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2019



Pastor's Pen
"Reflecting Christ's Love"



It's that time of year again when we seek your help and assistance in making a financial commitment to our church's ministry. Often we view this period of stewardship 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 Bible reminds us in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not merely for others." When we begin to view our stewardship as a way of using God's resources (our time, talents, and treasures), we begin to have a better understanding how God can use us to make a difference in our community and world.

In the coming weeks, leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 17, you will be hearing more about this approach to giving. We have been placed on the earth, by the very hand of God, to not only take up air and space, but to "reflect Christ's love." Through the ministry we carry out in our congregation, we provide compassion, care, counsel, and education to a number of people within our church and far beyond our physical property.

Soon 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 in 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 as we continue to think about how we can "reflect Christ's love."

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Memory Joggers for November 2019

<u>November 3</u>	<u>The 10th</u>	<u>The 17th</u>	<u>The 24th</u>	<u>December 1</u>
Greeters Carl & Vicki Johnson	Greeters George & Heather Rosenfeld	Greeters Gary & Jean Schneider	Greeters Ron Sperry Phyllis Brown	Greeters Jason & Meghan Ascherman & Daughters
Ushers Jim & Biff Hogue Donny Cole Ron Stowe	Ushers Bill & Colleen Lorentz Jim Hummel & Paige Spalding	Ushers Jerry Koch Bob Fedric Bill White John Reed	Ushers Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Betty Ann Nesmith Linda Luse	Ushers Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson
Liturgist Don Harr	Liturgist Shirley Smith	Liturgist Erin Thompson	Liturgist Charlie Reed	Liturgist David Sanderson
Communion Jerry & Bobbie Koch Megan Lorentz Sandi Schoenberger Sharon Mathews	Sound Booth Chuck Leggate Flower Delivery Jack & Karla Mahan	Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga Flower Delivery Chuck & Cindy Leggate	Sound Booth Bob Culbertson Flower Delivery Sharon Lincoln	Communion Rhonda Stennerson Heather Rosenfeld Niki Youngbear Vicki Thompson Carla Bracken

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Coming Attractions:

Daylight savings time ends on November 3— turn clocks back an hour
 Presbytery meeting in Lewistown on November 1-2
 New members' class begins on Sunday November 3 at 9:15 AM
 Global Village items for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 10
 Stewardship luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 17— Bring a side dish to accompany sloppy joes
 Free senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 20 at 6:00 PM
 Family Promise returns November 24-December 1: Volunteers are needed!
 Christmas decorating coming on Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 PM
 RMC Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 8 at 3 PM and 7 PM

Church Info

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30 am— 4 PM
406-252-3434
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
www.fpcbillings.org
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship @ 10:30

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson
Youth Director: Russ Dornisch
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Custodian: Kent Fellingham
Bus Driver: David Sanderson

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2020

David Bauer
Carla Bracken
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 on Sunday, November 3. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

The session met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 8. Sandi Schoenberger, chair of the property committee, listed improvements that the committee feels need to be completed in the near future. Installation of the new flooring in the kitchen is nearly complete.

The finance committee reported that the financial health of the church is good. Chris Eriksen was elected to be our Presbytery Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting in Lewistown on November 1-2 and will accompany Pastor Dave to the meeting.

New members will be received during the our November 12 meeting of session and will be introduced during worship on Sunday, November 17.

Financial snapshot

2019	Income	Expense	Net
October	\$ 26,577	\$ 36,270	\$ (9,693)
YTD	\$ 361,509	\$ 331,438	\$ 30,071

We appreciate your continued financial support of our church and its ongoing ministries. Pledge cards for 2020 will be arriving in the mail soon and we would appreciate if they are returned on November 17.

OCTOBER	2019
6th	195
13th	210
20th	219
27th	192
Oct. Ave	204

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: The church mice are enjoying scurrying around on the beautiful, brand new kitchen floor. From start to finish the property committee was directly involved in the new floor. Sandi Schoenberger, Bruce Phillips, Chuck, Leggate, Gary Lohnbakken, Ebin Gormley and Pastor Dave removed the equipment and replaced it. The appliances received a needed cleaning in the process - special thanks to Bruce who hand cleaned the top of the refrigerator which had many years accumulation of dust and grime. The youth group also helped. It is gratifying to see our church family working together in many projects.



We also thank Jim Hummel who gave us a discount price on the floor with his work at Carpet One. We invite you to enjoy the new floor in our very beautiful and well used kitchen.

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 \$25. Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of October. They are Dan & Mike Ehleng in memory of their mother, Dorothy Ehleng; Dottie Hilger in memory of her parents; and George and Heather Rosenfeld in memory of their parents and in gratitude of our church family.

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.

Trip to Zambia, Africa being planned

Eight young adults from our congregation will be traveling to Zambia, Africa next summer and will be working through the Arise Africa organization. While in Zambia, the group will be working at an orphanage, school, and community program to help bring the hope of Christ to kids and families. They recently began their "Travel Partner" fundraiser with the hopes of raising \$10,000 for their trip. For each dollar donated, they are able to travel 1 mile. So a \$100 donation will allow them to travel 100 miles and so forth. As of date they have raised nearly \$3,500 toward their goal. If you would like to make a donation to this trip, please write a check to "Arise Africa" and send it to the church office or drop it off in the offering plate. Your donation tax deductible and is greatly appreciated. Travel Partners will receive a postcard next summer from Zambia and will also be invited to their Travel Partner Banquet upon their return. Sara Thompson is the contact person for this trip and she can be reached at 696-5380 if you have any questions.



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Update

We are blessed with a very active group of Stephen Ministers who support the church in providing care and concern to those in our church and community. 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: JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave. The next supervision meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26.

Laps 4 Life Appreciation

"Dear FPC Members, On behalf of the Billings Education Foundation and Laps 4 Life, thank you so much for your generous support. It will help the 164 homeless SD2 high school students through this difficult time in their lives. High school is hard enough without being homeless and our goal is to provide these students with the resources they need. The first annual Laps 4 Life event drew several hundred people and raised approximately \$15,000. But more importantly, it raised awareness about homeless in high school, a time when young people are often on their own. Thanks you again for your support. We are off to a great start for next year!" —Jesse Dimich-Louvet, Laps 4 Life Organizer

Senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 20

Our church's annual Senior Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 20 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.

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 a wide range of issues
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 condolences to the family of Bill Brewington who died on October 22 under hospice care and his funeral will be held at the church on Tuesday, November 5 at 1 PM.
 We extend our condolences to John and Debbie Oliver upon the recent death of John's son, Byron. A memorial service for Byron will be held in Colorado on Saturday, November 2.
 Bud Leuthold is home and doing well following hip replacement surgery that he had on October 21.
 C.J. Johnson has returned home after undergoing back surgery on October 25.
 Sue Bentley is recovering at home after having knee surgery last month.
 Gary Bracken has moved to Bella Terra (formerly Valley Health and Rehab) after being hospitalized.
 Judy Wallinder has returned home from the hospital after being hospitalized with an infection.
 Chuck Maris has returned home after receiving rehab at Park View Care Center over the past month.



Family Promise returns November 24-December 1

Volunteers are needed to help with our Family Promise week from November 24-December 1. We are looking for help with set up, food preparation, overnight hosts, and clean up. Due to the Thanksgiving week, we are seeking your help in volunteering. Please sign up on the bulletin board near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall of talk with either Chris Eriksen (701-320-2614) or Janet Brown (698-6666) if you are able to help.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		2019			1 9-1 Preschool Youth Lock-In At church 6PM	2 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG)
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:00 Westpark worship 6 reFUEL	4 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee	5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session meeting	6 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	7 9 Bible Study Fellowship	8 9-1 Preschool Youth Lock-In at the church begins at 6 PM	9
10 9:15 Sunday School Global Village 10:30 Worship 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	11 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group	12 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group	13 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	14 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team Meets	15 9-1 Preschool Newsletter Deadline	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	18 9-1 Preschool	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision meets in the Fireside Room	20 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	21 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee meets in the Fireside Rm	22 9-1 Preschool	23
24 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	25 9 BSF Leaders 12 Men's Group	26 9-11 BSF 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision meets in the Fireside	27 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	28 Thanksgiving Church Closed 	29 Church closed	30

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, November 13 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, November 20 with two groups meeting in the morning, two groups meeting in the afternoon, and a group that meets in the evening. Talk to Sharon Brady or Marlene Spencer about meeting times and locations.

Sunday school opportunities

Sunday school for children, youth, and adults is offered. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all will join us!



Classes for Kids:

Sunday School is held each Sunday after children's time. Join our wonderful interns Hunter, Jaki, and Sam as we explore different books of the bible while working on wonderful crafts and playing games. Ages Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome!

Special Class for Adults:

"The 7 Experiment" continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Co-led by Heather McLean and Russ Dornisch this class will help you take a deeper look as to what truly is important in life. The 7 Experiment is not about what we own, it's about what owns us. American life can be excessive, and this class is intended to address seven places in our lives where we can overdo it: Food, Clothes, Possessions, Media, Waste, Spending, and Stress. Join Heather and Russ to change the way you see things, and even more, change your life! This class will continue through Sunday, December 15.

Church and Society Class meets in the C & S Room. Here is the schedule of speakers for November:

November 3: Stan Parker, Independent Journalist and Filmmaker, and Peter Tolton, Filmmaker, Artist, and Writer. They will present, "Return—A Documentary." Stan and Pete will share clips and reflections that feature a Montana veteran who returns to Vietnam for the first time to treat his PTSD, finally tells his son about his wartime experiences, and answers long-burning questions about the fate of the indigenous Montagnard peoples he served alongside as a Green Beret. "Return" is a colorful adventure story that offers ideas on ways communities can honor veterans' stories, support those living with PTSD, and begin long overdue conversations in our own lives. Stan is the son of Carlene Taubert and Mark Parker and grew up in our church. He has also presented his past two documentaries, 'Makoshika' and 'Banking on Trust' to our C & S Class.

November 10: Lynda Moss, Former State Senator and Board Chair of the Northwest Area Foundation. She will present, "Adopting Pope Francis's Education Initiative." Learn how Montana is implementing the Pope's 'Global Compact on Education.' This compact offers concrete ways to teach future generations to be more aware, innovative, and responsible in caring for each other and the earth. Education is the key, and the Compact includes the goal of training youth for full-time jobs with a living wage. Lynda will explain how Montana Jobs for Montana Youth (AJAY) is meeting the Pope's challenge by connecting community groups that have similar goals and how AJAY is promoting new initiatives.

November 17: Russ Dornisch, Youth Pastor. His topic will be "Youth of Today and Future of Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian." Russ will give an overview of his background, how he came to Billings, why he cares so much for young people, and his hopes and ideas for the future of our youth program.

November 24: Sarah Rachac, Volunteer Coordinator for Riverstone Health Hospice. She will present "Hospice 101." With the mission of serving people of all ages and wherever they call home, Sarah will detail the efforts of maintaining comfort and dignity for those near life's end. She will also explain who qualifies, as well as some offer some unique aspects of this hospice and its impact on our community.

Youth News:


Hello and happy November everyone! Things with the youth are going wonderfully! The church has a wonderful group of kids and I am extremely blessed to be able to work with them on a weekly basis. I am also very grateful for the wonderful volunteers that help each and every week and for such a supporting congregation. Huge thanks to all meal volunteers from October: Heidi Duncan, Russ and Janet Kline, myself and my wife Angie Dornisch, Rhonda Stennerson, Cherrie McRae, and Linda Franson. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to volunteer to cook for Spring as we will be looking for volunteers towards the end of November.



As far as youth events for the month, we will have our first lock in on Friday, November 8th at 6 PM, cost is \$10 and there will be plenty of food, pizza, snacks, and other fun events during the night! We will also be having our annual senior Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th. Please put that down on your calendar and we will get more info out to the church as the date gets closer. This night allows us to give back to the church as a thanks from our youth kids. We would also love to see our youth join our bible study "The 7 Experiment" that will be happening each Sunday morning through November and into December at 9:15 am before church. This is being led by myself and Heather Mclean and we hope to see more youth there!

Finally, the youth have decided on a rebrand, so starting in November our Wednesday night youth group will be changing our name to SALT Youth. As Jesus told us to be the salt of the Earth, so will the kids of our youth group be world changers and difference makers in this church and community. So if you see a listing for SALT meeting, it is just our regular youth group meeting. Thanks again for the opportunity to lead the youth of this church.

—Russ Dornisch, Children's and Youth Ministry
 russ@fpcbillings.org
 719-431-3846



Better Together Preschool continues

Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool and they provide classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9-1 This school is open for children ages 2 through pre-K and meet in the downstairs classrooms. The preschool staff is comprised of five ladies, plus additional help is 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 book of Matthew from the New Testament. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 11 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September
 (All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, November 5 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, November 7 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, November 11 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, November 12at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 13 at 9:30am
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, November 21 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, December 2 at 4:00 PM


New Member's Class to begin on Sunday, November 3

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 3. Join Pastor Dave and Bill Lorentz on Sundays November 3 and 10 at 9:15 AM in the Conference Room for this special class. They 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 17, which will be our stewardship Sunday celebration.



Birthdays

1 Josephine Bartels	14 Marlei Stennerson	28 Kathy Dubs
Jerry Broderson	15 Barbara Muir	Cheryl Nagel
5 Cherrie McRae	16 Julie Michalsky	Anniversaries
Janet Brown	17 Steve Bentley	23 Bill & Trina White
6 Billie Strissel	18 Sherry Henslin	27 Jim & Jo Ausk
7 Cook Murch	Sherry Garretson	28 Ken & Ann Chase
Janice Ward	19 Emma McLean	Bruce & Bernice Phillips
9 Beth Morrow	Roger Hutchison	
Lynne Bailey	20 Helen Zottnick	
10 Chris Eriksen	24 Jim Hummel	
Bernice Phillips	27 Colleen Lorentz	
12 Debbie Oliver	Gail Janiak	
	28 Heather McLean	



Mission News


The mission committee was honored to visit with Shannon Toney, a counselor at Castle Rock Middle School, about their Food Pantry Program. Earlier we gave them \$1,000 to build new cupboards for food, clothing and hygiene items, and school supplies for their students. She showed us pictures and the new cupboards look clean, strong, and inviting. Shannon wants the students to feel like they are shopping and making choices instead of simply getting a handout. They do give Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for several needy families. They also help some groups homes in the area under the direction of Youth Dynamics. She sees children with mental health problems and children in foster homes. The food pantry serves approximately 20 students per month and 100 to 200 students for miscellaneous items during the school year. All students are welcome to ask for help with food, clothing, school supplies, and snacks. No questions are asked.

Before Thanksgiving, we will be putting up the Angel Tree with ideas for Christmas giving. This year you will have giving opportunities for 3 organizations. (1) \$25.00 fast food gift cards for Castle Rock Food Pantry gifts, (2) The Presbyterian Giving Catalog, and (3) Those at Eagle Cliffs Manner Senior Living Home who will not get any other gifts.

We made these donations: Castle Rock Middle School Food Pantry - \$500, Lewis & Clark Middle School Food Pantry - \$500, Gateway House (for Betty Ann to purchase blankets, towels, and other needed items) - \$500, Horses, Spirit & Healing – a program to help veterans suffering from PTSD - \$500, and Young Life - \$1000.


Grant monies are still available for our two grants: Community Grants for up to \$5,000 and our Individual Grants for up to \$1,000. For more information about these grants, please talk with Pastor Dave or Jeanne and they would be happy to give you the grant applications in the church office.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



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. This group recently began a new study on the book of 2 Corinthians from the New Testament. This is the Apostle Paul's most personal letter that has many implications for us today. Co-led by Bruce Hoffman and Pastor Dave, this series includes an opening game, sharing, study, prayer, and treats.



Stewardship luncheon coming on Sunday, November 17

Join us on Sunday, November 17 following worship for our annual stewardship luncheon. The fellowship committee will be providing sloppy joes and ask everyone to bring an accompanying dish, such as a salad, side dish, or dessert. Questions can be directed to Sandi Schoenberger.