

# Spreading the Good News of Christ Through Our Love, Words, and Actions

## “Putting It All On the Line”



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**535 North Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601**

**November 15, 2020**

## WELCOME

## OPENING PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

(Psalm 95:1-2, 5-6)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God you are merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet we test the limits of your grace, constantly turning away from you and toward that which is evil in your sight. We do not understand our own actions, why we know what is right but do what is wrong despite your clear commandments. In a world awash in hate and fear, we are to be those who love others and trust you. Forgive us when instead we resemble the worst rhetoric of our culture rather than the compassion of our Lord. We place ourselves before you, asking again for your transformative grace, honest in our confession because we know you will not abandon us. In Christ's name we pray.

(time for silent confession)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"God Of The Sparrow"

Carl Schalk, Jaroslav Vajdaa  
Elizabeth Adler, piano

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Art Bumgardner, Liturgist

## READINGS:

### **Judges 4:1-7**

Judg. 4:1 After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD. 2 So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 Because he had nine hundred iron chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Judg. 4:4 Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided. 6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. 7 I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

### **Psalm 123**

Psa. 123:1 I lift up my eyes to you,  
to you whose throne is in heaven.

2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he shows us his mercy.

Psa. 123:3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us,  
for we have endured much contempt.

4 We have endured much ridicule from the proud,  
much contempt from the arrogant.

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

Matt. 25:14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

Matt. 25:19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

Matt. 25:21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Matt. 25:22 “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’

Matt. 25:23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Matt. 25:24 “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

Matt. 25:26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

Matt. 25:28 “‘Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

SERMON

**“Putting It All On the Line”**

Rev. Scott Wiperman

INVITATION TO OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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# Welcome, Guests!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us. We pray for all of us a spiritually satisfying and challenging encounter with the Living Christ. If you would like to know more about the people and programs of this church, be in touch with our pastor, Rev. Wipperman, 442-4775, visit our website: [www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org), or take a copy of our monthly church newsletter, The Mustard Seed. If possible, join us again for our next worship service!

## STAFF

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Scott Wipperman
CP of Pastoral Care	Arlyn "Butch" Plowman
Sunday Camp Director	Ashley Burke
Director of Music and Media	Les Cramer
Administrative Assistant	Bruce A. Luke
Accounting Services	Atwood Accounting
Keyboardist	Liz Adler
Nursery Care Attendant	Aleigha Drynan

## **ELDERS**

## **DEACONS**

John Coefield - 2021	Julie Chaffee - 2021
Joe Steffens - 2021	Candace Coefield - 2021
John Warren - 2021	Corky Lord - 2021
Mary Wright - 2021	Jim & Charlotte Meyer - 2021
Linda Bench - 2022	Rena Bumgardner - 2022
Kathy Chambers - 2022	Louise Cramer - 2022
Karen Witte - 2022	Elaine Gingery - 2022
Sheryl Eriksen - 2022	Arlyn "Butch" Plowman - 2022
Mary Craigle - 2023	Patti Borsberry - 2023
Carol Gneckow - 2023	Art Bumgardner - 2023
Rose Leavitt - 2023	BJ Burns - 2023
Carol Stebbins - 2023	Pearle Plowman - 2023
Elaine Gingery, Clerk	

## DEACONS-ON-CALL

**Deacon-on-Call:**

Jim and Charlotte Meyer 449-3030

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### **FPC Financials**

Average weekly giving needed to meet 2020 budget: \$5,524.

For October we received \$23,132 in revenue against \$19,724 in expenses - for a positive net of \$3,408. This helped reduce our YTD deficit to -\$16,470. Your end of year giving is greatly appreciated to help make our "Faith Budget" and to erase any deficit. November is always a "challenging" month financially as it has the semi-annual Property Tax (fees) payment and one of the quarterly insurance payments; let us continue work in diminishing our budget deficit. Your continued support of the ministries of FPC is greatly appreciated.

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### **PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING**

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Sally Luke  
Joyce Berry  
Betty Brown  
Elroy Letcher  
Joyce Andrews  
Steve Granzow  
Linda Granzow  
Yvonne Moody  
Newell Anderson  
Jennifer Massman  
Toston LaFournaise

Heather Voeller Waters  
Rick Armstrong, Mary Stiles son  
Court Bourne, Pastor Scott's son  
Vella Raucy, Susan Steffens' mother  
Susan Byasson, Sister of Rose Leavitt  
Terry Heinecke, Barrie's sister-in-law  
Jamie Heinecke, Barrie's daughter-in-law  
Cathy Leavitt, Rose Leavitt's daughter-in-law  
Kristi Armstrong, Mary Stiles daughter-in-law  
Kimberly Krugman, Newell and Bonnie  
Anderson's daughter

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### **PLEASE KEEP THE MILITARY IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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Steven Pullin currently deployed to Kuwait - Jeannie Pullin's son and Patty Borsberry's brother

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### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS** - please let us know how we can help.

If you have PRAYER NEEDS, please:

- Send an email to our prayer chain coordinator, Pearle Plowman- pearlynp@msn.com, phone number 449-8705 -- cell 459-6332, or
- call the church -- Anyone who answers the phone can either pray with you, direct you to the Deacon on call, and/or pass on the prayer request to the prayer chain coordinator.

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITY:

O God, grant us the courage to choose hope with our hearts and with the work of our hands. Help us to take courage during this time of uncertainty. May we hold fast to your truth and walk in the spirit you've given us of love, power, and a sound mind. Amen.

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## MEMORY VERSE:

“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.”  
- **1 John 4:11**

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

To choose hope is to step firmly into the howling wind, baring one's chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass.  
- **Desmond Tutu: *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World***

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### Porch Visit

The persistence of the Covid Pandemic has kept us apart from one another for 8 months now. If you'd like a masked porch visit from Pastor Scott, simply call the church and we can arrange it. Pastor Scott will be glad to visit and pray with you on your porch in a manner that is safe. Don't have a porch?? Still call and we can arrange to meet in a neighborhood park, schedule a phone call, or plan a Zoom meeting.

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### Upcoming “Days”

Get ready, those “days” are coming. Good things like Thanksgiving Day. Terrifying things (to many) like Black Friday. Puzzling things like Cyber Monday (particularly to those less *tech* oriented). But it all wraps up with another selfless day, Giving Tuesday, on December 1. Remember FPC in your Giving Tuesday plans; you can give easily and securely on our web page ([fpchelena.org](http://fpchelena.org)).

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### If You Need to Come Into the Church...

We are in Phase 2 of the “Reopening of the Big Sky” state plan. If you do need to come into the church we ask that you wear a mask for everyone's protection. If you do not have a mask there is a limited supply on the mantel of the fireplace just inside the door.



First Presbyterian Church Helena (FPCH) congregants took advantage of a beautiful fall day on Sunday 11/01/2020 to participate in a “drive-thru” donation of items for the Good Samaritan Ministries’ Placer Pantry. A great variety of personal care, cleaning, laundry items and cash donations were collected and taken to The Pantry. Committee members on hand were Pastor Scott Wipperman, Chair Kathy Chambers, Rose Leavitt and Karen Witte. Thank you to all who stopped by with items or who gave cash contributions; your gifts make a difference in so many lives.

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## Creating Your Own Christmas Advent Wreath

Materials (maybe \$10 to \$15)

Green floral wire; garland, decorative items such as pinecones, ornaments and other wreath items, ribbon; advent wreath metal frame or Styrofoam; advent candles (3 purple, 1 pink).

Decorate as you like. The green floral wire will help secure your decorations. Set candles into the frame or Styrofoam (found on-line or at your local craft store). Add your candles.



Remember to light your candles each Sunday during the Advent service. Please be cautious when using flammable decorations around your candles.

Not feeling creative? You can order a complete Advent wreath online. There are finished wreaths available at local Christian bookstores.

Build a new tradition during worship from your own home!

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### **Christmas Giving Project**

The Mission Committee has chosen Helena Food Share (HFS) as its Christmas Giving Project this year. Due to the pandemic, the organization is not accepting food items, but cash donations are appreciated and actually gives HFS more buying power. The project will begin in November and conclude on December 25. Please watch the Bulletin and Mustard Seed for details on how you can participate and help feed local families.



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

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM  
Church Office: (406) 442-4775**

**E-mail: [admin@fpchelena.org](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org)  
Website: [www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)**