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2024

Pastor's Pen

"Alive and Well"



Wow! For those of you who joined us for the great celebration of Easter this past Sunday, what an incredible time we had! It is exciting to see the church full of people who are excited about their faith and lifting praise in worship to God. I was caught up in the music and wonder of the morning, so grateful to be the pastor of a church that is alive and well. I appreciate everyone who played a part in our Easter celebration: from those who prepared and served our fantastic Easter breakfast (Russ Kline and Lee Webber, coordinators); those who assisted Nichole with the Easter egg hunt for all of the kids; those who led the music and all of our musical participants; those who donated and arranged the many Easter lilies and flowers; and those who planned and assisted in our worship services. It was a great celebration as we exalted our risen Savior and remembered God's redeeming gift of new and eternal life on that first Easter morning.

We have good momentum on the heels of Easter and I am looking forward to continuing this into the spring. I'm excited for the upcoming sermon series titled, "Stay in Your Lane." This series, beginning this Sunday, April 7, will be based on truths from the Bible and will help us set appropriate boundaries with ourselves and others to help us become better people.

I will be leading a new Sunday school class, starting this Sunday, titled, "Proof from the Past." This four week series will be held in the Fireside Room at 9:30am and will look at many of the prophecies from the Old Testament and how they were fulfilled in Jesus. I touched on this idea a little in my Easter sermon as we looked at the probability of Jesus' fulfilling these prophecies and will dive in to greater depths in this class.

We have a lot of reason to be hopeful! We have a savior who is with us each day, the promise of eternal life, and have a church community that it alive and well. We are blessed in so many ways and give our praise and thanksgiving to God!

Blessings to you and your families!

Pastor Dave



Online giving platform offers an easy way to donate

Our online giving platform through Abundant Ministries is up and running. Simply text fpcbillings 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 fpcbillings.org. Look for the Give tab at the top of the home page. We appreciate your ongoing and faithful support of our ministry!

Youth News

We started our travel partners and coffee cart fundraisers this month for the Alaska Mission Trip and both have been on track to meet our goals. We will have the coffee cart again this month on April 7th and 21st from 9-10:30am. Also on April 21st is our Annual Basket Auction which is another fundraising event for our youth. This will be after the second church service and a wonderful lunch will be provided. We are accepting donations of baskets as well as experiences for our silent and live auctions. Please contact myself or Jody Andersen (406-861-2280) for more details. We had a great turnout for our Easter services, brunch and egg hunt and we hope your families enjoyed it as much as we did. Special thanks to Michelle Cormier, Karen Norsworthy, Betty & Joe Roy, Carol Vegge, and Jennifer Burns for providing our meals for youth group.

On a personal note I would like to thank my church family for all of the prayers, cards, gifts and messages during this last month. Also to those who volunteered their time to help with youth group, Awana and Sunday school so that I didn't have to worry about our programs. Our community has been such a blessing during this difficult time and I cannot express how much it means to myself and my family, thank you so much.

Blessings,

Nichole Bodalski

Upcoming Dates: 4/7 & 4/21- Coffee Cart Mission Fundraiser open from 9:00am- 10:30am

4/21- Basket Auction after second service, lunch is provided

Upcoming events:

Ladies lunch coming on Wednesday, April 3 at 12noon in the fellowship hall

Party for Judy Wallinder will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 11-1 in the fellowship hall

Youth basket auction coming on Sunday, April 21 at 11:30am

Church clean up day coming on Saturday, April 27 from 9-12noon

New members' class coming on Sundays May 5 and 12 at 9:30 in the Fireside Room

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 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
Children's Ministry Assistant:
 Maicyn Russell
Nursery Care:
 Lily Ascherman and Lauren Bauer
Bus Driver:
 David Sanderson

Birthdays

- 4 Larry George
- 4 Marilyn Morris
- 4 Barbara Whittle
- 7 Judy Nusbaum
- 8 Kyle Erickson
- 10 Al Hessler
- 11 Joanne Leuthold
- 12 Jim Irwin
- 14 Trina White
- 17 Charleene Hayes
- 18 Sharon Brady

- 18 Marlene Spencer
- Peggy Wilson
- Lily Goettel
- 19 Arlene Jackson
- 20 Barbi Iams
- 21 Dan Hansard
- 24 Sharon Henderson
- 27 Kevin Nagel
- Zack Garretson
- 29 Judy Gerbase
- Betty Nelson
- 30 Charlie Norsworthy

Anniversaries

- 6 John & Carol Limbach
- 9 Kurt & Mary Grabow
- 16 Stacey & Michelle Gravenhof
- 17 Scott & Greta Murray



Financial snapshot

| 2024 | Income | Expense | Net |
|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| March | \$ 80,617 | \$ 31,182 | \$49,435 |
| YTD: | \$188,020 | \$148,300 | \$32,720 |

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 |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| APRIL 2024 | 1 Office Closed 9 Monday work crew 9:30 Kiwanis 2 No refuel grp | 2 9 Preschool 9:30 Women's Bible study (WBS) 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel | 3 9 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12 Ladies Spring Luncheon 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group | 4 9 Bible Study Fellowship 11 PEO 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group 6:30 Christian Ed | 5 9 Preschool | 6 Party open house for Judy Wallinder in the fellowship hall 11-1 |
| 7 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups | 8 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis Club 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group 6 Beta Sigma | 9 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel 12 Finance mtg 7 Session mtg | 10 9 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Men's group 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group | 11 9 Bible Study Fellowship 11 Christian Study 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group | 12 9 Preschool 5pm Frying on Fridays meets in the kitchen | 13 |
| 14 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups | 15 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis Club 9 Monday crew 12 Mission Rdge 2 ReFuel Group 5:30 Deborah Cir | 16 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 10 Grief Support 11 ReFuel Zoom 12 PEO Fireside 6 Iris Club | 17 PW groups 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders PW Circles 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group | 18 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 PEO in C & S 6 PEO group | 19 9 Preschool 4 Mary Kay group to use fellowship hall | 20 8:30-4 Mary Kay group to use fellowship hall |
| 21 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship Basket Auction 4 Music Recital 6 ReFuel groups | 22 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 9-1 Preschool 2 ReFuel Group 6 Deacons mtg | 23 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp 6 Stephen Ministry | 24 9 Preschool 10 Men's group 4:45 Awana Kids 6 Youth Group 7 Refuel Group | 25 9 Bible Study Fellowship 11 Christian Study 7 Mission Committee | 26 9 Preschool 5:30 RMC Baccalaureate in Sanctuary | 27 9-12noon Church clean up day |
| 28 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday Sch 10:30 Worship 6 ReFuel groups | 29 9 Preschool 9 Kiwanis 9 Monday crew 2 ReFuel Group | 30 6 Prayer breakfast @ Northern Htl 9 Preschool 9:30 WBS 11 ReFuel Zoom 11:30 Refuel Grp | | | | |

Session Notes: The Session met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The Finance committee reports that First Presbyterian Church is in a strong and stable financial position. All reports indicate that the church is where it should be for this time of year. It was stated that we have a very kind and generous congregation.

The retaining wall that is being built around the south end of the church is progressing ahead of schedule. Permission was granted for Pastor Dave to perform the baptisms of Mack and Kennedy Thayer on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at the 10:30 worship service. The session approved that Sandi Schoenberger be allowed to serve as the liaison between the Session and the Foundation.

Church and Society class schedule for April

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 April:

April 7: Dr. Erwin Garcia-Velasquez, Superintendent of the Billings Public Schools; Ione Young, Yes for Safe Schools Billings Co-Chair. "Initiatives to Bridge the Gap—Preventing Dropouts and Violence." Reading proficiency affects students' experiences and perceptions and can lead to dropping out of school. Research data connects dropouts to acts of violence, which are occurring in our community. Dr. Garcia will explain how BPS is addressing these issues through three initiatives. Also, learn about the significant defects found in the safety audit of BPS and how those can be resolved.

April 14: Jim Gransbery, Retired Political and Agricultural Gazette Reporter. "Moral Responsibility and Courage in the Face of Authoritarianism." Jim will focus on five historical figures: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Titus Grandsma, Hans and Sophie Sholl, and Oscar Romero. Learn how four of them stood up to authoritarianism in their defiance of the Nazis and the fate that awaited each of them. Jim will also explain the circumstances of Oscar Romero's death when he was Archbishop of El Salvador.

April 21: Dr. Tim Lehman, Professor of History and Political Science, RMC. "A Post-Truth America?" His presentation will look at our society's difficulty of establishing a common ground for truth in recent decades, including conspiracy theories, alt-media, and more. He will also include a historical look of this topic, including mistruths about religion.

April 28: Nancy Van Maren, Executive Director of Nations to Neighbors Montana (N2N). N2N is a faith-based community organization begun in response to the mass evacuation of Afghans in August 2021. With 100% community support and funding, N2N resettled four Afghan families into Billings during 2022. In 2024, a national resettlement agency began preparing to welcome refugees from all over the world into Billings. Nancy will discuss how N2N will work to help refugees thrive over the long welcome—the many months it requires to learn all that we take for granted and to develop a sense of belonging—first on providing a summer program for refugee children and mentorship opportunities.

Clean-Up Day coming on Saturday, April 27

Join us on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00-12noon as we spruce up the church. Your help would be appreciated as we tackle a number of jobs. We will clean gutters, trim trees, weed flowerbeds, clean the parking lot, among other jobs and tasks. Whether you can give an hour or the entire time, come and join us and let's take care of the house of the Lord.



On a Personal Note

A Meal Train for Karen Finstad has been organized to help Karen with a few meals a week. Karen fell off her roof several months ago and is paralyzed. The link to the meal train is: mealtrain.com/y86e7k. Your kindness is appreciated! You are cordially invited to join Judy Wallinder and her family this Saturday, April 6 anytime between 11am-1 for an open house in the fellowship hall. Food will be served and stories will be shared. All are invited! Noah Bauer, son of David and Robyn, is hospitalized at Denver Children's Hospital with myocarditis. Bob and Penni Nance appreciate your prayers as both of them are dealing with health related issues. Marv Brown has returned home after having recent knee replacement surgery.

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 March. They were: Britta and Matt Smith in memory of Britta's grandfather, Robert Thiesen; Lorrie Rimpe in memory of her mom, Eleanor Weaver's birthday; Barbara Eichenberger in honor of her family birthdays; Max Kitch and Jamie Janke in celebration of Jim Janke's 97th birthday; Carla Bracken in memory of her husband, Gary Bracken; and Bret Bennett in memory of his grandmother, Alice Black.