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2020

Pastor's Pen

"Decisions, decisions, decisions"



We are faced with hundreds of decisions every day, decisions about how we spend our time, what we eat, and what we wear. I am currently preaching a sermon series titled, "The Seven Decisions" based on the best selling book *The Traveler's Gift* by Andy Andrews. It is my goal that these seven decisions will help us to deepen our faith in God and hope in Christ during this time of pandemic.

Our relationship with God is a two way street as we respond to God's call upon our lives. The greatest decision we can make in our lives is to respond to Christ and make him the centerpiece of our lives. This is what it means to be a disciple, as one who follows Christ as Lord and Savior.

In the next few weeks, leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 15, you will be hearing more about making a deeper commitment to follow Christ. We have been placed on the earth, by the very hand of God, to not only take up air and space, but to make a difference in the lives of others. Through the ministry we carry out in our congregation, we provide compassion, care, counsel, and education to a number of people within our church and far beyond our physical property.

You should soon receive a pledge card in the mail inviting you to share in the ministry of our church. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will use your time, talents, and treasures to respond to God's call upon your life. We provide a number of ways for you to express your faith and I would love to help you explore avenues in which God is calling you to share your gifts. When we respond in giving for the glory of God, we certainly do make a difference in the lives of others and our lives as well!

I look forward to worshipping with you on the next Lord's Day whether in person or on-line.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Dave

What's New in November?

Women's Retreat: An idea for a retreat focusing on faith during troubled waters has surfaced for the women of 1st Presbyterian Church. A planning meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at 10:30 AM in the church's conference room. We are looking for women who would be interested in the planning of the retreat. If you have any questions, please call CJ Johnson at (406) 697-3153. Hope to see you there!

ReFuel groups begin this week: Do you have an interest in drawing deeper into a relationship with God and others? We are working to expand our reFuel ministry groups this fall. We are offering four small group opportunities starting the first week in November for a six-week period. The hope of these groups is to provide a weekly small group experience (with social distancing) where people can come together for Bible study, prayer, and encouragement. We will have options for groups to meet either in the afternoon or evening. If you are interested in this group, please text/call Pastor Dave at 696-4913 or sign up on the sheet in the gallery. Any questions, please talk with Dave or Russ Kline.

New Class: Pastor Dave will begin a new Sunday school class titled, *Drawing Close*. During this time of social distancing and isolation, many feel that they have drifted away from their faith. Dave will help us look at ways that we can draw close to God during this time of pandemic and will be using examples like Elijah, the Apostle Paul, Mother Theresa, and Dietrick Bonhoeffer to help us find ways to stay connected with Christ. This four week class begins on Sunday, November 1 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and will continue through November 22.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Pen	1
Birthdays/Finance/Attendance	2
Personal/Grads/Mice/	3
Online donations	4

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. 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@fpcbillings.org
 www.fpcbillings.org
Worship:
Sundays @ 10:30 AM
 Facebook.com/
 fpcbillings

STAFF

Pastor:
Dave Thompson
Office Manager:
Jeanne Raney
Accompanist:
Sandi Rabas
Choir Director:
Janie Sutton
Custodian:
Kent Fellingham

Birthdays

- 1 Jerry Broderson
- 4 Zack Belcher
- 5 Cherrie McRae
- Janet Brown
- 6 Billie Strissel
- 7 Cook Murch
- Janice Ward
- Marjorie Stewart
- 9 Beth Morrow
- Lynne Bailey
- 10 Chris Eriksen
- Bernice Phillips
- 12 Deborah Oliver
- 14 Marlei Stenneron
- 15 Barbara Muir
- 16 Julie Michalsky
- 17 Steve Bentley
- 18 Sherry Henslin
- Sherry Garretson
- Donna Bowersox

- 19 Emma McLean
- Roger Hutchison
- 20 Helen Zottnick
- 20 Tricia Harrison
- 24 Jim Hummel
- 27 Colleen Lorentz
- Gail Janiak
- 28 Heather McLean
- Kathy Dubs
- Cheryl Nagel

Anniversaries

- 17 Charlie & Audrey Reed
- 23 Bill & Trina White
- 27 Jim & Jo Ausk
- 28 Bruce & Bernice Phillips



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Time Changes 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	2 9-1 Preschool 9 Monday work crew 2 ReFuel Group	3 Election Day 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1 ReFuel Group	4 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Grief Support 6 Youth group 7 College group	5 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Christian Ed meets in Fireside	6 9-1 Preschool Presbytery meeting via Zoom	7 Presbytery meeting via Zoom
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	9 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Comm 10:30 Retreat Plan 12 Men's Group 2 ReFuel Group	10 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1 ReFuel Group 7 Session meeting	11 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 6 Youth group 7 College group	12 9 Bible Study Fellowship	13 9-1 Preschool 12 Christian Study Group meets in Fireside	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	16 9-1 Preschool 9 Monday work crew 2 ReFuel Group	17 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group 1 ReFuel Group	18 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 6 Youth Group 7 College group	19 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team Meets	20 9-1 Preschool Newsletter Deadline	21 9-12 RMC Lessons and Carols rehearsal in sanctuary
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	23 9 BSF Leaders 12 Men's Group 2 ReFuel Group 4 Deacons meet in Fireside Room	24 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 ReFuel Group 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	25 No Preschool No Youth Group	26 Church closed 	27 No Preschool	28
29 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship No ReFuel groups	30 9 Preschool 9 Monday work crew 12 Men's Group 2 ReFuel Group			2020		

SESSION NOTES: At the October 13 session meeting the property committee requested permission to install two 30-foot poles for floodlights in the parking light. The request was granted. The committee also reported that the columbarium has been ordered. As of date, 15 of the niches have been reserved.

Pastor Dave was given permission to officiate at the wedding of Sharon Mathews and Larry George on Saturday, October 17 in the church sanctuary.

Posting worship services and other events during this time of social distancing continues to be popular with members of the congregation and many others.

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to Sharon Mathews and Larry George who were married at our church on October 17. Ruth Ewen would like to thank the congregation for over 150 cards she received for her 97th birthday last month. The cards were so appreciated during this time of being isolated at St. Johns due to the pandemic. Dick Bailey has been diagnosed with a reoccurrence of cancer and is awaiting a biopsy. Karen Norsworthy completed a month of radiation treatments after a recent breast cancer diagnosis. Tyler Goettel, son of Don and Cathy, is doing well following surgery on his leg last month. Steve and Sue Bentley would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards of sympathy following the death of Steve's father. Sue writes, "They mean the world to us and we are very thankful to all of you."

Church Mice: The church mice have noticed quite a bit of recent activity around our church property. John Reed has updated the landscaping with decorative rock around the building. Sandi Schoenberger, Chuck Leggate, Bruce Phillips, and Gary Lohnbakken have been calking and painting the exterior of the education wing. Bud & Joanne Leuthold took care of the summer watering and recent removal of the geraniums in the planters in front of the sanctuary. Bill White helped plow snow from the sidewalks. Many thanks to all who have been keeping things nice around our church property! We appreciate all of you!!

Financial snapshot

	Income	Expense	Net
2020			
October	\$ 26,840	\$ 22,671	\$ 4,169
YTD	\$356,433	\$310,911	\$45,522

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 the month of October: Marge Myhra in honor of Lois and Arla Jean Thompson; Dottie Hilger; and Pat Clark and Betty Zimmerman in memory of their brother, the Rev. Clyde H. McDaniel, Jr. who recently passed away in Michigan.