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2024

### Pastor's Pen

*"With Appreciation"*



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



The apostle Paul opens his letter to the church in Philippi with these words, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3). Paul had a special bond with the church in Philippi and shared his appreciation with them by giving thanks. I, too, feel this way with the bond we share together in Christ. We have much to be grateful for and I appreciate the ministry we share together in the Lord.

Our church's annual congregational meeting was held last Sunday, January 28 as a number of reports were presented from various committees and organizations in our church. In all, 2023 was an very good year for our congregation and we approach the new year with high hopes and expectations. It is exciting to see more people engaging in our ministry, attending worship, participating in our programs, and connection with us through our online presence.

During our meeting the following members were elected to serve on our leadership team: session members elected to a three year term are Tricia Harrison, Erin Heringer, John Reed, and Ernie Watters. Tricia and John are coming back to serve a second three year term, which is permissible via our by-laws. Deacons elected to three year terms are Jennifer Burns, Becky Dixon, Deanna Hansard, and Sandi McIntosh. Jennifer and Deanna are both returning to serve a second term.

Erin Evans, Larry George, Bill Lorentz, and Bernice Phillips were elected to serve on our church's nominating committee in 2024. These individuals will work with me this coming fall to come up with nominees for elders and deacons to present at our congregational meeting next year.

Our 2024 budget was presented and will be approved at our February session meeting. A budget of \$562,719 includes \$102,000 in charitable mission giving, a cost of living raise for staff members, and a few adjustments to committee budgets.

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14 with a special worship service at 7pm. During the season of Lent I will be preaching a sermon series titled "Thy Will Be Done." We will be looking at seeking and implementing God's will in our lives and free Lenten devotionals will be available for the congregation.

—Pastor Dave



#### Youth News

This January we started the year anew with some fun filled events and shifting gears in our lessons. On the 12th, Michelle Cormier and our church hosted a pizza and game night for the Optimist Club's counselors and built excitement for camping season this summer. Confirmation began January 24th with Pastor Dave for middle and high schoolers who want to deepen their faith and join our church congregation.

We hosted our first overnight Lock In in years on the 27th where we stayed the night at the church. We stayed up late playing games and did other activities such as capture the flag, life size Clue, a nerf gun war, lightsaber battles, movies, and more. I am so thankful for all the leaders and volunteers who helped facilitate and make the night memorable for our youth. This month we are excited to announce our mission trip in summer 2024 to Alaska with Praying Pelican Missions. We will be serving in the Anchorage area and will be matched with a church there in the next few months for the location and type of mission work we will be doing. We are having two parent informational meetings (dates below) for those with questions and to get the ball rolling for our students to experience all that mission work entails. Fundraising information and more details coming soon!

Special thanks to the Thompson family, John Reed and Connie, Barb Eichenberger, Heather Rosenfeld, Steve and Debi Stokke, Lora and Sara Beatty, and the Bill and Cheryl Banks family for providing our meals this month. This was an exciting month for our youth and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2024!

Blessings, Nichole Bodalski

Upcoming Dates:

Jan. 31st: Mission Trip parent informational meeting at 6pm in Fireside; Feb. 4th: Mission Trip parent informational meeting at 11:45am in Fireside; Feb. 7th: Mission Trip Commitment forms are due; Feb. 14th: Ash Wednesday service

#### Online giving platform offers an easy way to donate

Our online giving platform through Abundant Ministries is up and running. Simply text fpcbllings to the number 73256 and it will take you into our secure giving portal. You can also access our giving app online on our church's website at fpcbllings.org. Look for the Give tab at the top of the home page. We appreciate your ongoing and faithful support of our ministry!

#### Upcoming events:

Ladies luncheon on Wednesday, February 7 at 12noon in the fellowship hall  
Ash Wednesday service here on Wednesday, February 14 at 7 PM  
Presbytery meeting here at our church on March 1-2

**Church Info**

Office Hours:  
 Mon—Thurs  
 8:30 AM— 4 PM  
 406-252-3434  
 mainfice@fpcbillings.org  
 www.fpcbillings.org  
 Sunday Worship:  
 8:30am & 10:30am  
 Sunday school @ 9:30  
 Livestream at face-  
 book.com/fpcbillings

**STAFF**

Pastor:  
 Dave Thompson  
 Office Manager:  
 Jeanne Raney  
 Children's and Youth:  
 Nichole Bodalski  
 Music Director:  
 Sandi Rabas  
 Choir Director:  
 Janie Sutton  
 Custodian:  
 Kent Fellingham  
 Preschool Directors:  
 Karen Gerbase and  
 Karen Norsworthy  
 Ministry Intern:  
 Maicyn Russell  
 Nursery Care:  
 Lily Ascheman and  
 Lauren Bauer  
 Bus Driver:  
 David Sanderson

**Birthdays**

- 2 Kerry Gruizenga
- Craig Hash
- 4 Erin Evans
- 5 Monica Parker
- 6 Tiffany Dyce
- 7 Marvin Brown
- David Bauer
- 8 Carol Harr
- 9 Caitlin McRae
- Annabelle Buffington
- 10 Earl Henderson
- Chuck Leggate
- Erica Nelson
- 10 Karla Hoffman
- 13 Alex Repka
- Dani Repka
- 14 Jody Mercer Wallace
- Halle Spring
- 15 Michael Repka
- Bobbi Blain
- 16 Kathy Ramage
- John Reamy
- Linda Broderson
- Tyler Carey
- Coryn Martinez
- 17 Carl Johnson
- 19 Skip Hayes
- 20 Andrew Puls
- 21 Nichole Bodalski
- 21 Curtis Pattee
- Lorrie Rimpe
- 22 Helen Montgomery
- 100 Years Old

- 23 Bill Lorentz
- 24 Linda Franson
- 25 Susan Stewart
- 27 Jason Pattee
- 28 Lewis Schoenberger
- 29 Ruth Kaufman
- Karen Gerbase

**Anniversaries**

- 10 Gary & Jean Schneider
- 18 Jim Hummel & Paige Spalding



**Financial snapshot**

2024	Income	Expense	Net
January	\$57,658	\$81,619	\$(23,961)

Per-capita is being received of \$58 per member if you would like to pay it. You can either pay it on-line through our mobile giving app, on our website at fpcbillings.org, or by submitting a check through the church office. Make sure you add "2024 Per-Capita" on the memo line.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>February 2024</b>				<b>1</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group	<b>2</b> 9-1 Preschool	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>5</b> 9 Kiwanis Club 9-1 Preschool 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group	<b>6</b> 9-1 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel	<b>7</b> 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12 PW Luncheon 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group	<b>8</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group 7 Christian Ed Mtg	<b>9</b> 9-1 Preschool 5 Frying on Fridays meets in the kitchen	<b>10</b> 10 CPR in the fellowship hall
<b>11</b> Super Bowl Sun. 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday school 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>12</b> 9 Kiwanis Club 9-1 Preschool 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group	<b>13</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 12 Finance mtg. 7 Session meeting	<b>14</b> 9 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group 7 Ash Wednesday worship service	<b>15</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group	<b>16</b> 9-1 Preschool	<b>17</b> 1-3 Helen Montgomery's 100th birthday party in the fellowship hall
<b>18</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>19</b> 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 9-1 Preschool 2 ReFuel Group	<b>20</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 10 Grief Support 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp 6 Stephen Ministry	<b>21</b> 9 Preschool PW Circles 12 PEO Fellowship 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group 7 Refuel Group	<b>22</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Mission Comm	<b>23</b> 9-1 Preschool	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>26</b> 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 9-1 Preschool 2 ReFuel Group 6 Deacons meet	<b>27</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp	<b>28</b> 9 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group	<b>29</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Cong. Care Team		

**Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian Women's organization in our church has five different groups which meet monthly for study, fellowship, and often food. Consider joining one of our groups to grow in your faith in God and one another. For more information about the Presbyterian Women's organization, please talk with either Pat Hastings or Marlene Spencer.

All women are invited to join us for the Ladies Lunch on Wednesday, February 7 at 12noon in the fellowship hall.

The PW board will meet on Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Presbyterian Women's groups will meet on Wednesday, February 21 with two groups meeting in the morning, two groups meeting in the afternoon, and a group that meets in the evening.

**Church & Society schedule for February**

Our Church and Society Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Church & Society Room. A different guest present every week. Here is the lineup for February:

February 4: Nick Enslow, Area Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County, TEDx speaker. "Building Generational Wealth Through Relationships." We have many problems that are bankrupting our youth; Gun violence, Depression and Suicide, Drugs and Alcohol and more. As these problems build, they are affecting more of our youth, making the problem seem harder to solve. Nick, pulling from his decade and a half experience in youth development with the Boys and Girls Clubs, will speak to the simple yet impactful solution that can help our youth out of this Generational Bankruptcy and into Generational Wealth.

February 11: Dr. Danell Jones, High Plains Book Award Winner, will present "*The Girl Prince: Virginia Woolf, Race and the Dreadnought Hoax.*" In February 1910, a young Virginia Woolf and friends played the most famous practical joke in British military history. Blackening her face and masquerading as an African prince, they conned their way onto the *Dreadnought*, the Empire's renown battleship. The stunt made headlines around the world. Danell Jones's new book *The Girl Prince* intertwines the story of the scandalous prank and Woolf's ideas about race with the true Black experience in Britain. Jones explores why this novelist joined in a bigoted prank and probes what it tells us about Woolf's Britain.

February 18: Kim Lewis, President and CEO of United Way of Yellowstone County. Her will present "Sixty-two Years of Positive Impact." From helping the elderly to the very young, Kim will detail the myriad ways United Way works with people of Yellowstone County to improve health, education, and economic mobility. By connecting with partners, donors, volunteers, and community leaders United Way extends its reach worldwide in 1,100 communities in 37 countries.

February 25: Ron Nordlund, Retired Banker. He will talk about "My Experience from the 1959 Hebgen Lake Earthquake." Ron's family was spending their annual summer vacation in a cabin on Hebgen Lake when that devastating earthquake hit. Ron was nine years old and will detail his recollections of that day and the aftermath.

**On a Personal Note**

Helen Montgomery's family would like to welcome you to an open house here in our church's fellowship hall on Saturday, February 17 from 1-3pm to celebrate Helen's 100th birthday. Food, refreshments, and cake will be served. Don Shaules passed away last month at the age of 87. Prayers for his wife Wesleta are appreciated. We extend our condolences to the family of Janice Handsaker who passed away last month at the age of 77. We extend our sympathies to Debbie Olson and her family on the recent death of her husband Mike at the age of 72. Karen Finstad returned home from Spokane after being hospitalized from a recent fall.



**Book sale has started**

The Presbyterian Women's group will once again be having a book sale during the month of February. Lots and lots of books, from children's book, adult books, and audio books will be on sale with all proceeds going to support the mission of the PW group in our church. Special thanks to Betty Nesmith who has organized the sale!

**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 \$30. You can also sign up by contacting the church office.

Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of January. They are: Len & Bonnie Richards in honor of church youth; Carol Harr in memory of Scott Harr; Thelma Riggs in honor of her family; Tara Leigh Taylor in honor of Ashley & Tristian; and Jacob Lawson in honor of Stephen & Kaylie Johnson (Jacob's brother & sister-in-law) in celebration of their first baby coming in September.