, Bill & Colleen Lorentz, Sandi Schoenberger, and Rhonda Stennerson. Special thanks to Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, JoAnn Jones, and Pastor Dave for providing the training for this class.

Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 PM and includes time for continuing education and support. Our next supervision meeting will be Tuesday, April 23 at 6 PM.

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 church's Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday and the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 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 in the Conference Room. 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:

We extend our sympathies to the family of Pete Hilger who died on April 7. His funeral was held in our church on Thursday, April 11.

We extend our condolences to the family of Tom Drummond who passed away last month. His funeral was held in our church on Friday, April 12.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Ed Dakolios who died several months ago in Missoula. A memorial service for Ed will be held in our church on Friday, May 10 at 1:00 PM.

Jenice Cousins passed away on April 8 at the Riverstone Hospice House and a private family service has been held.

Jerry Broderson has returned home after two strokes in the past month hospitalized him on two separate occasions.

Lucille Lynn is recovering from knee replacement surgery she had last month.

Boaz Bronson, infant grandson of Judy Cuff, is awaiting a liver transplant in Minneapolis.

Congratulations to our high school graduating seniors. They are Emma McLean (West), Haden Gall (Senior), Grace Steppe (Senior), Ebin Gromley (Senior), Haley Kouba (West), Alex Koehn (West), and Bryant Farnsworth (West), Alex Vaughn (West), and Alexa Hash (Red Lodge).

Pam Harr, Ed Stauber, and Bill Brewington were all hospitalized this last month and have returned home.



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 board will meet on Wednesday, May 8 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. On that same day the PW will have a luncheon to install new officers. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, May 15 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.

Our church once again hosted the annual PW Praise Luncheon on Wednesday, April 17 with ladies from many churches throughout Billings in attendance. Thanks for a great meal and program!

Sunday school classes for all ages

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:

New members' class will be held on Sundays, May 5 and 12 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside 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 19. We look forward to welcoming our newest group of members.

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.

Vacation Bible School is coming June 3-7

Vacation Bible School is coming June 3-7 from 9:00 –12:15 each day for children ages preschool through the 6th grade. Our theme this year will be "Roar: Life is Wild and God is Good." Each day will be filled with Bible learning, music, games, crafts, and adventures. We always look forward to our VBS week and having lots of kids fill the church with this great week.

Registration forms will be available soon in the gallery and also on our church's website. Your help is needed as we get ready for this great week. We will be decorating on Wednesdays May 15, 22, and 29 from 6-8 PM with free dinner provided. For more information about VBS, talk with Jody Ferestad or Pastor Dave.



RMC Baccalaureate held here on Friday, May 3

Our church will once again host Rocky Mountain College's baccalaureate service on Friday, May 3 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.

Donations Update



Please be aware that we are no longer accepting cell phones or empty ink cartridges as we no longer have resources in which to donate them. Donations of food, clothing, and household good are still being received with the donations going to the Food Bank, Family Service, and Gateway House respectively.



Free 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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 10 Grief Support 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal 6 Youth Group	2 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship 1 Mission Committee meeting 7 Christian Ed mtg	3 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed 6 PM Rocky Baccalaureate in our sanctuary	4 9-11:30 Session Retreat 10 Gluten Intolerance Group
5 Food Bank Sun. 9:15 Sun School 9:15 New Members Class 10:30 Worship Communion 11 West Park 6 reFUEL group	6 9-1 Preschool	7 12 Property Comm	8 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 Real Life Group 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	9 9 Bible Study Fellowship (Last One till September)	10 9-1 Preschool Church Office closed	11 9 Montana Women's Run meets downtown near Stella's
12 9:15 Sun Sch 9:15 New Members Class 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	13 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee Mtg. 12 Men's Bible Study Group	14 10 Grief Support Group 12 Finance Mtg 7 Session Mtg	15 9-1 Preschool PW Circles 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	16 12 Congregational Care Team meets in the Fireside Room	17 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	18 9-11:30 Church Clean Up Day
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship 6 reFUEL Group	20 9-1Preschool	21	22 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	23 11 Fellowship Committee meeting in Fireside Rm	24 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	25
26 Summer Worship Hours 9:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship 6 reFUEL Group	27 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED! No Men's Bible Study Group	28 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	29	30	31	

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 April. They were Tonya, Jeff, and Morgan Appelt; Bob & Linda Fedric; and Bill & Colleen Lorentz. We have had wonderful meals every week and appreciate all who have provided the wonderful food.

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

The annual Youth Basket Auction brought in a record amount of funds for our youth and college programs on Sunday, April 7. Over \$12,000 was raised for these programs. Thank you for your incredible generosity!! Special thanks to Jody Ferestad for organizing the event, Michelle Lee for planning the meal, and everyone who donated and purchased auction items.

We will be taking a group of youth back to Indiana this summer for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium Conference in July. Held every three years at Purdue University, Triennium is a wonderful conference with about 7,000 youth from around the nation and world. If interested in joining us for this great trip, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Westminster Spires camp information is available in the gallery. Camps for elementary (July 14-18), middle school (July 21-26), and high school (July 28-August 2) youth will be offered.



Better Together Preschool is full

Preschool registration for new families for the 2019-2020 school year is complete with a full roster of 45 kids. There is a waiting list for those who would like to be in the program. For more information, please contact either Karen Norsworthy at 690-8481 or Karen Morrow at 281-0280. The preschool offers classes at our church Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9 AM—1 PM in the lower level. We are grateful for the partnership we have with the preschool program.

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, May 13 at 12noon. All men are invited to join us.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in November

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Mission Committee	Thursday, May 2 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 PM
Property Committee	Tuesday, May 7 at 12noon
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 8 at 9:30am
Worship Committee	Monday, May 13 at 10:00 AM
Finance Committee	Tuesday, May 14 at 12noon
Session Meeting	Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 PM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, May 16 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, May 20 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. Co-led by Bruce Hoffman and Pastor Dave, this series will include time of sharing, study, and prayer.

A new group just began on March 24 and we would love to have you join us. If you have a desire to lead a group like this in either your home or at the church, we will provide the curriculum for discussions. Many have found this group helpful to deepen relationships with God and others in the church. For more questions, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Birthdays

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

- 16 Fred Henslin
- 18 Vickie Johnson
Ken Eichenberger
- 19 Jeff Gruizenga
- 20 Matt Lorentz
- 22 Ernie Watters
- 23 Meriona Anacker
- 24 Boyd Strissel
Dave Marshall
- 25 Amanda Webber
- 28 John Wright
- 29 Ruth Van Fossen

Anniversaries

- 12 Bob & Cathy Culbertson
- 13 Ron & Pat Stowe
- 14 Greg & Deb Wiens
- 19 Carl & Vickie Johnson
- 23 Earl & Sharon Henderson
- 25 Gary & Judy Lohnbakken
- 29 Richard & Martha Davidson
Fred & Sherry Henslin
- 30 Bob & Linda Fedric
Jerry & Linda Broderson



Mission News

The Mission Committee had a guest speaker from the Lewis and Clark Middle School at their monthly committee meeting on April 4. Kevin Brooks, a counselor at the school, is an overseer of the food pantry. We have finally supported the pantry for several years. He said that the pantry serves those students who do not have access to free lunch or have money to buy lunch. We are their only church support. They serve families of the students in need. They stuff backpacks with food to send home with the students. They have served Thanksgiving meals to some families in need. They are very thankful for our donations but do not need anything at this time.



We received a thank you from the director of special offerings from Presbyterian Mission. At Christmas, through our Angel Tree, we gave enough for 3 pair of goats, 2 cows, 4 families of chickens, 2 piglets, 2 beekeeping kits, 2 garden wells, 2 rainwater catchment systems, 4 water filters, 1 bag of moringa tree seeds, 6 sets of farming tools, 1 tree planted, 1 emergency life pack, 5 kitchen kits, supplies for 3 displaced students, 3 sewing machines, education for 4 children, 2 jerry cans, teacher training, school uniforms, bunk beds for children, a refugee food basket, and a partridge in a pair tree. All of these were given through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. We also gave an additional \$5,000 through our Noisy Offering.

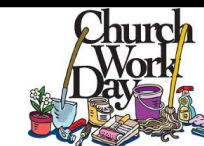
Through one of our new grants, we are giving \$1,000 through the Vision Beyond Borders organization to send Bibles to Venezuela. This grant was submitted by Bruce and Karla Hoffman from our congregation who have supported Vision Beyond Borders for a number of years and have worked with them on several mission trips.

On Sunday, June 2nd we are having a cookie Sunday. The congregation will be asked to bring in homemade cookies on that Sunday to church. Due to allergies, we ask that you stay away from providing any cookies with peanuts or peanut butter. After church we will bag the cookies together for distribution to various charities around the Billings area, including the Salvation Army and the HUB.

"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." --Ephesians 5:20

Clean-Up Day coming on Saturday, May 18

Join us on Saturday, May 18 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.



Special Mother's Day Celebration

Join us on Sunday, May 12 during worship for Mother's Day as we celebrate this special occasion by giving several ladies some gift cards to local businesses and restaurants. This special occasion is being provided by the fellowship committee.