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Billings, MT 59102-2428

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2024

### Pastor's Pen

#### "Spiritual Shape"



Most of us are fairly conscientious when it comes to our physical health. We try to watch what we eat and work to maintain a healthy lifestyle through exercise, diet, and rest. Some of you walk, run, bike, treadmill, swim, do cross fit, Pilates, yoga, aerobics, or lift weights.

We are good at concentrating on our physical bodies, but do you ever think about exercising your spiritual muscles? The spiritual body, like the physical body, needs to be exercised. I find that unless the spirit is nurtured and stimulated, it is easy to become complacent in our walk with Jesus Christ.

The season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, provides a good time to work on our spiritual lives. This season provides a time to reflect and renew our relationship with God and recommit our lives to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. With our physical bodies, we have to be intentional about going for a walk or getting to the gym. The same intentionality is true with the Spirit. Here are some ways I would like to encourage you to exercise your spiritual muscles during this special season:

- \* Daily Devotions: Take a few minutes each day to read some scripture and pray. We offer a free Lenten devotional to help with this exercise. You can also jump on the YouVersion Bible App that provides daily encouragement.
- \* Sunday school class- I am co-leading a class with Dr. Andrew Wingerson titled, "Living Your Best Life" as we explore ways to have a healthy life physically, spiritually, and mentally. Come to discover ways to live your best life.
- \* Sunday worship provides a good time to gather with others to be renewed in our faith. I am preaching a series titled, "Thy Will Be Done." I have found that God's way of doing things is far better than my own.
- \* Join one of our six Refuel small groups to grow closer to God and others or one of our other study groups.

I hope you will take part in some of the things we offer to help promote your spiritual growth. Come and join us as we get into shape and grow in our relationship with God. I look forward to worshipping with you either in person on on-line on the next Lord's Day.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

#### Youth News

We started February with building excitement with our students and parent info meetings for our mission trip to Alaska this summer. We are starting a coffee cart fundraiser that will be on the first and third Sundays starting in March and continuing through May. From 9:00am - 10:30am the cart will be staffed by youth volunteers. There is no cost for the drinks, but goodwill donations are welcome! All donations will go towards the cost of our mission trip and funding scholarships for those who need extra help.

Our new 'in between' Sunday school class has been going well and the kids seem to be enjoying it! Big thanks to our leader group for this which includes Cheryl Banks, Lora Beatty, Kara Moen, Tonya Appelt, and Jody Andersen. On March 15th-16th we are inviting youth from 6th-12th grade to Bozeman for the Yellowstone Presbytery Ski Retreat. This is a great time for fellowship and to get to know kids from other parts of the state! Special thanks to Cherrie McRae, Russ & Janet Kline, Rhonda Stennersen, and Lora & Sara Beatty for providing our meals this month. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our youth programs!

Blessings,  
Nichole Bodalski  
Upcoming Dates: 3/1- Serving dinner for Presbyterian Meeting (volunteer opportunity);  
3/3 & 3/17- Coffee Cart Mission Fundraiser open from 9:00am- 10:30am; 3/15th-16th- Ski Retreat;  
3/27- No Awana or Youth Group (spring break)



#### 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:

Presbytery meeting here at our church this weekend, March 1-2  
Youth ski retreat to Bozeman from March 15-16- talk to Nichole about details

**Church Info**  
 Office Hours:  
 Mon—Thurs  
 8:30 AM—4 PM  
 406-252-3434  
 mainoffice@fpcbillings.org  
 www.fpcbillings.org  
 Sunday Worship: 8:30am & 10:30am  
 Sunday school @ 9:30am  
 Livestream at facebook.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  
 Children's Ministry Assistant:  
 Maicyn Russell  
 Nursery Care:  
 Lily Ascheman and  
 Lauren Bauer  
 Bus Driver:  
 David Sanderson

Birthdays		
1 Owen Norsworthy Doug Braun	12 Mary Lou Jacobson Callie Jackson	22 Shelley Prosinski Marilynn Anderson
2 Jase Norsworthy Jean Reed	13 Laura Sterup Don Garretson	24 Jeff Appelt Sharon Mathews
4 Hayden Gall Sonya Bennett	14 John Dyce Craig Melder	29 Sharon Mathews Cindy Leggate C.J. Johnson Neeltje McNulty
5 Linda Haden Len Richards	17 Barbara Eichenberger Gordon Cox	<b>Anniversaries</b> 15 Craig & Sue Melder
6 Dan Ehlang	18 Judy Lohnbakken Richard Cebull	21 Bill & Colleen Lorentz
9 Judy Lohnbakken Kathy Carey Bob Fedric	19 Peg Ostlund	29 Ed & Sandi McIntosh
10 Meghan Ascheman	20 Lynda Adkins	

**Financial snapshot**

2024	Income	Expense	Net
February	\$ 45,106	\$ 33,830	\$ 11,276
YTD:	\$105,315	\$116,569	\$(11,254)

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>MARCH 2024</b>					<b>1</b> 9 Preschool <b>PRESBYTERY MEETING 12-8</b>	<b>2</b> <b>PRESBYTERY MEETING 8:30-12noon</b>
<b>3</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>4</b> 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis Club 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group 6 Beta Sigma	<b>5</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 Women's Bible study (WBS) 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel	<b>6</b> 9 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group	<b>7</b> 9 Bible Study Fell. 11 PEO 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group 6:30 Christian Ed	<b>8</b> 9 Preschool 5 Frying on Fridays meets in the kitchen	<b>9</b> 10 CPR in the fellowship hall
<b>10 Daylight Savings</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>11</b> 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis Club 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group	<b>12</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 12 Finance mtg. 12 PEO Fireside 7 Session meeting	<b>13</b> 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group	<b>14</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 11 Christian Study 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group	<b>15</b> 9 Preschool 4 Youth Ski Retreat to Bozeman	<b>16</b> Youth Ski Retreat in Bozeman
<b>17</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>18</b> 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 9-1 Preschool 2 ReFuel Group 5:30 Deborah Cir	<b>19</b> 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 10 Grief Support 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp 6 Stephen Ministry 6 Iris Club	<b>20</b> 9 Preschool PW Circles 12 Pizza Party 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group 7 Refuel Group	<b>21</b> 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Mission Committee	<b>22</b> 9 Preschool	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups	<b>25</b> No Preschool 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group 6 Deacons meet	<b>26</b> No Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp 12:30 PEO Fireside	<b>27</b> No Preschool No Awana Kids or Youth Group due to Spring Break 6 Stephen Ministry	<b>28</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11 Christian Study 7 Maundy Thursday Worship Service here	<b>29</b>  7 Good Friday Worship at FPC	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Easter Morning</b> 8:30 Worship 9:15 Brunch and Egg Hunt 10:30 Worship						

**Session Notes:**  
 The Session met on Thursday, February 13, 2024 The session welcomed new Elders, Erin Heringer and Ernie Waters. The proposed budget for the year 2024 of \$562,719 was approved by the session.  
 Sandi Schoenberger was approved to represent the session at the March Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 A proposal for building a retaining wall along the East and South sides of the church to prohibit water leakage into the preschool was approved.

**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.  
 The PW board will meet on Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Presbyterian Women's groups will meet on Wednesday, March 20 with two groups meeting in the morning, two groups meeting in the afternoon, and a group that meets in the evening.

**Church and Society class schedule for March**  
 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 March:  
**MARCH 3:** Fawn Reed, Legal and Victim Services Administrator at YWCA Billings. She will talk about "Hope for Those Fleeing Domestic Violence." The YWCA provides the only shelter in Billings and Hardin for victims of domestic violence in a seven-county region covering 18,512 square miles. Fawn will discuss the programs for these victims and those of sexual assault and stalking. Advocates, case managers, a housing navigator, and a legal advocate provide these services at no cost. Fawn will also provide information about the new Family Justice Center project.  
**MARCH 10:** Valarie Weber, Director of the Ted Lechner Youth Services Center. When working with two boys from Pine Hills 32 years ago, Valarie realized she loved working with delinquent kids. In her 28 years as director Val will talk about programs offered and answer questions about juvenile justice and youth violence.  
**MARCH 17:** Olena Henley, native of Ukraine, will talk about "Revisiting my Homeland." Traveling to Ukraine last summer to visit her family who chose to stay, Olena will share Ukrainians' perspectives of the war. She will also detail the changes she has observed in the landscape and in the people since the war began.  
**MARCH 24:** Mike Penfold, Retired Director of the BLM in Montana, North and South Dakota, and Alaska. "Tragedies and the Afterlife on the Bozeman Trail." Two children who died 12,000 years apart on the Bozeman Trail were buried with evidence of belief in the afterlife. In addition to studying the history of the Bozeman Trail, Mike has walked most of it with the goal of producing an accurate map and designation as a Historical Trail.

**On a Personal Note**  
 We extend our condolences to the families of Alice Lundgren and Wava Knutson who both passed away last month. Funeral services for both of them are pending at this time.  
 "My thanks to all for the encouraging cards, kind words, and prayers during my surgical recovery. We really do have a very loving congregation." —Janet Kline  
 Clayton Davis and David Sanderson are both home after recent surgeries.  
 Gary and Jean Schneider would appreciate your prayers as Gary is dealing with some health issues.  
 Susan Stewart has returned home after being hospitalized at St. V's.

**Book Sale:** Thanks to everyone who had their hand in the book sale during the month of February. Hundreds of books were sold and over \$1,000 was raised with the money going to support the mission of our Presbyterian Women's organization in our church. Thanks to those who donated books, organized the books, and purchased the books. Special thanks to Betty Nesmith who organized the sale this year!!

**Flowers donations**  
 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 February. They were: Pam Harr in memory and honor of her mom, Shirley Harr; Suzanne Braun in memory of her dad, the Rev. Milous Repka; Jennifer Burns in memory of her husband, Skip Burns; Tara Taylor in honor of Howard Wishnow; Erin Evans in memory of her dad, Greg Cameron; and Al and Bobbi Blain in celebration of their grandson Wright Heringer's birthday.  
 Easter Lily order forms will be available in the church bulletin in the three weeks leading up to Easter. Lilies are \$15 and you can designate them in honor or in memory of loved ones. Contact the church office if you have any questions.