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2015



PASTOR'S PEN

"Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!"

In 1719, Isaac Watts, one of the most prolific hymn writers of all time, penned these words, "Joy to the world, the Lord is Come!" With these words, Watts placed an exclamation point on the doctrine of the incarnation, of God entering our world through Jesus Christ. It wasn't until 23 years later, in 1742, that George Frederick Handel, arranged the music for one of our most beloved Christmas carols. This carol brings the artistic style of two of the most gifted artists who have ever lived: Watts' thoughtful lyrics and Handel's compositional talent. It is believed that Handel introduced this hymn in his first performance of *The Messiah* and the rest, as they say, is history.

Needless to say, *Joy to the World* is one of my favorite Christmas carols, and it is likely among one of your favorites as well. It gets to the very heart of what make Christianity unique from all other religions of the world, the coming of God in human form through the person of Jesus Christ. Most other religions are about us working our way to God though good works, religious efforts, and spiritual practices. Only Christianity offers a doctrine of grace, where God comes to us to forgive and restore broken humanity and provide forgiveness through the cross of Calvary.

This is a doctrine that eludes our praise and adoration, for according to Acts 4:2, we are saved under no other name than Jesus. With Watts and Handel, we are invited to proclaim, *Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!*

The season of Christmas provides us such an opportunity to respond to God's great gift of grace. I hope you will enter this season of Advent with a heart ready to grow deeper in your faith. To this end, I would invite you to engage in the following:

1. Take an advent devotional to use during this season to listen, pray, and discern God's leading. These free devotionals are available in the gallery for you to use.
2. Join us to prepare the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 5 and 5 PM. Your help is needed as we place wreaths, decorate trees, and don the church with the Christmas spirit.
3. Attend the Rocky Mountain Christmas concert on Sunday, December 6. Performances will be held at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM and are free to the public. This is a great way to enter into the special season.
4. View some Christmas lights with us on either December 18 or December 20 at 7 PM. Sign up in the gallery for this special tour on the church bus. It will be fun!
5. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve with services here at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Both will include candles and carols, and the 10:00 PM service includes communion. This is a great evening to invite a friend.

Come and take in the season of Christmas and find out why we should join the angels and the heavenly choruses in singing, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Christmas decorating at the church: Saturday, Dec. 5 at 5:00 PM– free pizza!
RMC Christmas Concert here on December 6 at 3 PM and 7 PM
Christmas Tour of Lights: December 18 and 20 at 7:00 PM– sign up in gallery
Christmas Eve Services: Thursday, December 24 at 5 PM and 10 PM



MEMORY JOGGERS FOR DECEMBER

<u>The 6th</u>	<u>The 13th</u>	<u>The 20th</u>	<u>The 24th</u>	<u>The 27th</u>	<u>SUBSTITUTES</u>
Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson	Christmas Eve 3 PM	Preaching Dave Thompson	USHERS Pat Clark Kay Doss Chris Eriksen Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Diane Noddings Charlie Reed Don Reed John Thompson
Key Elder Kathy Baskett	Key Elder Ken Eichenberger	Key Elder Chris Eriksen	Preaching Dave Thompson	Greeters Orrin & Emily Feddes Sharon Mathews	
Greeters Ed & Alta Dakolios Meghan Ascheman	Greeters Tom & Ruth Drummond Betty Ann Nesmith	Greeters David & Robyn Bauer Noah & Lauren Bauer	10PM	Ushers Jo Albin Jim & Biff Hogue Edna Carlson	
Ushers Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson	Ushers Greg & Deb Wiens Janet Kline Peggy Wilson	Ushers Marge Myhra Chris Eriksen John Thompson Sharon Mathews Marlene Spencer		Liturgist Bob Culbertson	GREETERS Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond Bob & Linda Fedric Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Bob & Barb Muir Marge Myhra Ralph & Jane Myhre Betty Ann Nesmith Charlie Reed Bob & Shirley Shirley Lucile Weisbeck
Liturgist Jean Noble	Liturgist Vicki Thompson	Liturgist Megan Lorentz		Care Board Tom & Ginny Helmer	
Van Driver Don Harr	Care Board Chuck & Cindy Leggate	Van Driver Don Harr		Van Driver Heather McLean	
Sound Booth David Bauer	Van Driver Don Harr	Van Driver Don Harr		Sound Booth Bob Culbertson	
Communion Janet Brown Chris Eriksen Paige Spalding Jim Hummell Sharon Mathews	Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga	Sound Booth Chuck Leggate			

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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 Celebration @ 10:30

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson
Youth Ministry: Orrin Feddes
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Choir Accom: Bev Wornom
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer

Class of 2016
Samantha Cormier
Heidi Duncan
Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere

Class of 2017
David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018
Kathy Baskett
Marv Brown
Jeff Gruizenga
Sandi Schoenberger

Session Notes:

During the regular meeting of the session on November 10, the members met with individuals who expressed a desire to join our congregation. Those who were approved for membership were: Ron Sperry, Saydi Saar, Dick and Marcia Spalding, Nina LaSeur, Kristy Catlin, and Wally and Louise Palm.

Pastor Dave reported that Commissioned Ruling Elder Jack Bell will be commissioned to lead the Stanford and Geyser congregations on Sunday, November 15. Replacements have been found to lead worship at West Park Village. Pastor Dave asked permission to attend the installation of Pastor Katie Emery at Terry on November 29.

Financial snapshot

2015	Income	Expense	Net
November	\$ 44,450	\$ 19,557	\$ 24,893
Year to Date	\$ 472,218	\$ 402,277	\$ 69,941

The elevated expenses reflect a deposit placed upon the new garage that is being built for the church bus and van

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillins.org? Just click the “Listen to Sermons” tab on the upper right front of our church’s homepage. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past 12 weeks are archived on our church’s website.

Church Mice: Visions often turn into dreams and dreams can be become reality. John Reed saw an empty space outside the downstairs youth door, and he planted numerous beautiful hostas complete with irrigation to water them. Susan McCarthy added a bench. Janet and Marvin Brown contributed an artistic stepping stone. Beth Morrow envisioned a prayer/peace garden. With a financial contribution from the Bridge Marathon Group, an additional bench and some concrete angels were purchased for the garden. At the suggestion of Liz TenHarmsel, Chuck Ward was commissioned to build a "Little Free Library" book box. The dream became a reality on October 24, 2015 when Chuck Ward with "help" from Beth and Sharon Brady put the book box in place. It is hoped this area will become an area the congregation can use for meditation, inspiration and quiet reflection. Take a book from the box and/or put one of your own in there for someone else to read. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).



NOV	2015
1ST	224
8TH	203
15TH	205
22TH	197
29	165
2015 Nov AVERAGE	199
2014 Nov AVERAGE	179

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 Dec 6

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 November. They are: Jerry Swanson, Peggy Jo Wilson, Jim Hummel & Paige Spalding, and Helen Montgomery.

Dinners of Eight

Another year of Dinners of Eight is here. I know that everyone is busy. DO NOT MAKE IT HARD OR STRESS OVER IT. This is a fun time. If things are happening so you cannot have it in your home- go to a restaurant.

If you find that you cannot host, give someone on your team to do the hosting. Do not let this time fall through. There are times that you just cannot host an event, but someone else may be happy to do it, give them a chance. The Host(s) (first name(s) in cell) picks a couple of dates during the subject Month that is convenient for you and calls your guests. If you are short of guests (someone may not be able to come), fill in the spaces with new faces with substitutes listed below or anyone not involved in dinners of eight (don’t forget new members or older members). Let your guests know when and where to come and what side dish or beverage to bring if any. (If you do not hear from your host call them, they may have forgotten.)

If you are a guest at dinner and cannot make it please let the hostess know.

This is a very flexible program. Any activities to accompany or follow your dinner are up to you. Even the dinner format can be modified to a brunch or whatever creative ideas you come up with including eating out. Enjoy your dinners! It is not necessary to have 8 people for dinner, any number is OK.

If there are any questions or problems, etc., please notify Pat Hastings immediately at 696-0281 or pathast@msn.com (be sure to title it Dinners of Eight). Please note any new names on the list or changes. Also, if you have a change in your email please let me know. I am getting some back.

Dinners of Eight Schedule

Stovall	Juanita		259-9219	Ascherman	Jason	Meghan	259-1336
Muir	Bob	Barbara	325-8016	Drummond	Tom	Ruth	656-5977
Spring	BeBe		252-7898	Brown	Marvin	Janet	256-0257
Mercer-Wallace	Jody		656-4150	Albin	Jo		656-5600
Lohnbakken	Gary	Judy	656-2046	Jones	JoAnn		652-3185
Laftko	Jody	Boden	591-8060				

Hogue	Jim	Biff	259-9114	Lorentz	Megan		855-5427
Hastings	Pat	Mike	696-0072	Brown	Phyllis		702-7040
Erskine	Tom		656-0496	Repka	Sarah		238-0092
Fugere	Jenice		252-9641	Baskett	Kathy	Bassingthwaite Mark	544-9857
Carlson	Edna		534-6211	Culbertson	Bob	Cathy	655-7826
Pierce	June		245-7989	Gore	Pam		694-6381

Morrow	Beth		656-2292	Lorentz	Bill	Colleen	656-8163
Brady	Sharon		655-9046	Eichenberger	Ken	Barbara	248-8563
Myhre	Ralph	Jane	325-8033	Reed	Don		252-5316
Swanson	Jerry		655-5448	Reineche	Eleanor		248-8293
Spencer	Marlene		252-5027	Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130
Taubert	Carlene	Mark Parker	698-2205				

Stephen Ministry Update

A training class for Stephen Ministers will continue through March 2016. This group meets on Thursday evenings at the church from 6:00-8:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Upon completion of this training, each of our Stephen Ministers will be assigned a care receiver to whom they will provide skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Our annual Stephen Ministry Christmas party will be held at the home of JoAnn Jones on Thursday, December 10 at 6 PM.

On a Personal Note

Thanks to all who helped make the annual senior Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 17 a great success. Special appreciation is extended to Michelle Lee and Denise Hash for coordinating and planning the meal. About 80 seniors were served. Thanks to Sandi Schoenberger and Janet Brown for coordinating a group from our church who enjoyed the Mannheim Steamroller concert at the Metra on Nov. 18. A large group from our church attended. Thanks to our group of volunteers to helped with our Family Promise week from Nov. 22-29!

Christmas Eve Services

Come worship with us on Christmas Eve (Thursday, December 24) with two worship opportunities. Our family service will be offered at 5 PM and our serve of “Candles, Carols, and Communion” will be offered at 10 PM. Christmas is a special time to draw close to God and to renew our relationship with Jesus. Pastor Dave will be concluding his Christmas sermon series on Christmas Eve titled, “Carols that Move Us.” He will be looking at the wonderful hymn, “Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come.”



Rocky Mountain Christmas Concert coming on Sunday, December 6

Our church will once again host the annual Christmas concert for Rocky Mountain College on Sunday, December 6. Titled “Lessons and Carols,” the concert will feature both scripture and music as a way to draw us into the spirit of Christmas. Two concerts will be offered: 3 PM and 7 PM and both will be held in the sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the community. Join us as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30 Staff Mtg. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Property Committee meeting	9-11 BSF Leaders 12 PW Luncheon 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adult Bible study	3 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 1 Mission Committee Meeting 7 CE Committee Meeting	4 Church Closed	5 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG) 5 Christmas decorating
6 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship RMC Christmas Concerts 3 and 7	7 12noon BLT 6 Billings Child Care Association Meeting (BCCA)	8 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Sigma Meeting 7 Session Meeting	9 9-11 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Grief Group 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	10 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee 6 Stephen Ministry Party @ JoAnn J.	11 Church Closed	12
13 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	14 10 Worship Committee Meeting 12noon BLT 12 Noon Men's Group	15 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	16 PW Circles Meet 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	17 12noon Congregational Care Team	18 Church closed Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Christmas Tour of Lights	19
20 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship 7:00 Christmas Tour of Lights	21 12noon BLT	22 9:30 Staff Meeting	23 No Youth Group No Choir Rehears No Young Adult Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve: Join us for services at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM	25 	26
27 No Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park worship	28 12noon BLT 12noon Men's Group	29 9:30 Staff Meeting	30 No Youth Group No Choir Rehears No Young Adult Bible Study	31 New Year's Eve		

Presbyterian Women



The annual PW Christmas luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 12noon ion the Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Women’s circles will be having joint meetings on December 16th at the Church in the Fireside Room. Miriam and Naomi will meet at 9:15 A.M. Elizabeth and Sarah will meet at 1:00 PM. This is always a fun time to get together and meet with the other Circles. The Gateway House closet at the Central Christian Church is full at this time. But please keep this cause in mind over the holidays and in the future. There is always a need to help others. They accept full size unopened hygiene products, new tooth brushes and tooth paste, diapers/wipes, baby bottles, bedding (full or twin size only), Q tips, blankets, and women’s razors to name just a few of the items needed.

Christmas decorating coming on Saturday, December 5

We invite you to join us on Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 PM as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We will need your help in setting up four Christmas trees, hanging wreaths, and preparing the church for this special season. The Presbyterian Women’s group will once again provide free pizza and refreshments to all who come and help us. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



Sunday school classes that are currently offered

Sunday school continues on Sunday mornings. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!



Classes for Kids:

Kindergarten through 6th grade: This class meets with Orrin Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi Sunday school during our worship service is held every week after the children’s sermon. A variety of teachers lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Special Class for Adults:

Join Pastor Dave during the season of Advent for a special Sunday school class beginning on Sunday, December 6 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This class will continue through December 20.

Church and Society guests for the month on December will be:

DECEMBER 6: Lucinda Stearns Butler, President of NOVA Center for the Performing Arts and President of the Rimrock Opera Foundation. She will be speaking on “Censorship in Arts and Literature with the primary focus on Opera.” Lucinda will review historical attempts at censorship in the arts and censorship in Montana, and what influence religious institutions have had in this process.

DECEMBER 13: Scott McCulloch, BEA President, will be talking about schools and students in the Early 21st century. The last of the students born in the 20th century are leaving our schools. 21st century education must meet the needs of a young generation raised in an information and technology age. Student attitudes and behaviors reflect changes in society's expectations of school. Our discussion will focus on an exploration of young people and the role of school in their lives. Does religion play a part?

DECEMBER 20: Sister Pat Funderhide, Angela’s Piazza Co-director and Ursuline Sister, and Mary Fitzpatrick, Retired Counselor and Angela’s Piazza Volunteer. Both women will talk about Angela’s Piazza, a welcoming and accepting place where women come to learn to live safer, better lives free from addictions and violence by discovering self confidence, courage and hope through domestic violence programs and programs that encourage spiritual and emotional healing. They will also explain EcoAngela, a program that promotes ecology, inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment.

DECEMBER 27: There will be no Church and Society class on Sunday, December 27 or January 3. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 10.

Youth News:

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful time of year it is to be with friends and family, but more importantly the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it to the senior Thanksgiving dinner! What a wonderful meal we all enjoyed thanks to Michelle Lee and Denise Hash. The students did a wonderful job serving our church family as a thank you for all that they do!

A couple events to mark on your calendar are December 16th which is FPC Youth's Christmas party! Please wear an ugly sweater and bring a gift for our gift exchange! Emily Feddes and Russ Kline will be providing a wonderful Christmas dinner for the students. We will have a photo booth, be playing some games, and watch a movie!

December 20th will be our Christmas play. If you would like your child to be part of the play, please sign them up on the sign-up sheet out in the gallery. I have a spot for speaking and non-speaking parts. Play practice will be Sunday mornings at 9:15 starting on December 6th.

We still have plenty of spots for you to sign up to provide a meal for the students on Wednesday nights. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved and get to know some of the students. If you would like to sign up, please see myself or Jody Ferestad.

Thank you so much for your continued support of FPC Youth. Please continue to pray for the students, as well as, the leaders.

In Christ,

Orrin Feddes



Free Advent Devotional

Free Advent devotionals are available in the gallery. We invite you to use these free devotionals during the advent season for study and reflection. Titled “Hark the Glad Tidings,” these devotionals are based on some of the most beloved Christmas carols that we sing today. Take one and enjoy.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in
(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, December 1 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, December 3 at 1 PM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, December 8 at 7 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, December 9 at 9:30 AM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, December 10 at 11 AM
Worship Committee	Monday, December 14 at 10 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, December 17 at 12noon

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, November 15 we welcomed eight new members into our congregation, They are: Kristy Catlin, Nina LaSeur, Wally and Louise Palm, Saydi Saar, Dick and Marcia Spalding, and Ron Sperry. Let us all welcome them into our church family.

Christmas Tour of Lights

You are invited to join us for a Billings area tour of Christmas lights. Sign you in the gallery for either Friday, December 18 at 7 PM or Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 PM. The church bus will leave the church’s parking lot and provide a tour of some of the best places to see lights in the Billings area. There is no charge for the tour and it is being sponsored by the church’s fellowship committee.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES EVERY MONTH

A grief support group within our church normally meets the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11. This group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group provide support, encouragement, and help to those facing grief, loss, or transitions in life. All are invited to join this special group. The next group meets on Wednesday, December 9 at 10 AM, a week later than usual.

December Birthday’s

- 2 John Limbach
- Judy Wallinder
- 5 Lowell Butler
- 6 Jim Graff
- 8 Bob Dayton
- 10 Shirley Shirley
- 11 James Haefer
- Jeanie Hekkel
- Holly Muller
- JoAnn Roach
- 14 Marie Reamy
- 19 Ann Chase
- Anna Mae Dyce
- 20 Harry Cuff
- Ed Dakolios
- Teri Pattee
- Edna Carlson

- 23 Jane Myhre
- Louise Graff
- 26 Robert Muir
- 27 Tim Janiak
- Doris Backus
- 28 Cathy McLean
- 29 Eleanor Reinecke
- 30 Steve Bentley
- Jessica Grabow
- Kurt Grabow
- 31 Jenanne Luse
- Allison Dubs

December Anniversaries

- 20 Aaron & Lis TenHarmsel
- 27 Chuck & Lois Maris
- Bob & Barbara Muir
- 28 Bill & Amy Letson
- 29 Jim & Louise Graff



MISSION MOMENTUM!

The approaching of Advent and of Christmas presents several opportunities to be Christ’s hands and feet in our community. Pick a tag from the Angel Tree in the gallery and shop for the Ponderosa Pines resident or Tumbleweed participant named. Each tag will provide information about the person and 1 or more items that that person needs of desires. Shop for the person, wrap the gift and return if – ALONG WITH THE ANGEL TAG - to the tree. Remember you are not obligated to purchase all items listed! Families – what a great experience to do together!

Don’t know what to give someone who needs nothing? The Presbyterian Mission Giving Catalog offers meaningful, often life-changing gifts for people both in the United States and around the world. These are offered through the Presbyterian Mission Agency and can be viewed on line at presbyteriangifts.org or on the Giving Catalog on the counter outside the office.

Closer to home: Save Evergreen IGA receipts and place them in the Angela’s Piazza envelope on the wall across from the Fireside Room. This is one way to support Angela’s Piazza’s work with women and children as they will receive a percentage of the receipt totals.

The Montana Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and the Congregational Crisis Fund are among the latest recipients of mission financial assistance. And the mission sponsored Global Village sale in Fellowship Hall brought in the highest amount ever at a church sale!

As we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth let’s make a special effort to honor him through our work for his people – that’s all of us, but it is especially the poor, the sick, the lonely, the prisoner, the widowed. That is true Christmas spirit.

Matching gifts available for a limited time

The Presbyterian Church (USA) invites you to make a special gift to support a mission worker in our denomination. For a limited time, until December 31, all funds received will be matched dollar for dollar. Thus your gift of \$25, will become \$50 and so forth. To give a gift you can either go online to www.presbyterianmission.org/donate or send a check in the mail to the Presbyterian Mission Agency; 100 Witherspoon Street; Louisville, KY 40202. Your gift is sure to help mission workers in the field spread the message of Jesus Christ.

Special thanks to pie bakers

Thanks to Carol Harr, Karla Mahan, and Greta Murray for baking 20 pies for the Tumbleweed program. They bakes these pies at our church on Nov. 24 and delivered them to Tumbleweed for Thanksgiving.