

2420 13th St. W.  
Billings, MT 59102-2428  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Pastor's Pen

### "Vision 2020"



The year 2019 was another good year in the life of our church. Over the past year we saw growth in both programs and attendance. We launched our new reFUEL group in January that provides a weekly study on various topics and books from the Bible. We commissioned a new group of eleven Stephen Ministers in March. A group of youth traveled to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium conference in Indiana in July. Russ Dornisch came on staff with us in September as our new Youth Pastor and we have seen a growth in our youth ministry programs since his arrival.

We continue a strong relationship with our Better Together Preschool who continue to run at a maximum enrollment capacity of 44 students in their program. Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) meets in our church every Thursday with over 200 women attending a weekly Bible study in our church.

Mission giving continues to expand as we supported a number of mission efforts in our community and around the world. Our church provided a generous donation through our Noisy Offering to the Laps for Life in September, a program that was organized by high school senior Jessie Dimich-Louvet to help raise funds and awareness to the growing population of youth homeless in our area.

I'm looking forward to the New Year and ways that we can continue to grow and expand our ministry. With Russ' help and leadership, I would like to expand our small group ministry platform, enabling more people the opportunity to participate in a small group setting. I have found that relationships with others and God grow best in small group settings. The church will also be working toward updating and expanding our social media platform with an improved website, greater interaction with our members, and improved ways that we can interface with one another.

I will begin a new sermon series titled, "Vision 2020" beginning this Sunday, January 5 and will be leading a new Sunday school class titled, "Rediscovering Jesus" which will begin on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. I hope you will join us for these opportunities to grow deeper in your faith in this New Year.

I have much optimism that the church will continue to grow and flourish as we begin a new decade together. God's love, forgiveness, and grace that is offered freely through Jesus Christ is a wonderful message we are able to share. In the midst of a hurting world and community, the ministry of Good News is always so very important. We will continue to provide opportunities for all to grow closer to God, to learn more about faith, and to express ways to live out our faith on a local, national, and international level.

In Christ,  
Pastor Dave

### Coming Attractions:

Sunday school classes resume on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 AM  
reFUEL group begins new series on Sunday, January 12 from 6-7 PM  
Noisy offering received for Tumbleweed Youth Program on Sunday, January 26  
Congregational meeting coming on Sunday, January 26 after worship  
Youth Ski Retreat coming to Butte on the weekend of February 28

## Memory Joggers for January 2020

January 5th	The 12th	The 19th	The 26th
<b>Greeters</b> Bruce & Bernice Phillips	<b>Greeters</b> Jim & Jo Ausk	<b>Greeters</b> Thelma Riggs	<b>Greeters</b> Carla & Teena Bracken
<b>Ushers</b> Bud & Joanne Leuthold Jim & Biff Hogue	<b>Ushers</b> Cindy Leggate Jo Albin Linda Broderson Janet Brown	<b>Ushers</b> Sherry Garretson	<b>Ushers</b> Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Betty Ann Nesmith
<b>Liturgist</b> Bill Lorentz	<b>Liturgist</b> Margie LaFontaine	<b>Liturgist</b> John Reed	<b>Liturgist</b> Linda Luse
<b>Sound Booth</b> David Bauer	<b>Sound Booth</b> Chuck Leggate	<b>Sound Booth</b> Jeff Gruizenga	<b>Sound Booth</b> Bruce Hoffman Bob Culbertson
<b>Communion</b> Chris Eriksen Heather McLean Charlie Reed Dottie Hilger Kristi Catlin	<b>Flower Delivery</b> Chris Eriksen	<b>Flower Delivery</b> Jack & Karla Mahan	<b>Flower Delivery</b> Chuck & Cindy Leggate



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**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 AM

**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, January 5. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

**Session Notes:**

The session met on Tuesday, December 10 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room from 7-9 PM. Samantha Welk, a junior at Senior High School, was received as a new member. Per-capita payments for each member of the church has been set by Presbytery at \$55. The Nominating Committee has completed their work with a full slate of elders and deacons to be presented for nomination at our annual meeting on January 26. The Personnel Committee completed all of the staff evaluations and consideration for raises will be discussed at the meeting in January. Pastor Dave shared with the session about his recent trip to Richmond, Virginia, where he set some goals for the coming year. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

**Financial snapshot**

2019	Income	Expense	Net
December	\$ 153,512	\$ 68,536	\$ 84,976
Year End	\$ 551,675	\$ 430,629	\$ 121,046

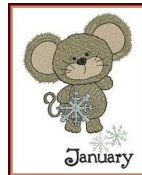
**We appreciate your continued financial support of our church and its ongoing ministries. \$33,927 was received from the Foundation in December. Per-capita for 2020 is \$55 per member and we ask that each member of the church pays for their per-capita if possible. Pledge cards for 2020 continue to be received.**

DECEMBER	2019
1st	190
8th	200
15th	218
22nd	225
Christmas Eve	396
29th	148
Dec. Ave	230

**Website recently updated**

Our church website at fpcbillings.org has a fresh look. Lots of information is available on our website for members and also for those looking for a church. We have information about our church's history; what it means to be a Presbyterian; and program options for children, youth, and adults; and calendar. You can listen to sermons on-line at our website as well. Just click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper left corner of our church's homepage. Stay connected even when you are away.

**Church Mice:** The church mice noticed lots of people who came to help decorate the church for Christmas. Tree were put up and decorated, wreaths were hung in the sanctuary and narthex, nativity displays were set up, and pizza and salad was provided by the Presbyterian Women's group. Special thank to all who helped with the decorating!!



**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 December. They are Linda and John Luse in honor of their daughter Jenanne Luse, the Presbyterian Women's group of our church, and many of you who donated Christmas Poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. A listing of the poinsettia donations will be provided in this newsletter.

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.

**Zambia, Africa trip update**



Seven 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.

Sandi Rabas' music CDs are selling in the gallery on Sundays for a free will donation. This CD includes 21 pieces of piano music from Sandi that includes Christmas, classical, and hymn selections. All proceeds from the sales go toward the trip. Thanks Sandi for this wonderful gift toward the trip!!

As of date the group has raised over \$16,000 toward their trip. 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.



**Stephen Ministry Update**

Stephen Ministers gathered at the home of JoAnn Jones on Thursday, December 17 for the annual Christmas party. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. Special thanks to JoAnn for hosting this gathering.

Our church will be hosting a Stephen Ministry informational session on Saturday, April 18 beginning at 8:00 AM. Hosted by those from the national headquarters in St. Louis, this event will be open to area churches and leaders who would like more information about starting a Stephen Ministry program in their church or community. We are excited to be able to host this gathering.

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.

**Foundation News and Gift**

The First Presbyterian Foundation met on Monday, December 9 for its year end meeting. The Foundation gave a check to the church in the amount of \$33,953. These funds will go toward the General Fund of the church which supports the church's mission and ministry. We thank all who give toward the church's Foundation during this past year. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a sustainable income to the church through the generosity of its donors. Each year the Foundation gives 3% of its fund balance to the ministry of our congregation, while the fund principle continues to grow for years to come.

The Foundation would like to thank everyone who made a donation to the foundation in 2019. For more information about the Foundation or how to make a planned gift to the church, please talk with Jenice Fugere, Tonya Appelt, or Jim Hummel. The new e-mail address for the foundation is: foundation@fpcbillings.org

**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.

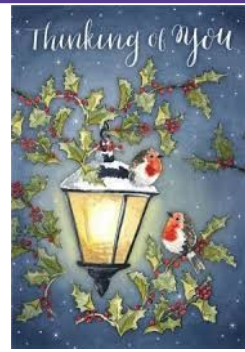
Both groups are open to anyone in the church and community and maintain a high level of confidentiality. Both of these groups meet in our new conference room.

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 Kevin and Jody Anderson upon the recent death of Kevin's mom. Merilyn Ballard has returned home after being hospitalized with a broken hip from falling. Louise Larsen continues to recover from a recent illness at St. John's Transitional Care Unit. Kristy Catlin is recovering at home from foot surgery in December. Shari Dayton is recovering at home from recent knee surgery. Shirley Smith is recovering from recent heart surgery. Cathy McLean was hospitalized at the Billings Clinic last month. Duffy Lahey, Teena Bracken's husband, underwent foot surgery last month. Jane Myhre recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a cake after worship provided by her family.



**Christmas un-decorating to be held Monday, January 6**

We invite you to join us to un-decorate the church from Christmas on Monday, January 6 at 11:00 AM. We will be putting away the trees, wreaths, nativities, and banners. Free lunch will be provided to all who come to help. We would appreciate any of you who could stop by and give a hand for about an hour. Thanks to the many who helped decorate the church for Christmas. The church looked beautiful!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				2 No BSF 7 Christian Education meeting	3 No Preschool	4
5 No Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 Westpark	6 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 11 Christmas Un-decorating	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Property Committee meeting	8 9 Bible Study 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	9 9 Bible Study Fellowship Resumes	10 Church closed 9-1 Preschool	11
12 9:15 Sunday School resumes 10:30 Worship 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL resumes	13 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group meets in the Fireside Room	14 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Finance meeting 7 Session meeting	15 9 Bible Study 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	16 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team meets in the Fireside Room	17 Church closed 9-1 Preschool	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	20 Office Closed MLK Holiday	21 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group	22 9 Bible Study 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	23 9 Bible Study Fellowship Mission Committee 7 PM	24 Church closed 9-1 Preschool <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	25
26 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship Annual Congregational meeting 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	27 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacon's meeting	28 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	29 9 Bible Study 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	30 9 Bible Study Fellowship	31 Church Closed 9-1 Preschool	



**Presbyterian Women's Ministry**

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, January 8 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, January 15 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. We thank the PW for their good work at funeral receptions and others functions around the church!!

**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 offered during worship after the children's time each Sunday. I would like to introduce the college interns for this school year. Hunter Skov is back as an intern and is currently a Senior at MSUB. Jackie Harada is currently a Sophomore at MSUB as well. And lastly, Sam Dobson is a Freshman at Rocky Mountain College. If you see these three around the church feel free to say hello. The kids will be going through the book of Corinthians for the next several weeks. —Russ

**Special Class for Adults: "Rediscovering Jesus: Seeing Jesus with Fresh Eyes" with Pastor Dave**

For many of us, Jesus has been a part of our lives and vocabulary for our entire lives. Jesus, the central figure of our Christian faith, only lived for 33 years and only ministered for three of those years. This remarkable person however can become so commonplace in our lives that we can easily forget about his influence, power, and redemptive nature. Join Pastor Dave for this seven week class which will help us "Rediscover Jesus." He will help us look at his early life, formal ministry, death and resurrection in seeing Jesus in a new way. This is part of our Vision 2020 series that will be offered throughout this year. This class will begin on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and will continue through February 23.

**Church and Society Class meets in the C & S Room at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. Here is the schedule of speakers for January:**

January 12: Dr. Alan Muskett, Cosmetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgeon, will present, "How to be a Cool Older Person." Does faith play a part in aging and if so, how? In his free time Dr. Muskett has written two books about his medical experiences. He also makes furniture and has been a popular speaker in our class over many years.

January 19: Bill Cole, Billings Mayor, Chairman of the USS Billings Namesake Committee. He will present, "The USS Billings: Our First Naval Service Namesake." What has over 100 miles of electrical and fiber optic cable, 1,000 tons of aluminum, and 2,000 tons of steel? Join us in hearing about the commissioning of the USS Billings that Bill and his wife, Anne, attended and the efforts that made it possible. It is one of the Navy's newest warships that is built for near-shore multi-purpose missions. This is the first time Billings has been honored as a namesake city.

January 26: Virginia Smith, Catholic Theologian. She will present, "Life is Changed, Not Ended." Christians understand that faith in death, resurrection, and eternal life are central to our beliefs. Still, many struggle to make sense of it all. Virginia is the author of a book of the same title and has partnered with Elizabeth McNamer in other writings.

*Shari Dayton continues to seek speakers for our Church and Society class and she is always open to receiving recommendations for upcoming speakers and topics.*

**Youth News:**

December was a great month for our youth. We made gingerbread houses, went caroling at some of the retirement homes, and enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party at the Dayton's home.



We are on break until January 8th and hope all the kids and their families have a wonderful holiday.

We are extremely thankful for all of the people who volunteered meals in December: Greta & Scott Murray, Kerry Gruizenga, and Karen Norsworthy. Special thanks to Bob & Shari Dayton for providing food and their house for the annual Christmas party.

We have sign ups for next semester's meal on the youth board near Dave's office and are in need of many more volunteers to fill up our dates.

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, January 13 at 12noon. All men are invited.

**Upcoming Committee Meetings in September**

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Christian Education	Thursday, January 2 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, January 6 at 10:00 AM
Property Committee	Tuesday, January 7 at 12noon
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30am
Session Meeting	Tuesday, January 14 7:00 PM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, January 16 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 PM
Deacons Meeting	Monday, January 27 at 4:00 PM

**Congregational meeting coming on Sunday, January 26**

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 immediately following our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a new class of elders and deacons, elect a nominating committee for the coming year for the selection of elders and deacons, review the 2019 financial statements, hear reports from the past year, and to review the 2020 proposed budget. Annual reports will be available on Sunday, January 19, a week prior to the meeting. We invite you to take a report and look it over prior to the meeting on Sunday, January 26.

**New nativity display purchased**

Many in our church and community have commented on the nativity display that has been visible near the corner of Poly Drive and 13th Street West. The nativity was an effort of the Worship Committee and built by the Sign Store here in town. Funds from memorial gifts were used to purchase the display which adds much to our property. Hay bales were added to provide a greater effect. The display easily comes apart for convenient storage.

**Birthdays**

- 1 Fern Nelson
- 3 Willard Johnson
- 4 Mary Rottrup
- 5 Greta Murray
- Pat Stowe
- 7 Bob Shirley
- 10 Zackery Bennett
- 14 Nick Goettel
- 15 Robert Sterup
- Carol Drum
- Donny Cole
- 16 Louis Dubs
- 17 Martha Davidson

- 20 Thelma Riggs
- Bruce Phillips
- 24 Robert Keenum
- Ron Stowe
- 25 Richard Davidson
- 26 Tyler Goettel
- 27 Katelyn Morrow
- 29 Mark Parker
- 30 Jean Schneider
- Kay Hein

**Anniversaries**

- 6 Kurt & Cathy McLean
- 12 Ronald & Junice Wooten
- 15 Kyle & JoLayne Buffington



**Mission News**

It's Noisy Offering time again. On January 26<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting noisy and quiet money for Tumbleweed. Tumbleweed provides safety, stability, and hope to vulnerable and homeless and at risk youth.

We are helping Missionary Emily Broadbent. Emily is a missionary at an orphanage in Tanzania. She is 24 years old and has set goals in her life to include staying in Tanzania and continue her missionary work. We are sending her \$1,200 to support.

We are also helping Cathy McLean move to Billings. We are helping financially with the move and also with some man power.

For many years the mission committee has met during the day. So new members can join our committee, we have decided to move the meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month and the meeting time will be 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the above, the following expenditures for the remaining year are as follows: The Angel Tree \$500; The Yellowstone Presbytery and the Goodrich's \$3,000; the General Mission Fund of the Presbyterian Church (USA) \$5,000; Family Promise \$1,000; Eagle Rock Sanctuary \$1,000; The Kiva Program \$1,100; the Montana Food Network \$1,100; the Salvation Army \$1,000; the Montana Rescue Mission \$1,000; Family Services, Inc \$2,000; the Friendship House \$3,000; the Hub \$900; and the Crisis Center \$900.

Special thanks to all who donated items to the Angel tree this year. 31 blankets and gifts were taken to the residents of Eagle Cliffs Nursing Home, a home run by Yellowstone County in the Heights. 21 gift cards were given to underprivileged students at Castle Rock Middle School; and several thousand dollars in donations were given to the third world countries through the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue.

We are making a difference in our community and beyond. We, as a church, will continue to strive to reach out to those in need, be a good neighbor, to help the less fortunate, and to bring honor and glory to God in the process. Thanks for helping us make a difference and to be good stewards with all that God has entrusted us.

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*  
Isaiah 52:7-9



**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 beginning on Sunday, January 12 from 6-7 PM in the Fireside Room. We will begin a new seven week series titled, *After Christmas*. In this series we will be looking at who Jesus is, how his coming was foretold centuries in advance, the problem he came to solve, and how he solved it on the cross and by his resurrection. Co-led by Bruce Hoffman and Pastor Dave, this series will include time of sharing, study, and prayer. For more questions, please talk with Dave.