



Pastor's Pen
"Spiritual Strength Training"



Most people are conscientious when it comes to their physical health. For the most part, we watch what we eat and try to maintain a healthy lifestyle through exercise, diet, and rest. Some of you walk, others run, while others do Pilates, yoga, aerobics, or lift weights. For the extreme exercise enthusiasts, boot camp classes are even offered.

We are good at concentrating on our physical bodies when it comes to exercise, but do you ever think about exercising your spiritual muscles? The spiritual body, like the physical body, needs to be exercised, lest it goes into atrophy. I find that unless the spirit is nurtured and stimulated, it is easy for us to become complacent in our walk with Jesus Christ.

The season of Lent, these 40 days leading up to Easter, provides a good time to work on our spiritual lives. This season provides a time to reflect and renew our relationship with God and recommit our lives to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. With our physical bodies, we have to be intentional about going for a walk or getting to the gym. The same intentionality is true with the Spirit. Here are some ways I would like to encourage you to exercise your spiritual muscles during this special season:

*Daily Devotions: Take a few minutes each day to read some scripture and pray. During the season of Lent, we offer a free devotional to help with this exercise. These devotionals, titled "By His Wounds We Are Healed" are available in our gallery and offer a daily scripture, devotional, and prayer.

*Lenten Lunch & Learn Series— Join us beginning this Tuesdays, March 3 at 12noon in the Fireside Room to share a meal and leaning together. I will be teaching a series on the remarkable life of Joseph from the Old Testament. This class will be titled, "Retaliation or Reconciliation: When your emotions get the best of you." This series will continue each Tuesday at noon through March 31.

*Sunday school class— Be involved in Sunday school, either as a participant or teacher. I will begin a class titled, "Characters of the Crucifixion" on March 1 at 9:15 as we will take a deeper look at those who played a role in the crucifixion of Jesus.

*Sunday worship provides a good time to gather with others to be renewed in our faith. I will begin a new sermon series titled, "The Eyes of Christ" this Sunday.

*Small groups within our church offer more personal growth and fellowship. I hope you will take part in some of the things we offer to help promote your spiritual growth. Come and join us as we get into shape and grow in our relationship with God. I look forward to worshipping with you on the next Lord's Day.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Coming Attractions:

Presbytery meeting at our church on March 6-7
Stephen Ministry Regional Gathering at our church on Saturday, April 18 from 8-12
Youth/College Basket Auction coming Sunday, April 26
Church clean up day— Saturday, May 2 from 9-11:30 AM
FPC Golf Tournament at Par 3 coming Saturday, May 23 at 10 AM
Young Adult trip to Zambia, Africa from June 11-23

Memory Joggers for 2020

<u>March 1 2020</u>	<u>The 8th</u>	<u>The 15th</u>	<u>The 22rd</u>	<u>The 29th</u>	<u>April 5 2020</u>
Greeters Carl & Vickie Johnson	Greeters Ron Sperry Phyllis Brown	Greeters Gary & Jean Schneider	Greeters Jack & Karla Mahan	Greeters Betty Ann Nesmith Thelma Riggs	Greeters Bruce & Bernice Phillips
Ushers Sharon Mathews Larry George Don Cole Marjorie Stewart	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 Greg & Deb Wiens Gary & Jean Schneider	Ushers Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson
Liturgist Linda Franson	Liturgist Deb Wiens	Liturgist Erin Thompson	Liturgist Coryn Martinez	Liturgist Shirley Shirley	Liturgist Janet Kline
Sound Booth David Bauer	Sound Booth Chuck Leggate	Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga	Sound Booth Bob Culbertson	Flower Delivery Sharon Lincoln	Sound Booth David Bauer
Communion Jerry & Bobbi Koch Kathy Butler Heather Rosenfeld Marlene Spencer	Flower Delivery Chris Eriksen	Flower Delivery Betty Roy	Flower Delivery Chuck & Cindy Leggate		



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Session Notes/Finance/ Church Mice	2
Sunday School/ PW/ Church & Society class	3
Youth News/ Events/ Notices	4
Birthdays/ Anniversaries/	5
Personal Notes/ Calendar	6
Church Leadership Team/ announcements	7
Memory Joggers	8

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 Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Custodian: Kent Fellingham
Bus Driver: David Sanderson

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2022

Dick Bailey
Kristy Catlin
Heather McLean
Bruce Phillips

Class of 2023

Robyn Bauer
Carla Bracken
Don Cole
Dan Ehleng

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, March 1. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes: The session held its regular stated meeting on February 11. This was the first meeting for new elders, Robyn Bauer, Don Cole, and Dan Ehleng. The 2020 general budget was passed. Pastor Dave was given permission to beginning to plan for another trip to Israel in the summer of 2021. Sandi Schoenberger was elected to be our elder commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting that will be held at our church on March 6th and 7th. It was agreed to host the choir from the University of Jamestown, North Dakota, at our church on Sunday, March 15 at 7:00 PM. The congregation will be asked to provide housing for the 57 choir member on the evening of March 15.

Financial snapshot

2020	Income	Expense	Net
February	\$ 43,722	\$ 48,281	\$ (4,559)
Year to date	\$ 111,013	\$ 94,479	\$ 16,534

We appreciate your continued financial support of our church and its ongoing ministries. Per-capita for 2020 is \$55 per member and we ask that each member of the church pays for their per-capita if possible.

FEBRUARY	2020
2nd	170
9th	191
16th	199
23rd	207
Feb. Ave	192

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 are aware that we have a loving, kind, gracious church community at First Presbyterian. Countless times we seen members going the "extra mile" in many, many different ways. We recently noticed that Shari and Bob Dayton went many "EXTRA MILES." We thank them and express our gratitude for living their Christian values by inviting five wonderful children into their home for a week. This act has made an impact on the Daytons, the children and perhaps most of all in our congregation by witnessing helping others at the highest level.



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 February. They are Following: Pam Harr in memory of Shirley Harr; Suzanne Braun in memory of her father, the Rev. Milous Repka; Marge Myhra in honor of grandchildren; and the Trenne and David Fields' family in honor of Carol Harr's birthday. After 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.

Our Church's Leadership Team

Session: Moderator- Pastor Dave Thompson
Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
J 8 im Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger (2)

Class of 2022

Dick Bailey
Kristy Catlin
Heather McLean (2)
Bruce Phillips

Class of 2023

Robyn Bauer
Carla Bracken (2)
Don Cole
Dan Ehleng

Deacons:

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)

Class of 2023

Jeri Lamerton
Karen Morrow
Alicia & Erica Nelson
Lorrie Rimpe (2)

(2) denotes a second consecutive term that is currently being served



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Update

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.

Michelle Lee, Rhonda Stennerson, and Pam Harr recently returned from attending the week-long national Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in Anaheim, California, where they became certified Stephen Leaders. This training enables them to assist with our next round of training a new class of Stephen Ministers this fall at our church.

Our congregation is 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.

New health support group continues on Friday, February 21

A new group which is geared to promote healthy lifestyles continues on Friday, 20 at 10 AM in the Conference Room. Co-lead by Dr. Heidi Duncan and Dr. Don Harr, this group will help people look at their health from a physical and mental perspective and offer support for people in a number of areas. Not intended to diagnose or treat issues, this group is intended to offer support and encouragement to those desiring good health and to promote healthy living. Heidi is a family practice doctor with the Billings Clinic and Don is a retire psychiatrist with extensive experience in the area of mental health. This group meets the third Friday of each month at 10 AM in the Conference Room.

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 Howard Klovstad who passed away on February 23. His funeral will be held at Smith Funeral Chapel (downtown) on Monday, March 2 at 1 PM. Patricia Killin's funeral was held at our church on Saturday, February 22 in the church's fellowship hall. Dave Carroll had successful hip replacement surgery last month and is recovering at Bella Terra. Louise Larsen has returned to her apartment at Westpark Village after having hip surgery last month. Bonnie Grosshuesch, our oldest member at 103, has moved to TenderNest Assisted Living. We extend our best wishes to Bob and Barb Muir who will be moving to Boise to be closer to their family. Chris Eriksen had successful shoulder surgery on Monday and is recovering at home.

Zambia, Africa trip update



Seven young adults from our congregation will be traveling to Zambia, Africa this June 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.

As of date the group has raised over \$17,000 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. Sara Thompson is the contact person for this trip and she can be reached at 696-5380.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:15 Sunday School 10 :30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	2 9-1 Preschool	3 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch and Learn 12 Property Committee meeting	4 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	5 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Christian Education Committee	6 9-1 Preschool 10-12 Presbytery workshop 1 Presbytery meeting begins	7 8-12 Presbytery meeting at our church
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	9 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group meets in the Fireside Room	10 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch and Learn 12 Finance meets 7 Session meeting in the Fireside	11 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	12 9 Bible Study Fellowship	13 Church closed 9-1 Preschool 12 Preschool lunch in the fellowship hall	14 10 Calligraphy group meets in the Fireside Room
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Golf Mtg 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL 7 Choir Concert	16 9-1 Preschool	17 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support 11 Fellowship 12 Lenten Lunch And Learn	18 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	19 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team	20 Church closed 9-1 Preschool 10 Health Support Group Newsletter Due	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	23 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacon's meeting	24 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch and Learn 6 Stephen Ministry	25 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	26 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team 7 Mission Comm.	27 Church closed 9-1 Preschool	28
29 9:15 Sunday School 10 :30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	30 9-1 Preschool	31 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch and Learn				



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, March 11 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, March 18 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.

PW is already planning and getting ready for the Praise Luncheon to be held in our church on Wednesday April 8 at 12noon. This year we added two churches to our invitation list. Paula Ketterling has once again agreed to provide the main dish salads for us.

Sunday adult education opportunities



Special Class for Adults: Join Pastor Dave, beginning this Sunday, March 1 at 9:15 AM, for a class titled "Characters of the Crucifixion." Dave will help us take a deeper look at those who played a role in the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, including Pontius Pilate, Judas, the two thieves, Simon of Cyrene, the bystanders, and Joseph of Arimathea. This class is intended to help you gain a better understanding of the cross, the central symbol of our faith.

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

MARCH 1: Erin Baker, Donor Recruitment Manager for MT/WY, Vitalant Blood Donation Center. "Blood Donations and the Impact on our Community." From Christ's crucifixion to the communion sacrament, the blood of Jesus has symbolized the cleansing of our sins. In today's world many are in need of blood transfusions. Learn how Vitalant's 127 donation centers throughout the US supply to nearly 1000 hospitals and health care partners in 40 states.

MARCH 8: Michelle Erickson-Jones, Owner/Operator Gooseneck Land and Cattle, "Agriculture, Tariffs, and the Current Trade Climate". Farming is fueled by science but rooted in faith in the Bible. Join Michelle as she explains how agriculture is impacted by our current trade policy. How do various tariffs affect our sales and input costs? What is the cost to agriculture when the global trading system is in disarray? What does recovery look like for agriculture? Michelle will also address some of the gains made in finalized agreements, what to expect from China, and how we're losing our standing as a reliable supplier around the globe.

MARCH 15: Dr. Melinda Arnold, MSUB Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor, "How Do We Practice Criminal Justice?" Criminal justice is a common theme in the Bible with many related verses. With a Doctorate in Criminal Justice Dr. Arnold will share her expertise in reentry issues, wrongful convictions, plea bargaining, and research in best practices in policing.

MARCH 22: Kurt G. Alme, US Attorney for Montana, "Montana Public Safety; Addressing the Issues." US Attorney Alme will give an overview of current issues facing public safety in Montana and what his office is doing to address them. The issues include violent crime and meth, opioids and elder exploitation. Learn about the recently formed Yellowstone Substance Abuse Connect that is a coalition addressing these problems.

MARCH 29: Dr. Bridget Kevane, Associate Dean MSU Bozeman, "Latinos in Montana." With a heart for Latina women, Dr. Kevane began a program that has received awards to train and mentor these women to be health advocates for their families. In addition to various teaching awards she is considered 'a wonderful leader who has served MSU and the state exceptionally well.'

Property Committee Updates

The Property Committee would like to let you how we have been caring for the church property. Within the last 6 months new flooring has been placed in the kitchen, nine trees have been pruned and shaped to maintain their health, and an electronic sign to advertise church activities has been placed along Poly Drive. We have a wonderful group of volunteers that perform minor repairs and maintenance - replacing light bulbs, repairing cellular blinds, replacing broken window panes and so much more. Please be sure to thank Chuck & Eric Leggate, Gary Lohnbakken, Bruce Phillips and Ronnie Wooten for their services.

Youth News:

February was a good month for the youth group that included a lot of planning. As the school year is a little more than half way over we are looking to the summer and next school year for the youth. We finalized our summer mission trip to Denver for August. We will be working with Open Door ministries there where the kids will be working with the homeless and other ethnic groups. The mission trip will be the first week of August this summer. As a part of going on that trip we have resumed Sunday morning Bible study for the kids at the church downstairs in the coffee room. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:15 and this is a requirement for going on the mission trip. We have a good bunch of kids meeting then with about 10 kids each Sunday.



We have also finalized our 2021 mission trip which will see us go to Puerto Rico to work with the community who is still recovering from their previous hurricanes but also the earthquakes that shook the Island this year. The trip will be the week of July 3rd Summer 2021. This trip will be for all graduating 8th graders through graduating seniors. Be on the lookout for more information and the ability to support our youth through their fundraising endeavors.

As I get settled into the job more the goal is to have a bigger mission trip every 4 years to allow each high schooler at least one chance to go on some sort of trip out of the country. This will also give them an opportunity for some smaller trips and also at least one trip to Triennium. I look forward to all the trips we will be taking over the years and seeing all of the kids grow through them.

University of Jamestown Choir to present concert on Sunday, March 15

Join us on Sunday, March 15 at 7:30 PM for a wonderful evening of music provided by the University of Jamestown (ND) Concert Choir along with the Billings Senior High School choir. With over 50 voices, the University of Jamestown concert choir is known for its high quality of musical talent and ability. We are also looking for several more individuals and family in our church who would be willing to host the choir students. You can pick up the students following the concert, provide a light snack that evening, a light breakfast the next morning, and then have them back to the church by 8:00 AM to board the bus for Bismarck.

Presbytery meets at our church on March 6-7

The Yellowstone Presbytery will hold its spring meeting at our church on March 6-7. Among other business, we will be hearing from Stan Ott, a gifted speaker on the area of ministry and outreach. Delegates representing our church will be Pastor Dave and Sandi Schoenberger. Guests are invited to attend the meeting as well. The meeting begins on Friday, March 6 at 10 AM with a Presbytery mini-conference and will conclude at 12noon on Saturday.

Lenten Lunch & Learn Series begins on Tuesday, March 3

Our annual Lenten Lunch and Learn Series will begin on Tuesday March 3 from 12-1 in the Fireside Room. Join Pastor Dave for this five week series on the remarkable life of Joseph from the Old Testament. The series will be titled "Retaliation or Reconciliation: When your emotions get the best of you." Many lessons on forgiveness, faith, and family are found within this story from the book of Genesis. Lunch is be free and this class is open to all.

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. Pre-school registration for the fall of 2020 will be held on Monday, March 2. For more information, please contact Karen Norsworthy at 690-8481 or Karen Morrow at 281-0280.

Mission News

The mission committee of our church meets the forth Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. The committee is open to anyone from the congregation who would like to promote missions and outreach to our community and world.



Mission Grant Opportunities: Our church offers mission grants to individuals and organization to help encourage and promote missions. Our individual grants are offered for people to apply for funds up to \$1,000 to be used to further the work of God in our community of beyond. These grants funds can go to a variety of ways to help people. We encourage you to be creative in how you can use these funds to promote the Good News of Christ to Billings and beyond.

Organizational grant funds are available up to \$5,000 per organization. If you work with an organization or know of one who might be interested in applying for grant funds through our church, please have them contact the church office.

Sara Thompson shared at our meeting on Thursday, February 27 about the upcoming mission trip to Zambia, Africa, The group of seven from our church will be departing on June 11 and will return on the 23. Funds continue to be raised for the group.

Dan Ehleng continues to make progress toward the FPC Golf Tournament which is scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 10 AM at the Par 3 Golf Course. This tournament will raise funds for both the Africa trip and the youth group. Cost per person is \$50 (team of four is \$200) and will include golf, lunch, and a number of prizes. We have room for 18 teams and hope that we will have fill the teams to capacity.

Stan Parker received grant funds for a film documentary that he is working on to help Vietnam veterans deal with PTSD. These funds will help with the promotion and distribution of this film to help many veterans.

A group at our church cooked 400 cookies for the students at Rose Park Elementary on February 17. These cookies were distributed to students at their carnival and will also be given out to less fortunate kids in the area.

Our church continues to promote the "Extra Mile Ministry" opportunity on a Facebook page. We invite you to join this group and share how God is challenging you to go to extra mile to serve others. Lots of ideas have been shared and we would love to see your input in how you are going the extra mile to help others

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, until the end of the age." —Matthew 28:19-20

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 will begin a brand new study from the book of Acts at our next meeting. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 9 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, March 3 at 12noon
Christian Education	Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, March 9 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, March 10 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, March 11 at 9:30am
Fellowship Committee	Tuesday, March 17 at 10:00 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, March 19 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, March 23 at 6:00 PM
Mission Committee	Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 PM

reFUEL will resume on Sunday, March 22



Our Sunday evening reFUEL group will take a short break and will resume on Sunday, March 22 at 6 PM in the Fireside Room. ReFuel is a group that meets weekly for encouragement, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. This group is open to anyone who would like to join us. Watch the weekly bulletin and e-news for updates on this group and the topic of study.