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2020

2020

Pastor's Pen

"Through it All"



Charles Dickens begins his novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* with the famous line, "It Was the Best of Times; It Was the Worst of Times." I have thought a lot about this line over the past five and a half months since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. This pandemic has us in uncharted waters and unforeseen territory. The terms social distancing and face coverings have become common vernacular in our everyday life.

A number of events have been cancelled, postponed, or altered due to Covid. Vacations have been put on hold; family gatherings have been changed; and weddings and funerals are not quite the same as in other years. Many people are feeling anxiety and fear during this time of uncertainty. Schools are trying to walk the delicate line of in-class learning and on-line options. Yes, in many ways it is the worst of times.

But perhaps this season has brought some good changes as well. There is always a silver lining in every cloud. Social distancing has allowed us more time to think, contemplate, and draw deeper into relationship with God and others. Times of uncertainty provide us a time to question what matters most in life and how we value friendships, freedom, and church. We are fortunate to live in a place with excellent health care and ample places to get away to experience God's creative hand. Yes, maybe this is the best of times as well.

Whatever comes our way, God is there in all of our experiences. Whether good or bad, the Lord is with us to hold us together and remind us that we are never alone. Stay encouraged, healthy, and strong in the Lord.
—Dave

Upcoming Events:

Sunday school: Join Pastor Dave beginning on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 in the Fireside Room. He will be teaching a class titled, "Is This the End?" based on the book of Revelation. This six week class will look at this fascinating New Testament book and will offer a biblical perspective to the end times and how virus, disease, and health play into our lives.

Golf tournament is coming on Saturday, September 12 with registration beginning at 9:30 AM. We have room for one more team or several more individual players. The cost is \$200 per team or \$50 per player and includes green fees, cart, lunch, and a chance to win a number of prizes. If you are interested in playing, please talk to Dan Ehlang or Pastor Dave.

Women's Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 in the Fireside Room. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

Youth Group for all 6-12 grade youth will resume on Wednesday, September 16 from 6-8 PM. Join us each Wednesday for dinner, games, music, and learning.

Online giving option increases with our new mobile giving app!

We now offer online giving through our church's website at www.fpcbillings.org. You can go to the online giving tab on the homepage of our website. In addition, our church has just launched our new giving mobile app. You can simply text FPCBillings to 77977 and give a one-time gift or set up reoccurring gifts. We appreciate all of the ways you give to the ministry of our church. If you have any questions about this you can talk with Jeanne or Pastor Dave.

Volunteer Schedule

Our volunteer schedule is on hold during this time of pandemic. We will resume our volunteer schedule when the restrictions lift. We will provide updates through the weekly bulletin and e-news publications.



Coming Attractions:

Women's Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 AM
Better Together Preschool resumes on Wednesday, September 9
FPC Golf Tournament at Par 3: Saturday, September 12 at 9:30 AM
Fall worship schedule returns to 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 13
Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) resumes on Wednesday, September 16 at 9 AM
Youth group resumes on Wednesday, September 16 from 6-8 PM

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Church Info

Office Hours:
 Mon—Thurs 8:30 am—4 PM
 406-252-3434
 mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
 www.fpcbillings.org
Worship: Sundays @ 9:30 AM
STAFF
 Pastor: Dave Thompson
 Office Manager: Jeanne Raney
 Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
 Choir Director: Janie Sutton
 Custodian: Kent Feltingham

Birthdays

- 1 Mara Duncan
- 3 Jo Ausk
- 4 Carla Bracken
- 5 Zach Morrow
- Peggy Cluff
- Jenice Fugere
- Tonya Appelt
- 6 Cathie Bell
- Kathy Butler
- Jack Mahan
- Sara Thompson
- 7 Robert Anacker
- Hunter Skov
- 8 Jacob Schoenberger
- Jeri Lamerton
- 9 Elise Keenum
- 12 Mary Grabow
- 13 Jennifer Cole
- 14 Heather Rosenfeld
- 16 Robyn Bauer
- 18 Kallie Nagel

- 18 Lila Spring
- 19 Diane Noddings
- 20 Ruth Drummond
- 21 Mary Ann Canan
- 22 Greg Wiens
- Jane Brewington
- 23 John Stewart
- 27 Heather Leggate
- 30 Helen Hall
- Margie LaFountain

Anniversaries

- 2 Louis & Kathy Dubs
- 3 Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga
- David & Robyn Bauer
- 4 Cook & Kelly Murch
- 5 Jay & Cassie Kouba
- 14 Bud & Joanne Leuthold
- 19 Skip & Charlene Hayes
- John & Melanie Dyce
- 20 John & Debbie Oliver
- 21 Joe & Judy Gerbase
- Travis & Cassandra Harr
- 24 Craig & Denise Hash
- 25 George & Heather Rosenfeld
- 29 Jase & Karen Norsworthy

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10 Funeral for Dick Davidson 12noon Property Committee Meeting	2 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	3 7 Christian ed Committee	4	5
6 9:30 Worship Last day of our summer schedule	7 Happy Labor Day Church office will be closed	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study resumes 7 Session meeting	9 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	10	11 9-1 Preschool 12 Christian Study Group	12 10 Golf Tournament at Par 3 Golf Course
13 Worship Time Change 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group	15 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group meets in the Conf. Room	16 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	17 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team Meets	18 9-1 Preschool 4:30 Wedding rehearsal Newsletter Deadline	19 4:30 Wedding of Kelsie Campbell and Brandon McKnire
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21 9-1 Preschool	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision in the Fireside Room	23 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	24 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 7 Mission Committee meets in Fireside Room	25 9-1 Preschool 12 Christian Study Group	26
27 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	28 9 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacons meets in Fireside Room	29	30 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group		2020	

SESSION NOTES

While observing the restrictions created by the coronavirus, committees of the session have continued to function throughout the summer.

Barbara Eichenberger, who spoke in support of a columbarium to be erected on the church property, was present at the August 11 meeting. In addition, she stated that she and Ken had prepared to make a generous donation to help fund the cost of the structure and the installation. The session voted to approve the columbarium with the hopes that it will be in place by next summer. Thank you Barbara for your generous gift!

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the logistics of conducting services and classes in the coming months. Members of the session expressed their appreciation for the leadership of Pastor Dave during this unusual time. During this time of isolation, it has been a blessing to stay connected by watching Sunday services on-line and to look forward to unique devotionals.

Fall worship schedule changes on Sunday, September 13



Our fall worship schedule will change on Sunday, September 13 with worship at 10:30 AM. Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 AM. Pastor Dave will be teaching a class in the Fireside Room on the book of Revelation. No Church & Society class will be scheduled at this time.

On a Personal Note

We extend our condolences to the following families who have recently lost loved ones: Marian Shehein, Pastor Cathy McLean, Dick Davidson, Bonnie Grosshuesch, Lorrane Croymans, Eileen Lewis, and Ken Chase. Ken's service has been postponed due to Covid.

Karen Norsworthy is doing well following recent breast cancer surgery. Juanita Stovall appreciates all of your prayers and cards following a recent hospitalization. Prayers for a number of friends and family members who are affected with Covid. Heather Rosenfeld is doing well after falling and breaking her hip several months ago.



Financial snapshot

2020	Income	Expense	Net
August	\$ 59,435.89	\$ 22,194.26	\$ 37,241.63
YTD	\$ 300,516.25	\$ 263,833.67	\$ 36,682.58

Thank you for your continued support of our church during this pandemic. Your financial support during this time remains important to the ongoing mission and ministry of our church.

Church Mice: "Make a Difference" could be the rallying cry for these troubling times. We admire the heroines and heroes who keep our country, state, and communities running. It is important not to forget to be heroes to ourselves and those in our sphere of influence. Make your own life brighter by looking at the good things in your daily lives and in general. Count the ways in which life is good. Be cheerful— smile and laugh a lot and be sure to be pleasant to those with whom you come in contact - retail service people, health care workers, emergency responders. Reach out to others with a phone call, note or a wave. Don't forget to say "thank you." Be sure to thank those who are helping you in the stores, holding a door, your family, neighbors, and friends. Be especially thankful to GOD for his grace and blessings. BE THANKFUL!!

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 August. They were Bob & Shirley Shirley in honor of their 60th anniversary; Len & Bonnie Richards in honor of their 39th anniversary; Suzanne Braun in memory of her father, the Rev. Milous Repka; and John and Jeri Lamerton on the birth of their grandson Easton Jax Postier. 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.