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2020

Pastor's Pen

Happy 10th Anniversary!



Special thanks to all of you for helping to celebrate our milestone of 10 years together. I enjoy serving as your pastor and cherish the deep friendships our family has made with many in the church and community. When I was called to this church in the summer of 2010, I was in my early 40s and our kids were ages 13, 11, and 4. In my interviews with the Pastor Nominating Committee, I knew this church was desperate for one thing— stability from a pastor. Prior to my arrival, this church had seen three pastors come and go in the previous five years. I was asked at my very first youth group meeting by one of the kids, “How long are you going to be here?” I thought this was a very honest, yet telling question.

Ten years doesn't seem that long, but in looking back we have accomplished a lot during this time. We have added a preschool program with 45 kids and five staff members. We have updated our facilities with new bathrooms and office space. We have added air conditioning to our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and Fireside Room. We have increased the use of technology with live streaming of our classes and worship services. We have added new members and increased giving to support mission work, not only locally but around the world. We have added a small group Bible study component through our reFUEL ministry. We have strengthened ties with our Presbytery and other churches and organizations in our community. We will soon add a columbarium where families can have a place to remember those who have gone before us.

I appreciate the staff with whom I work and cherish the relationships I have with our session members, deacons, Stephen Ministers, and those who serve on other committees and ministry teams. I am grateful for the quality music that is provided through Sandi, Janie, Kerry, John, the choir, and other musicians. It is a joy to be a part of weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and births. It is a privilege to walk along families who are grieving the loss of loved one and be able to share the incredible hope we have in Christ.

Happy 10th anniversary. I look forward to what lies ahead and continuing to share with you the stable and consistent message of God's love for you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings,
Dave

Upcoming Events:

Sunday school: Join Pastor Dave on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Fireside Room. He is teaching a class titled, “Is This the End?” This six week class is looking at this fascinating question with insights from the book of Daniel, the Gospels, and the book of Revelation. Dave is offering a biblical perspective to the end times and how virus, disease, and health play into our lives. This class is being offered both in person and on-line at www.facebook.com/fpcbillings.

Women's Bible Study continues on Tuesdays at 9:30 in the Fireside Room. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

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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 recurring 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. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a worship assistant, please talk with Pastor Dave. We will resume our volunteer schedule when the restrictions lift. We will provide updates through the weekly bulletin and e-news publications.



Church

Info

Office Hours:
 Mon—Thurs
 8:30 am— 4
 PM
 406-252-3434
 mainoffice@fp
 cbillings.org
 www.fpcbillin
 g.org
 Worship: Sun-
 days @ 10:30
 AM

STAFF

Pastor: Dave
 Thompson
 Office Manag-
 er: Jeanne
 Raney
 Accompanist:
 Sandi Rabas
 Choir Director:
 Janie Sutton
 Custodian:
 Kent Felling-
 ham

Birthdays

1 Bev Pinnick
 Erin Thompson
 3 Sharon Lincoln
 4 Cassandra Harr
 6 Joe Roy
 8 Barbara Gullard
 Bob Zent
 11 Judy Cuff
 Kyle Buffington
 13 Scott Murray
 14 Ruth Ewen
 15 Ginny Helmer
 17 Mary Louise Ritter
 18 Travis Harr
 19 Shari Dayton
 Bob Culbertson
 20 Priscilla Laird

20 Molly Buffington
 21 Megan Lorentz
 24 Juli Dufresne
 26 JoAnn Jones
 27 George Rosenfeld
 29 Kay Doss
 Joel Spring
 Rhonda Stennerson
 Jim Ausk
 Melanie Irwin
 30 Don Harr
 Jerry Koch
 31 Gary Lohnbakken

Anniversaries

5 Lewis & Sandi
 Schoenberger
 7 Jerry & Bobbie Koch
 20 Mike & Pat Hastings
 Boyd & Billie Strissel
 24 Gordon & Dodie Cox
 26 Mark Parker & Carlene
 Taubert
 28 Mark Basingthwaight
 & Kathy Baskett



SESSION NOTES: The session held its regular stated meeting on September 8.

The finance committee reported that the financial status of the church is very good despite decreased attendance due to the coronavirus pandemic. The property committee has received several requests for reserved space in the columbarium which should be completed by next summer. Dan Ehlang reported that the golf tournament will occur on September 12. At the time of our meeting 17 teams had registered to participate.

Golf Tournament Appreciation

Special thanks to all who participated and assisted with our 1st annual golf tournament on Saturday, September 12. About \$5,000 was raised to support our church's youth group and the mission trip to Zambia, Africa. Special thanks to Dan Ehlang and Barb Whittle who organized this event. We appreciated all the donations, including those from Pepsi (Bill Dimich), U.S. Foods, Frito Lay, Albertsons, CVS, and many area golf courses.

On a Personal Note

We extend our condolences to the family of Jim Corning who passed away on September 7. A private family service will be held in October with a larger celebration of life to be held at a later time. Congratulations to Jeff and Tonya Appelt on the birth of their son. Kaden Varner Appelt was born on September 23 weighing 8 lbs.10 oz. and measuring 21". All are home and doing well.

Church Mice: The church mice would like to recognize Jaki Harada for her outstanding work with our Sunday school program. Jaki, a junior at MSU-B, is putting together a weekly Sunday school lesson for kids on video. Jaki is majoring in secondary education and hopes to return back to her hometown of Wolf Point and teach in their high school upon college graduation.

Financial snapshot

2020	Income	Expense	Net
September	\$ 26,003.02	\$ 24,107.74	\$ 1,895.28
YTD	\$ 326,651.37	\$ 287,941.41	\$ 38,709.96

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.

Presbyterian Woman's Group Update

We are looking for you! Presbyterian Women, or PW as we are known, would like to provide an opportunity for all women in the church to become involved in church activities for women. We have five circles which are Bible-study oriented with a large amount of social activity included.


There are five circles which meet once a month: two morning, two afternoon and one evening. Our study guide this year is based on the Old Testament book of Lamentations.

We have three luncheons spaced throughout the year during which we have food, fellowship, and contribute to special causes. Our ladies also assist with serving at funerals and we provide cookies and coffee for after church fellowship on Sunday mornings.

If you are interested in joining one of these circles, please give your name and phone number to Jeanne in the front office. Or call Beth Morrow at 861-5294 or Sharon Brady 655-9046.

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 September. They were Barbara Eichenberger in memory of her husband Ken; Linda and John Luse in celebration of their daughter Sarah's birthday; Jeanette Davis in memory of her husband Tom; Lori Hall in memory of her husband Jack; Carol Annin in celebration of her mom Ruth Drummond's birthday; and George and Heather Rosenfeld in celebration of their 38th wedding anniversary.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 OCTOBER	2020			1 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Christian ed	2 9-1 Preschool	3
4 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5 9-1 Preschool	6 9:30 Women's Bible Study	7 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Grief Support 6 Youth group 7 College group	8 9 Bible Study Fellowship	9 9-1 Preschool 12 Christian Study Group	10
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group	13 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session Meeting	14 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 6 Youth Group 7 College group	15 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team Meets	16 9-1 Preschool	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	19 9-1 Preschool	20 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group	21 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group 7 College group	22 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Mission Committee	23 9-1 Preschool 12 Christian Study Group Newsletter Deadline	24
25 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	26 9 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacons meets in Fireside Room	27 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	28 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group	29 9 Bible Study Fellowship	30 9-1 Preschool	31 