



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Billings, MT 59101  
Permit No. 523

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



2020

**Pastor's Pen**  
*"A Steady and Consistent Message"*



As your pastor I have tried to provide a steady and consistent message over this past month as the coronavirus has greatly affected our world. With the closure of schools, restaurants, and most church activities, I have felt that providing a consistent message of hope and encouragement is important to all of us. It is easy to become discouraged and disheartened in times like this. It is easy to lose hope and allow our emotions to be driven by fear and sadness.

There are a number of scripture passages throughout the Bible that come to my mind that calls us to offer a voice of hope and promise in difficult times. The one passage that rises to the top of my list is written by the Apostle Paul in his incredible letter to the Romans. Paul writes, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). This even includes the coronavirus pandemic.

These steady and consistent messages continue on Sunday mornings via our live-streamed Sunday school classes and worship services. You can tune into to our online feed by going to [www.facebook.com/fpcbillings](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbillings). You need not a Facebook account to access this site, just an internet connection. I have also provided regular devotions via our church's Facebook page and our church's new YouTube channel. These short clips (usually 2-3 minutes in length) provide a short message of hope and encouragement in these troubled times. I will continue to provide these devotionals so that we, as a church, can stay connected with one another, receive encouragement, and find ways to be together through this pandemic.

Easter is going to feel much different this year. Scheduled for Sunday, April 12, Easter is the greatest celebration on our church's calendar and the message won't be dampened due to this virus. The message of our Lord who was raised from the tomb on that Easter morning is more important than ever and it is a message that the world needs to here. God overcame the depths of sin and sadness, disease and virus, death and grief, and provided a way for us to experience eternal life. Because He lives, we will live and our hope is rooted in this eternal promise.

I miss seeing all of you and want to leave you with these words, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Blessings to you and your families. Stay encouraged and healthy!  
Dave

**Coming Attractions:**

**(watch for any cancellation notices about these upcoming events)**

- Youth/College Basket Auction has been postponed to a later date
- 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 April 2020**

**Due to the new guideline of Social Distancing now through April 30, no volunteers will be needed at this time to help with our on-line worship services**

**Sunday, May 3rd**

**Greeters**

Melanie Dyce  
Pam Harr

**Ushers**

Chris Eriksen  
Donny Cole  
Kristy Catlin  
Meghan Lorentz

**Liturgist**

Marv Brown

**Sound Booth**

David Bauer

**Communion**

Phyllis Brown  
Jenice Fugere  
Bob & Cathy Culbertson  
Carla Bracken



**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 Ehlang

### 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, May 3. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

### Session Notes:

The session met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 PM. Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of protecting the health of members of the congregation during the current Coronavirus pandemic. It was decided to begin to implement changes at the next worship service.

The session will also review safety measures throughout the building. Improvements will be made if needed.

Pastor Dave was given permission to moderate session meetings of the Federated Church in Forsyth on a monthly basis until a permanent pastor is in place.

### Financial snapshot

2020	Income	Expense	Net
March	\$ 26,687	\$ 34,722	\$ (8,035)
Year to date	\$ 137,900	\$ 127,816	\$ 10,084

MARCH	2020
1st	214
8th	151
15th	94
22nd	No services
29th	No services
March Ave	153

We appreciate your continued financial support of our church during this pandemic. Financial gifts can be mailed to our church or on-line on our church's website at [www.fpcbilling.org](http://www.fpcbilling.org) and go to the "online giving" tab.

### Website recently updated

Our church website at [fpcbillings.org](http://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:** As a congregation we bid a fond farewell and best wishes for their new journey to Barb and Bob Muir. We are thankful and grateful for their service to our church for 50 years. Their examples of living their faith have ben an inspiration to all of us. Their legacy to us is Barbara's beautiful smile, her positive attitude and always pleasant demeanor. Bob has a wonderful sense of humor and displayed it during some hard times. Wherever he was, he always brought a pleasant demeanor and positive attitude. We will miss our dear friends, but their joyful spirits will still be here at First Presbyterian. Their new address is Harmony Hills Assisted Living; 1180 West Overland Road; Apartment #230; Meridian, Idaho; 83642.



### 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 March. They are: Ronnie & Junice Wooton in memory of their great-granddaughter Brynnlee, Don & Jeanette Knotte, and Syble Reed; Barb Eichenberger birthday's and memories; Lorie Rimpe in honor of her grandkids; and the Presbyterian Women's organization from our church. 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  
Jim 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 Ehlang

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 had planned to host a Stephen Ministry informational session on Saturday, April 18, but due to the pandemic this event has been cancelled. We hope to reschedule this event at a later date. This event was to be hosted by those from the national Stephen Ministry headquarters in St. Louis to provide regional churches more information about starting a Stephen Ministry program in their church or community.

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.

### Health support group postponed until May 15

A new group which is geared to promote healthy lifestyles has been postponed until Friday, May 15 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**

Please pray for the healing of our world, those who work in the health care profession, those affected by the virus, and for ways we can come together as a nation.

We extend our condolences to the family of Joy (Kelly) Melugin who died last month at the Billings Clinic from cancer at the age of 38. Joy was the daughter of Doug and Faith Kelly who were active in our church and community some years ago. Joy is survived by her husband (Kyle) and their son (Theo). A funeral service at St. Pious Catholic Church will be held at a later date.

We extend our condolences to Carol Vegge and her family upon the recent death of her brother Don. Mary Grabow had a recent MRI that came back clear and is very appreciative of our congregation for your prayers. Steve and Sue Bentley would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and prayers both from when Sue had a knee replacement and when her father passed away. We are very grateful for such a loving and warm church family. Lee Webber's mom, Jeri, has returned home after having recent neck surgery at the Billings Clinic. Dave Carroll has returned home following hip surgery and rehabilitation last month. Chris Eriksen is doing well following shoulder surgery last month. Mary Grabow's mom was recently diagnosed with cancer. She lives in South Dakota. Fred Reinhardt would appreciate prayers for his son Curtis who has been very ill in California.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2020	April		1 No PW Board No Grief Support No BLT 6 Youth Group online	2 No Bible Study Fellowship 7 Christian Education Committee online	3 Church Closed No Preschool	4
5 9:15 Sunday School Online 10:30 Worship online No Westpark service	6 No Preschool 10 Worship Committee online	7 12 Lenten Lunch and Learn online 12 Property Committee meeting online	8 No RLI Group No Praise Lunch No BLT 6 Youth Group online	9 7 Maundy Thursday worship service online	10 Church closed No Preschool 7 pm Good Friday service online	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:30 Worship online No Westpark service	13 Church Office Closed	14 No Finance 7 Session meeting online	15 No Preschool No PW Circles No BLT 6 Youth Group online	16 12 Congregational Care Team online	17 Church closed No Preschool No Health Support Group  Newsletter Due	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship online No Westpark	20 No Preschool	21 No Grief Support 11 Fellowship Committee online 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision online	22 No BSF Leaders No Preschool No BLT 6 Youth Group online	23 No Bible Study Fellowship 7 Mission Committee online	24 Church closed No Preschool	25
26 9:15 Sunday School online 10:30 Worship online No Westpark	27 No Preschool 6 Deacon's meeting online	28	29 No BSF Leaders No Preschool No BLT 6 Youth Group online	30 No Bible Study Fellowship		

**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 Praise Luncheon which was scheduled for Wednesday April 8 has been cancelled. Due to the extension of social distancing through April 30 the PW board which was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 8 and the PW groups which were scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 15 have been cancelled. We hope to resume our PW groups in May 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 about meeting times and locations.

**Sunday adult education opportunities**



**Special Class for Adults:**

Pastor Dave will continue to offer on-line Sunday school classes as long as the pandemic continues. Dave is currently teaching a class titled "Characters of the Crucifixion" as he is helping 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. This class will continue through Sunday, April 5.

There will be no Sunday school class offered on Easter Sunday, but watch for an early morning live devotional that Pastor Dave will offer with a message of Easter hope and promise.

Dave will begin a new class on Sunday, April 19 at 9:15 AM. The topic has yet to be determined. Watch the weekly e-news and Sunday bulletin for class updates. This class will be offered only online for the time being.

**Church and Society Class** has been canceled for the remainder of the spring season due to the coronavirus. The class will resume in the fall. If you have ideas for topics or speakers, please talk with Shari Dayton.

**A prayer during the pandemic**

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.  
 May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.  
 For we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.  
 May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.  
 May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.  
 May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no money at all.  
 May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.  
 As fear grips our country let us chose love.  
 During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

**Property Committee Updates**

The Property Committee would like to let you how we have been caring for the church property. The committee recently purchased 80 new chairs to replace the older ones that were sent to the recycling center. Kent Fellingham has used this time of less activity in our church to shampoo carpets and clean the upholstery on the chairs. Please be sure to thank Chuck & Eric Leggate, Gary Lohnbakken, Bruce Phillips and Ronnie Wooten for their services as they come to the church on Mondays to help with repair and other odd jobs around the church property.

**Youth News:**

Hello church family! Unfortunately with the new mandates and with school being closed currently the youth group is not meeting in person for the foreseeable future. I have tried to set a number of online avenues to continue to stay connected and just need the youth involved in this to continue on. We have a chat server set up with Discord, we have videos being posted to Facebook and YouTube, and we have a Marco Polo group to send video messages back and forth with the group. We are trying to meet for Bible studies on Wednesdays and Sundays and chat about everything going on and discuss the current Bible study we are going through.



Again I want to emphasize to all of the kids, I am available in whatever way they need. My email is [russ@fpcbillings.org](mailto:russ@fpcbillings.org) and my phone number is 719-431-3846. If anyone wants info on how to join the groups we have, please reach out to me. If any of your kids want to reach out please have them do so. It is a weird time we are in currently, but we should still be able to connect in different ways.

Thanks to Dick & Lynne Bailey and Michelle Lee for providing the meals for the first two weeks in March. All events through at least April for now are postponed until we learn more. We will try and keep everyone updated as we learn more and progress through all of this together.

**Delivery Service Needed?**

If you need groceries or personal care items, please contact the church office or Pastor Dave at 696-4913 and we can make arrangements to have items brought to your home. A number of people in our church have volunteered to help others during this time.



**Better Together Preschool is currently closed**



Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool, however the school is closed at the time due to the pandemic. Our preschool follows the same calendar as the public schools and will reopen with the schools. 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 recently began a new study from the book of Acts. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 13 at 12noon. All men are invited.

**Upcoming Committee Meetings in September**

(Please note that some meeting will likely meet remotely, be postponed, or rescheduled)

Christian Education	Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 PM
Property Committee	Tuesday, April 7 at 12noon
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, April 8 at 9:30am
Worship Committee	Monday, April 13 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, April 14 7:00 PM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, April 16 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 PM
Deacons Meeting	Monday, April 27 at 6:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 AM

**reFUEL will resume at a later time**



We had hoped to resume our reFUEL group in March, but due to the coronavirus we have postponed this group to a later date. ReFuel is a group that meets weekly for encouragement, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. This group will be 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.

**Birthdays**

- 1 Denise Hash
- 4 Larry George
- 7 Judy Nusbaum
- 8 Kyle Erickson  
Bobbie Koch  
Joe Gerbase
- 10 Albert Hessler  
Chuck Maris
- 11 Joanne Leuthold  
Dick Spalding
- 12 Richard Bailey  
Jim Irwin

- 14 Trina White
- 17 Charleene Hayes  
Dodie Cox
- 18 Sharon Brady  
Marlene Spencer  
Peggy Wilson  
Lily Goettel
- 19 David Culbertson  
Rodney Thompson
- 20 Kristi Forsch
- 21 Sarah Repka
- 24 Sharon Henderson
- 27 Kevin Nagel
- 29 Mikel Erickson

- Judy Gerbase
- 30 Charlie Norsworthy

**Anniversaries**

- 6 John & Carol Limbach
- 9 Kurt & Mary Grabow
- 10 Richard & Lynne Bailey
- 17 Scott & Greta Murray



**Zambia, Africa trip update**

Seven young adults from our congregation will hopefully be traveling to Zambia, Africa this June and will be working with Arise Africa. 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. 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.

**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.

The mission committee met remotely in March. It was decided to support the Montana Rescue Mission and Family Service, Inc. with donations of \$2,500 each from our church's mission budget. Both of these organizations are in need of greater food supplies and resources during the coronavirus pandemic. We also gave \$500 to support the food bank of Peace Lutheran Church.

We are encouraging our members to reach out to the most vulnerable and isolated in our congregation by sending a card, making a phone call, and offering prayers for one another. This time of isolation for some of our members has been very difficult to deal with.

Dan Ehlang 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.

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

**"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." —Proverbs 11:25**