



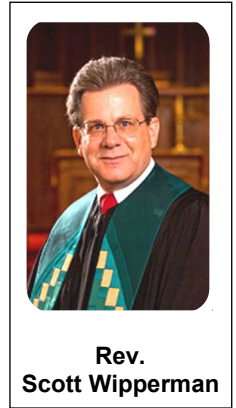
## The Mustard Seed

Vol. 2017, Issue 1    First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana    January 2017

### New Year - New Things

2017... the beginning of a new year. This year I resolve not to talk about resolutions in this article. Note: this resolution is only good for 2017.

But, it is a new year. And, in taking down last year's calendar and putting up a new one, we might feel inclined to think about other "new things." How about a new image of God? *"Thanks for the suggestion chap, but I am quite comfortable with the image I currently hold of God."*



It is true that we can certainly have a *sure* word about God. It is just as certain that we don't have the *last* word about God. Let's venture to say that it would tend to be on the side of arrogance and absolutism to believe that we have God all figured out, that we have a complete picture or image of God.

What I am asking you to do is to be an *iconoclast*. If you've seen either of the "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" movies, you will recall the patriarch of the family claiming all words are of Greek origins. "Iconoclast" actually is: "*eikon*" meaning "image" - and "*klastes*" meaning "breaker" - literally "image breaker"; however, "idol breaker" would be a better understanding.

We each have an image of God, shaped by readings (the Bible and other literature, both fiction and non-fiction), Bible studies, sermons, conversations we've been part of, the life of Christ, even possibly personal revelations to you of God's nature. Each of these fills in a bit of your understanding of God, and collectively they work together to form an image. And this image is at once a benefit - and a hinderance. For the image of a given instant, helpful as it may be, begins to compete against our having a growing understanding of God.

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I'm not asking you to throw out all that you think you understand of God. I am asking that you be open to - *NO* - that you seek an ever expanding image of God! Let us never fall into the trap of thinking we, the finite, have a handle on God, the infinite.

I had a housemate early after graduate school who had a very attractive girlfriend that drove a bright red Corvette. She did a fair amount of the maintenance on the car herself and had a saying: "A woman's mind is a lot like motor oil - if it isn't changed frequently, it gets all gummy and sludgy." To keep us from holding a "gummy and sludgy" image of God, we need to let God knock down the walls of the temple we have built for him and/or burst open the box we try to place him in.

In this new year, may we be open to growing our image of God, of being an iconoclast and not letting the image we hold of God become an idol. We just celebrated the birth of Christ, of God incarnate walking among us for the purpose of revealing God's self to us. God always desires to give more of himself to us. May we let this happen: letting a full-color image grow from our current gray-scale understanding, letting the resolution of the picture we have of God blossom from a grainy image to one that is vibrant and full of detail, and allowing depth and motion to come into what was the flat picture we had been holding onto. Seek the new(er) image of God.

Peace, *Pastor Scott*

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## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

FPC will hold the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after worship on January 29, 2017. The Annual Report will be available to pick up in the Narthex on January 22, or in the office the week of January 23-27. We attend to significant aspects of the life of our congregation in this meeting, including the election of elders and deacons for the class of 2019 and any unfilled positions, looking back at accomplishments in 2016 and forward to goals for 2017, and reviewing the 2017 budget. We look forward to seeing you there!

# SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Hello, Everyone at First Presbyterian Church! We had a VERY fun and exciting month of Sunday School in December! On November 27 we had the children come up to the front and help light the first candle of Advent: "Hope." Each child had a special part in lighting the candle! During Sunday School we learned about the many times in the Bible that Israel had been invaded or attacked. We learned that during those times, there were special people who had hope that God would fix their brokenness. On December 11 after church service, we held a Confirmation Kick-Off Class for our three confirmands, mentors, and their families. On December 18 the children performed their Christmas program called "The Grinch Who Found Jesus!" They had a great time preparing for it and were disappointed to have it over with! The Advent season has been a great time to watch our Sunday school children grow in the love of Christ!

We have a very busy month ahead of us this January! With Christmas and New Year's now in the past, we are beginning to look forward to Easter! We will be starting lessons on Jesus' life, our lessons really focusing on the miracles he performed on so many people! What a wonderful group of children we have! They are always so eager to learn about their Father in Heaven!

Have a blessed January and New Year!

Lexsey Carpenter  
Director of Christian Education



## Office Hours:

**Monday - Thursday:**

## Educationally Speaking

The kids learned about the different Advent Sundays:

Hope  
Love  
Peace  
Joy

And their importance during the holiday season!

## CONFIRMATION:

Our Confirmation courses will be starting back up in January! Please stay in contact with your child's Mentor for a time and date!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b></p> <p>Small Group 8:45 am Worship &amp; Education Hour 10 am</p>	<p><b>Office Closed</b> <b>2</b></p> <p>Education 10 am (Lattes &amp; Sundaes) Helena Xpress 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am C. F. C. 11:30 am CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Rebekah Circle 9:30 am Bridge Club 11:00 am District # 61 7 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7 pm</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon Hand &amp; Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Small Group 8:45 am Worship &amp; Education Hour 10 am Deacons' meeting 11:15 am</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Worship Cmte 10 am Bridge Club 11 am Admin Cmte 5:30 pm Mission Cmte 6 pm <b>Called Session Mtng 7pm</b> AL-ANON 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am Praise Band 4 pm District # 11 7:30 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon Hand &amp; Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Small Group 8:45 am Worship &amp; Education Hour 10 am</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Staff meeting 11 am Helena Xpress 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am Session mtng. 6:30 pm ALANON 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am Praise Band 4 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon Hand &amp; Foot 1:00 pm <b>Movie Night 6 pm</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p> <p>Small Group 8:45 am Worship &amp; Education Hour 10 am</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am ALANON 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am Praise Band 4 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon Hand &amp; Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p>Small Group 8:45 am Worship &amp; Education Hour 10 am <b>Annual Congregational Meeting 11:15 am</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am ALANON 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>				

**January 2017**



## CIRCLE MEETING SCHEDULES

<b>Abigail Circle</b>	<b>1st Tuesday</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Esther Circle</b>	<b>1st Tuesday</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Rebekah Circle</b>	<b>1st Thursday</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>

FPC has received fewer pledges this year than last, and less in the amount pledged. In addition, the Richardson Trust came in approximately \$3,000 less than last year, a fund we count on for the operation of the church. If you have yet to make a 2017 pledge, we ask that you please do so. If you have already made a pledge, Session asks if you would consider increasing your pledge for 2017. Pledge cards are available by the Pledge Mailbox, just outside the sanctuary doors. We base our ministries for 2017 off the giving we anticipate receiving. Help support the ministries of FPC.



### Family Movie Night

**Join your church friends for MOVIE NIGHT!**

Friday, January 20th, beginning at 6 p.m. in Richardson Hall  
Pizza and pop will be served. Movie: Secret Life of Pets.

# Birthdays

2nd-	Carol Carpenter	19th-	Evan Cook
3rd-	Cathy Kovich		Kelsey Wadsworth
4th-	Elizabeth Samson		Emma Krugman
5th-	Ann Swisher	20th-	Terry Wadsworth
6th-	Kristin Clausen	21st-	Bob Enhelder
7th-	Valerie Raisch	23rd-	Debbie Whitcomb
	Colleen Cleary-Boyer	25th-	Rex Seeley
8th-	John Gneckow		Sandi Clay
	Ray Andrews	27th-	Patrick McCain
10th-	Andrew Carpenter	28th-	Jeremy Fadness
11th-	Carol Gneckow	29th-	Judy Patton
	Harper Thomas		Janice Schutt
12th-	Barbara Peterman	30th-	Savannah Comstock
14th-	Glenn Phillips		Robin LeNeve
17th-	Susan Tarner		

# Anniversaries

9th-	Stephen & Janet Colberg	19th-	John & Sandra Johnson
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## AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATORS

1	LaFournaise / Albright
8	Strasko / Albright
15	Albright / Wright
22	Cramer / Albright
29	Moses

## USHERS

1	Jim & Jan Benjamin
	John & Carol Gneckow
8	Kathy Chambers
	Richard & Sheryl Eriksen
15	Elroy & Lucille Letcher
	Toston LaFournaise
	Judy Bayless
22	Carole Massman
	Kathy Chambers
	Mark Goodman
29	Richard & Sheryl Eriksen
	Toston LaFournaise

## COMMUNION SERVERS

Marshall & Elaine Gingery  
Jim & Charlotte Meyer

## COMMUNION PREPARATION

Jim & Charlotte Meyer

## LAY LITURGISTS

1	Elaine Gingery
8	Joy Edgar
15	Kathy Chambers
22	Rose Leavitt
29	Praise Team

## DEACONS ON CALL

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

Jim & Charlotte Meyer (449-3030)  
Ward & Mary Stiles (443-4953)

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**535 North Ewing Street**  
**Helena, MT 59601**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.**  
**Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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