

The Mustard Seed

June 2016

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HELENA, MONTANA

Issue 6, Volume 2016

Summer Is Here!

Memorial Day has just passed, marking the traditional start of summer. We get out and enjoy the warm days with light going well into “night”. We are out hiking, biking, or walking the dog. The yard needs mowing, there is gardening to do, and possibly some larger landscaping projects are undertaken. Or, our occupation may even have us outdoors, performing whatever labor it is that we do.

We find that as summer progresses “*warm summer days*” is just a euphemism for “hot.” While exerting ourselves in the sunshine, nothing is better than some cool, clear, refreshing water. Even for someone who really likes soda, when I’m thirsty nothing sounds better than water.

We tend to take water for granted; it is just “*there*.” Turn on the tap – whether it be the kitchen sink or the garden hose, and out comes water. But sometimes water is not “just there.” The city of Helena has been in a legal dispute over its right to water from a mountain lake. And, for many people the water is “*over there*”, like “*miles over there*.”

Ruth Brown, the PC(USA) missionary serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo who visited us, talked about how she gets water where she lives; she hires a young girl to bring her 6 jugs of water a day. The girl carries the jugs of water over a mile from the artesian source, in a tub, on her head. Some residents travel 10 miles to water, after all the Congolese city Ruth lives in has the same population as the entire state of Montana, a million people.

Ruth has also found that education of the Congolese about water is necessary. The common understanding is: *clear water is good, dirty water is bad*. But that’s not always the case. Ruth spoke of accompanying local leaders in sampling water from seven local sources. Water was captured in test tubes to be sent off for a complete analysis, but they had some “litmus like” test strips that could detect the presence of a few pathogens like typhoid on the spot. The residents were shocked to see that some of what they thought was “clean

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Our Pastor
Rev. Scott Wiperman

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

406.442.4775
fpchelena.org

The Library Kiosk

We have a Library Kiosk that resides just outside the Sanctuary doors in the Fellowship area. On one side there is information about the church and a sampling of books from the church library, and on the other side are offerings from the Children’s Library. Feel free to borrow a book, or several.

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water” (because it was clear), was actually unfit. Ruth boils and/or treats the water she is going to consume, even water from the artesian well.

The importance of water in our lives is reflected in the role it plays in the Bible. Water washes our sins, it is “life giving water” and “living water.” The end of the book of Revelation is one of these water references: “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ... The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let

him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” Rev. 22:1 & 17

This summer, may we not take water for granted - whether thirsty or not. May we not take H₂O or the *spiritual water* for granted. May we, in fact, be a “dispenser”, an “artesian well”, of this water of life – both in spreading the *Good News* of Christ, and in helping all of God’s children to have access to clean water.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

On Sunday, May 15, the following members were ordained and installed as Deacons: Rena Bumgardner, Joy Edgar, Butch Plowman and Mary Stiles. Ward Stiles, who had previously been ordained, was also installed as a Deacon. These individuals will be serving a three-year term beginning June 1, 2016 until June 1, 2019.

The following members were ordained and installed as Elders: Linda Bench and Bill Cook. Kathy Chambers and Dianna Goodman, who had previously been ordained, were also installed as Elders. These individuals will be serving a three-year term beginning June 1, 2016 until July 1, 2019.

We want to thank all of these people for agreeing to serve FPC.

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE BOARD OF DEACONS

On May 15, new Deacons were ordained and installed to the office of Deacon for terms beginning on June 1, 2016. The new Deacons are Joy Edgar, Rena Bumgardner, Butch Plowman and Ward and Mary Stiles.

The Board met following worship to elect new officers.

Because the Deacons valued the participation of the new Deacons whose terms do not begin until June 1, they passed a motion to give them voice and vote so that they could take part in the nomination, discussion and voting for new leadership.

The newly elected officers are Moderator Ward Stiles, Vice Moderator Judy Birch, Secretary Mary Stiles and Nominating Committee Representative Corky Lord.

The Deacons, current and new, thank and ask blessings for these new leaders.

Session In Action.....

The Session meeting was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Rev. Scott Wiperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary. The Session meeting opened with Pastor Scott reading a devotional from 1 John with a message of God is Light.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Scott reported that the year-to-date expenses are exceeding income by \$2,808. He also reported that he will be attending a preaching conference at Whitworth College from July 18-22 along with other pastors from the Presbytery. Also from July 26-29 Pastor Scott, Dianna Goodman and Lexsey Van Norman will be attending the National Worship Leader Conference in San Antonio.

Lexsey Van Norman has been hired as the new Director of Christian Education for a 15 hour per week schedule.

The next Presbytery Retreat is scheduled for June 11-12 at Sunrise Church in Great Falls. The theme for the retreat is "Creating a Culture of Generosity", and will have Rob Hagen from the Presbyterian Foundation and Corey Schlosser-Hall, Presbytery Exec from Northwest Coast Presbytery as keynote speakers. Marsha Anson will fill the pulpit at FPC on July 17.

Carol Gneckow, Chairman of the Glacier Camp Board, reported that the Glacier Camp Scholarship Fundraiser raised \$18,000 for camper scholarships. There are presently seventeen requests for scholarships.

Committee Reports

Elder John Warren reported for the **Administration Committee**. A printed report is attached. The application deadline for the Seeley Family Memorial Scholarship is June 15, 2016.

Elder Marvin Carpenter reported for **Building and Grounds**. A written report was distributed outlining committee activity. He reminded everyone about the church clean-up which will take place on June 10 and 11. Building security continues to be an issue and he encouraged everyone to check the doors when leaving the building.

Elder Rose Leavitt reported for **Congregational Fellowship**. The Lost Soles hikes began on Sunday May 15. Be sure to check bulletin announcements for future dates. The group is also checking on Brewers Games

and Band Concerts for possible summer fellowship activities.

Elder Marsha Davis reported for **Christian Education**. Our church will be preparing dinner on June 22nd at St. Paul's during VBS. The Sunday school children will be presenting May baskets to nursing home residents.

Pastor Scott, in the absence of Melissa Stiles, distributed the **Mission Committee** report. There were no action items.

Elder Rose Leavitt reported that the **Personnel Committee** minutes were in the Session packet and asked if there were any questions. There were no action items.

Elder Dianna Goodman reported for the **Worship Committee**. She advised the committee would be taking June and July off but would be available for anything that needs attention.

Deacon Report: A written report was submitted by the Deacons

Unfinished Business:

"Armor of Light" viewing – several Session members viewed Armor of Light of PBS. Following discussion, the consensus was not to show this as a church activity at this time.

New Business:

Marsha Davis moved to not have a July Session meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is doing studies on property that formerly had gas tanks. FPC property included a gas station many years ago. DEQ is requesting permission to take some samples on the property to test for contamination. Motion was made, seconded and carried to allow this testing.

Presbytery Meeting: John Gneckow moved that Rose serve as Commissioner for the meeting on June 11 and 12 in Great Falls. Motion was seconded and passed.

Next Session Meeting: June 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

If anyone would like additional information about the Session meeting, copies of the minutes are available.

Presbyterian Women's FALL RETREAT

**Glacier Presbytery Camp
August 19-21, 2016**

Reverend Joan Gray

Former General Assembly Moderator/Pastor in Alabama & Georgia/
Serves as Faculty member of Columbia University.

She will be speaking on the Holy Spirit's role in our lives, churches and
community.

Save The Date! You're Invited!

When: Sunday, July 17, 2016 following church, upstairs in Richardson Hall

11:15 AM-1:30 PM Light Lunch Provided

What: Getting Committees Organized for the Arts & Crafts for Heaven's Sake! vendor sale
(A vendor makes goods and sells the goods directly to customers.)

September 24, 2016 at the church 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Why: All proceeds will go to the church general fund. We will gain and grow friends and neighbors
within our community.

Proposed Committees

1. Advertise to be determined by committee
2. Cashier to collect \$2 entry fee
3. Coffee bar to be determined by committee
4. Food Preparation to be determined by committee
5. Instrumental Music on Stage in Richardson Hall to be determined by committee
6. Kids' Activities can be indoor and outdoor
7. Parking Lot Attendant
8. Preparation Setup on Friday for vendors
9. Runners will help customers and vendors as needed
10. Take down to prepare for church

All ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Questions? Call: Corky (406) 223-7359 / Judy (406) 443-4597 / Carol (406) 442-9309

We're very open to ideas for fun and fellowship from all members of our congregation. If you have an idea, please let us know by emailing: barb640@hotmail.com

Your
Congregational
Fellowship
Committee

This Old Church

Building and Grounds needs your help. Our annual spring cleanup/fix up day is fast approaching. June 10th and 11th we will be cleaning, fixing sprucing up our great building. We have projects/chores for all age levels and skill levels. We will be here 9 am till done each day, around 4 pm. So come and spend an hour or spend the day, whatever you can. We could really use your help. We will provide a lunch for those that come and help. For more info you can talk to these building and grounds folks, Marvin Carpenter, Mark Goodman, Susan Steffens, and Pastor Scott.



Thank You and God Bless

AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATORS

5 Cramer
12 Strasko / Albright
19 Cramer / Strasko
26 Moses

USHERS

5 Jim & Jan Benjamin
Mary Wright
12 John & Carol Gneckow
19 Elroy & Lucille Letcher
26 Carole Massman
Kathy Chambers

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Joy Edgar
and
Carol Gneckow

LAY LITURGISTS

5 Bill Cook
12 Mary Craige
19 Marsha Davis
26 Elaine Gingery

DEACONS ON CALL

Need a ride, a meal or a home repair? Call a Deacon on Call:

Carol Gneckow 442-9309
and
Jim & Charlotte Meyer 449-3030

COMMUNION SERVERS

Marsha Davis
Charlotte Meyer
Jim Meyer
John Warren

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4th - Nelson Seeley
 6th - Robert Andersen, Doug Graham
 8th - Conner Boysen, Steven Foster,
 Rose Leavitt
 10th - Joseph Steffens
 11th - Amanda Wadsworth
 13th - Barrie Heinecke, Katie Spiroff
 14th - Barb Leland
 15th - Maggie Steffens
 16th - Carol Meyeres
 18th - Marvin Carpenter

19th - Janet Fadness
 20th - Susan McAnally
 21st - Eve Seeley
 22nd - Manny Garcia, Sally Luke
 23rd - Benjamin Christensen
 24th - Mike Boyer, Yvonne Moody
 26th - Allen Chambers
 27th - Melissa Stiles
 29th - Amanda Priquette, Pierce Priquette
 30th - Jeannie Pullin

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5th- Greg & Cathy Kovich,
 Terry Healow & Debbie Whitcomb
 10th- Larry & Susan McAnally
 12th- Allen & Kathy Chambers
 14th- John & Candace Coefield
 18th- Steve & Linda Granzow

19th- Ann & Mike Swisher, Doug & Linda Graham
 20th- Don & Nadine Copley,
 Robert & Susan Andersen
 24th- Libby & Craig Henrikson
 27th - Bill & Marti Cook
 30th- David & Jeannie Traynor

ABIGAIL CIRCLE will meet at 9:30,
 June 7, in the Huxley Lounge here at FPC.

ESTHER CIRCLE will meet at 9:30,
 June 7, in the Ruth Room here at FPC.

REBEKAH CIRCLE will meet at 9:30,
 June 2, in Library East here at FPC.



**Sunday
 Coffee
 Time
 Treats!**

**We have been
 blessed to have
 treats for the
 fellowship time
 following worship.
 THANKS to all who
 have contributed.
 Your time and
 Talent are much
 appreciated.**

Annual All-Church Picnic

Be sure to mark your calendar for our All-Church picnic -- Sunday, August 14, immediately following worship, at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds in the shelter near the playground. Rumor has it there'll be fun and games. Your Congregational Fellowship Committee will be providing the meat, which will include Bruce Luke's delicious barbecued pulled pork. Picnic-goers are asked to bring a potluck item to share, plus a drink of your choice. CFC will provide plates, napkins, tableware, drink cups and rolls. Don't worry about having to change into "picnic clothes" after church -- just come to the service wearing your shorts and tennis shoes, if you'd like!



*Are ya ready for
 some good 'Q'?
 See ya'll there,
 man!*

THANKS TO ALL MUSICIANS

At this turning point in the liturgical music season, I first want to thank the chancel choir, praise team, and our accompanists Ann Swisher and Mary Craige. Thanks also to the many instrumentalists such as Candace Coefield, Angela Heffern, Madisyn Gard, Marsha Davis and others who have contributed so much richness and excellence to our worship music.

Please remember to contact me if you have an idea for SPECIAL MUSIC for the Sundays of summer, June through Labor Day. Chancel Choir will commence rehearsals on Wed., Sept. 7. Blessings!

Seeley Family Memorial Scholarship

Eva and Nelson Seeley, members of the Helena First Presbyterian Church, created an endowment at the Montana Community Foundation in 2015 called the Seeley Family Memorial Scholarship. This endowment will provide annual scholarship awards in perpetuity to benefit members of the church who are attending or planning to attend post-secondary school.

Scholarship Criteria:

1. Student must be a member of the Helena First Presbyterian Church
2. Graduate from a Helena high school
3. Minimum grade point average of 2.0
4. Demonstrated financial need
5. Demonstrated good character

Members of the church may apply online for the scholarship through the Montana Community Foundation website at www.mtcf.org. For further information or assistance with the application process, please call Cathy Cooney, Program Director, at the Montana Community Foundation (ccooney@mtcf.org or 441-4954).

The application deadline this year is June 15, 2016. The recipient of the scholarship will be chosen, among eligible applicants, by a scholarship committee established at the Helena First Presbyterian Church.



Summer's coming; get your tennis shoes ready. Stay tuned for more information about hiking around Helena with the Lost Soles group!

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns during my recent illness. I spent several months at Big Sky Care Center receiving therapy and excellent care which has allowed me to return home and get back to my usual activities. Once again, thank you to my wonderful church family. ~ *Jeannie Pullin*

Fathers' Day is June 19th. All men at Church that day will receive a special gift!!

Come to the Waters

*San Francisco Theological Seminary Seminars
Exploring Your Faith ~ Expanding your Understanding*

Formations of Christianity in the Real World

Dates: June 26 - 28

Location: Glacier Presbyterian Center (the camp!)

Professor: The Rev. Dr. Christopher Ocker

Who should attend?

- **EVERYONE** who wants to learn more about history of Christianity
- Pastors & CREs
- Those who may consider a CRE ministry
- Ruling Elders, Session members, Deacons

Fees:

Commuters (includes one meal/day)\$ 25/person/day
 Single Room\$136/person
 Double Room\$ 93/person
(Single and Double Room occupancy includes your room, dinner on Sunday, three meals on Monday, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday.)

<p><i>June 26</i></p> <p>4:00 Arrive</p> <p>5:00 Dinner</p> <p>6:00 Lecture 1</p>	<p><i>June 27:</i></p> <p>8:00 Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 Lecture 2</p> <p>12:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 Lecture 3</p> <p>4:00 Lecture 4</p> <p>6:00 Dinner</p>	<p><i>June 28:</i></p> <p>8:00 Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 Lecture 5</p> <p>12:00 Sack lunch</p>
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Professor:



Christopher Ocker is professor of church history at the San Francisco Theological Seminary and a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the Graduate Theological Union. He has published three books and dozens of articles on the history of Jewish-Christian relations, the history of the interpretation of the bible, and the Reformation. He has a PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary.

This course surveys five formative moments in the history of Christianity: the early church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the nineteenth century, and the late twentieth century. The course also examines how the events and conflicts of these five periods have helped shape Christianity today.

Christianity is a form of worship which involves a particular way that people respond to God and enjoy God's gifts and benefits. And Christianity also has a historical entanglement with an entire world of cultures and faiths.

This course will help us understand why there are so many kinds of churches in the world, where Protestantism comes from and its unique characteristics, how Christianity became the largest religion in the world and how Christianity and atheism are historically related.

To Register:
 Contact Marsha – 406-871-2135
marsha.glacierpresbytery@gmail.com


*Glacier Presbyterian Center is located on the Flathead Lake,
just south of Lakeside
on Highway 93 near mile marker 93.*

Vacation Bible School (June 20-23)

We have partnered with St. Paul's Methodist for many years. Last year, all the children in grades Pre-K through 6th grade came to FPC. This year, we have decided to help them put on an evening experience they are calling Summer Camp. The details and registration information is below. The Education Committee will be putting on one dinner and can use help assisting St. Paul's with set up, take down, etc. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marsha at 443-1287.

Summer Camp at St. Paul's United Methodist Church is right around the corner! Formally VBS has a new name and a new look, Summer Camp is June 20-23 from 5:30-8:15PM. Our theme is Tell Me the Stories of Jesus. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall for all children attending and their families. After dinner the children will enjoy music, Bible stories, art projects and outside play. Children 5 by October thru those entering 5th grade are encouraged to attend. You can register on line at www.stpaulshelena.org. Look for the Summer Camp button to register and plan on joining the fun! Parents will have an optional opportunity to attend a class from 6:30-8:00PM on Monday, June 20 and Wednesday, June 22, topics to be decided. I am looking for youth and adult volunteers to make Summer Camp a success, call Lynn Van Nice at 442-5643 to help and make new Summer Camp memories.

Parents, don't forget when making your children's summer plans to be sure and include Summer Camp!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Willing Workers 9:30 am	2 Rebekah Circle 9:30 am ----- Bridge Club 11:00 am ----- District # 61 7:30 pm ----- It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm	3 Small Group 12 Noon ----- Hand & Foot 1:00 pm	4
5 COMMUNION SUNDAY ----- Worship & Education Hour 10 am	6 Education 10 am ----- C. F. C. 11:30 am Lattes & Sundaes ----- Helena Xpress 6 pm ----- Girl Scouts 7 pm	7 Abigail Circle 9:30 am ----- Esther Circle 9:30 am ----- Bridge Club 11 am ----- Personnel 5:30 pm ----- Boy Scouts 7 pm ----- AL-ANON 7:30 pm	8 Willing Workers 9:30 am	9 Bridge Club 11:00 am ----- District # 11 7 pm ----- It's In the Book AA Group 7 pm	10	11
					CHURCH CLEAN-UP 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	
12 Worship & Education Hour 10 am ----- Presbytery meeting	13 Helena Xpress 6 pm ----- Girl Scouts 7 pm	14 Worship Cmte 10 am ----- Bridge Club 11 am ----- 12 Noon Small Group ----- Admin Cmte 5:30 pm ----- Mission 6 pm ----- Bldg & Grnds 7 pm ----- AL-ANON 7:30 pm ----- Boy Scouts 7 pm	15 Willing Workers 9:30 am	16 Bridge Club 11:00 am ----- It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm	17 Small Group 12 Noon ----- Hand & Foot 1:00 pm	18
19 FATHER'S DAY ----- Worship & Education Hour 10 am	20	21	22	23	24 Small Group 12 Noon ----- Hand & Foot 1:00 pm ----- Friday Night Speaker 7 pm	25
	Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Methodist Jun 20-23, 5:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.					
	Helena Xpress 6 pm ----- Girl Scouts 7 pm	Bridge Club 11 am ----- SESSION 6:30 pm ----- Boy Scouts 7 pm ----- AL-ANON 7:30 pm	Willing Workers 9:30 am	Bridge Club 11:00 am ----- It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm		
26 Worship & Education Hour 10 am	27 Helena Xpress 6 pm ----- Girl Scouts 7 pm	28 Bridge Club 11 am ----- ALANON 7 pm ----- Boy Scouts 7 pm	29 Willing Workers 9:30 am	30 Bridge Club 11:00 am ----- It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm		



First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.
Friday
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