

The Mustard Seed

May 2016

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HELENA, MONTANA

Issue 5, Volume 2016

The Sky Is Pretty, But...

What do you do when you don't know what to do? Maybe the very plethora of potential courses of action effectively paralyzes you – and you do nothing. Possibly you fall back to the familiar and comfortable, and engage in something you know how to do – regardless of whether it bears any pertinence to the current circumstances. Or, you follow the 20th & 21st centuries' solution to all such conundrums: "When in doubt, watch TV." Sometimes this only confounds both the problem and the exasperation you are feeling; of the 150 cable channels, which *one* should I watch?

If it makes you feel any better (and, it probably shouldn't), you are not alone in this problem. Many famous and infamous people have found themselves in the same predicament. Among others, the disciples.

After Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, the disciples are hanging around one evening not knowing what to do. Finally John says, "I'm going fishing; how about you guys?" They all think this sounds great and join in. Fishing may have been familiar and comfortable to them, but having once known how to do something doesn't mean you still do. With their fishing skills a little rusty after three years of discipleship, they don't catch anything all night. Turns out not to have been a lot more productive than "doing nothing."

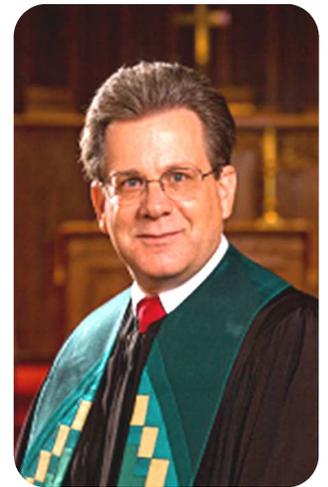
Later, in the first chapter of Acts, Luke tells us that, "After Jesus' suffering, he

presented himself to them [the disciples] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." Then Jesus ascends into heaven. And the disciples are all standing in shock and awe, looking up.

Had Mary Poppins been hanging around, she would have likely told them, "Close those dropped jaws – we are not cod fish!" Of course she doesn't show up for centuries, waiting on the invention of a suitable umbrella I believe. But, two men in white do appear, "You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left." Unfortunately, Luke doesn't give any detail into what he and the rest of the disciples *did do* immediately in response to this admonition.

Christ had been preparing these followers for what to do all along. They had traveled with Jesus for three years and learned through his words and actions. After his resurrection he met further with them over 40 days teaching about the Kingdom of God. Maybe we can cut the disciples a little slack, for Christ's last instruction to them was one of inaction, "*Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait* for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."

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Our Pastor
Rev. Scott Wiperman

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

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fpchelena.org

The Library Kiosk

We have a new 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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But a couple of verses later Christ did tell them what he has been preparing them to do, "... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." And here they are, standing around out in some field with their mouths open looking up, and two guys in white with hands on hips and tapping their right toes saying, "Ahem!"

We will celebrate Pentecost again shortly after the Ascension of the Lord (May 5). The Holy Spirit will come upon us, as it has, empowering us – to do what? What has Christ been preparing us to do? Probably not to stand in a field looking up at the sky. "Spread the Good News" is a shorthand for the direction given the disciples. But of the many ways we can engage in this *Good News Business*, what will it be? Reaching out to youths? Providing for those who have suffered tragedy? Fostering justice: social, environmental, judicial, economic, political, or other forms of justice? Sharing the reality of Christ's mercy, grace, and love? Or, ...?

Picking what to do can be a little daunting, but as Jesus repeatedly said, "Do not be afraid." Take stock of how you have been prepared, and where that preparation is pointing you. You are not too old, or too young. Neither are you too busy. Multiple Bible characters attempted the argument, "God, you know I'm not a good speaker..." Recall that this reasoning never worked in the past, probably won't now! "I don't yet know enough", or "I'm not fully prepared" are not worthy arguments either. Christ never said you have to have perfected all, just "you will be my witnesses." Our *power* in witnessing just might be our unpreparedness or one of our weaknesses!

Let's heed the two in white robes and get about what Christ has prepared us to do.

Peace, Love, and Do Not Be Afraid,

Pastor Scott

Mother/Daughter Banquet May 10, 2016

Ladies, you are cordially invited to attend the annual Presbyterian Women's Mother/Daughter Banquet which will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. The price is \$5.00. Bring your daughter, mother, sister, aunt or good friend and join us for an evening of fellowship, conversation and entertainment! Please call Merle Korizek at 443-3793 for reservations no later than Thursday, May 6th and leave a message if she's not at home.



2016 PW Annual Spring Rummage Sale



The PW spring rummage sale will be held on **Friday, May 20**, from **3 p.m. until 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 21**, **8 a.m. until 1 p.m.** Because of the lack of storage space at the church, we ask that you bring the items you have saved to the church beginning **Monday, May 16th.**

We will be sorting, organizing and pricing that week and will welcome all who can help. Thanks in advance!

Session In Action.....

The Session meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19, at 6:30 pm. Rev. Scott Wiperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary.

Pastor Scott announced that new Deacon/Elder training will be Saturday, April 23 at 10 am.

Pastor Scott reported that March was not a strong month financially and YTD our expenses are exceeding income by \$323.46. He also reported that he has conducted six memorial services in 2016 along with related visits. There have also been a number of members hospitalized. Additionally, he took a week of study leave to work on his Doctorate of Min dissertation.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to give voice to Linda Bench who will become an Elder in June.

Elder John Warren reported for the Administration Committee. A printed report is attached. The training for staff members to use the AED's is scheduled for May 12 at 6 pm. Applications for Anderson Trust monies were approved. These requests included new banners; training for Worship; materials for two adult Bible studies for Education.

Elder Marvin Carpenter reported for Building and Grounds. A written report was distributed outlining committee activity. New building use fees to take place in January 2017 were presented and a discussion of building security took place.

Elder Rose Leavitt, CF Chair, reminded everyone that the next Game Night is scheduled for May 13, and the annual picnic scheduled for August 14.

Elder Marsha Davis reported a small number of children participated in the Easter egg hunt on March 27. Discussion of VBS resulted in FPC asking to partner with St. Paul's this summer. It will be an evening event including a meal.

Bill and Marti Cook are leading a Bible Study, "What's So Amazing about Grace?" which began on April 10. "The Jesus I Never Knew" led by Butch Plowman will begin in the fall.

The learning time for children will continue in the

summer. The Pumpkin Patch delivery will be October 1.

Elder Melissa Stiles, Mission Chair, reported the committee is still working on a plan for the bricks. The baskets for the Glacier Camp fundraiser are an Italian Dinner and one for Cake Baking.

Elder Dianna Goodman reported Pastor Scott will be gone on May 8 and she will be filling the pulpit. The last Choir Sunday for the spring will be May 15. Les will be attending a one-day conference in Billings. Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the action item from the committee to add Joy Edgar to be a member.

Deacon Report: A written report was submitted by the Deacons

Unfinished Business:

New Beginnings: Mission Statement: Marshall moved to accept the Mission Statement as a preliminary/working document with additions and changes to be made over the next several months. Motion was seconded and passed.

New Business:

The potential of an open viewing the movie "Armor of Light" was discussed. The movie is a documentary dealing with a conservative evangelical pastor's struggle in how to address gun violence. Scott will apply to show it with the producers, but a decision to show it or not will be made after the movie has been reviewed by Session.

Potential Gift: Pastor Scott advised Session of the potential of a gift of an appreciated asset that may be given the church. Marshall moved for the Admin Committee and Pastor Scott to investigate the situation further before a decision is made on the mechanism of accepting. Motion was seconded and passed.

Next Session Meeting will be May 17th at 6:30 pm.

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

New Defibrillators



The white boxes attached to the wall by the coat rack and greeting desk as you come into the narthex and on the wall on the second floor opposite the lounge area each contain a defibrillator and a kit for CPR. Dr. Meyer and John Gneckow took a look at the ages of the congregation and people who utilize the church on a regular basis for a variety of reasons and concluded that this would be a worthwhile purchase. The defibrillators were purchased by the FPC Presbyterian Women.

These are to be used only in case of an emergency and after calling 911. The defibrillator will prompt the user on how to use it. The church staff and others who are in the church regularly during the day/week will have a training class in CPR and defibrillator use in the evening on May 12. While the number of openings in the class are limited, there may be some openings for others who are interested. Contact Pastor Scott if you would like to attend.

Can You Help?

Young man, 22, who is a student at MSU with a summer job for the State of Montana is looking to rent a room or a place to live from middle of May to middle of August. He is the roommate of Andrew Helming who attended the FPC of Helena from 1995 to 2000 before moving to Butte. Ben Gill (815) 298-2965

Cecelia Helming

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

MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 8th



As in years past, your Congregational Fellowship Committee will be handing out flowers to all the women at church on Mother's Day!



ON THE HUMOROUS SIDE

Is this you?

An usher went up to a man with his hat on in an old-fashioned church and asked him to remove it.

"Thank goodness," said the man.

"I thought that would do the trick. I've attended this church for months, and you are the first person who has spoken to me."

FALL RETREAT

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 and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, churches and community.



HOLD THE DATE(s)!
 This year's **All-Church Spring Clean-up** will be **Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11**. Look for more details in the *June Mustard Seed*.
Bruce will provide a BBQ lunch!! (come and see what goes with it).

Marvin Carpenter
 Chair, Buildings & Grounds Committee



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

AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATORS

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

USHERS

- 1 Jim & Jan Benjamin
Mary Wright
- 8 John & Carol Gneckow
- 15 Elroy & Lucille Letcher
- 22 Carole Massman
Kathy Chambers
- 29 Richard & Sheryl Eriksen
Carol Stebbins

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Barrie Heinecke
 Jim & Charlotte Meyer

LAY LITURGISTS

- 1 Carol Carpenter
- 8 Marti Cook
- 15 Mark Goodman
- 22 Rose Leavitt
- 29 Les Cramer

DEACONS ON CALL

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

Carol Gneckow 442-9309

COMMUNION SERVERS

Kathy Chambers
 Butch & Pearl Plowman
 Rose Leavitt

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 - Chris Goodman

May 5 - Tim Borsberry

May 6 - Merilee Wipperman

May 7 - Issac Samson, Justin Roberts

May 10 - Marcus Mattioli, Dorothy Stewart

May 12 - Judy Reel

May 13 - Alex Krugman

May 14 - Julie Chaffee

May 18 - Pearle Plowman

May 19 - Kennedy Walsh

May 20 - Ken Salo, Joey Steffens

May 23 - Linda Graham

May 24 - Clayton Voeller

May 27 - Kathy Chambers

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 12th - Rex & Kathy Seeley

May 22nd - Josh & Shannon Koutecky

May 24th - Kevin & Wendy Cook

May 31st - Glenn & Sandy Phillips

ABIGAIL CIRCLE will meet at 9:30, May 3, in the Huxley Lounge here at FPC.

ESTHER CIRCLE will meet at 9:30, May 3, in the Ruth Room here at FPC.

REBEKAH CIRCLE will meet May 5, at 9:30, in Library East.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**



**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!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>Worship & Education Hour 10 am</p> <p>Small Group Study At the Meyers' - 7 pm (see <u>Adult Study</u> above)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Education 10 am</p> <p>C. F. C. 11:30 am Lattes & Sundaes</p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm</p> <p>Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Abigail Circle 9:30 am</p> <p>Esther Circle 9:30 am</p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am</p> <p>12 Noon Small Group</p> <p>Personnel 5:30 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm</p> <p>AL-ANON 7:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am</p> <p>CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Rebekah Circle 9:30 am</p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am</p> <p>District # 61 7:30 pm</p> <p>It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon</p> <p>Hand & Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship & Education Hour 10 am</p> <p>Small Group Study At the Meyers' - 7 pm (see <u>Adult Study</u> above)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm</p> <p>Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Worship Cmte 10 am</p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am</p> <p>12 Noon Small Group</p> <p>Admin Cmte 5:30 pm</p> <p>Mission 6 pm</p> <p>Bldg & Grnds 7 pm</p> <p>AL-ANON 7:30 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am</p> <p>CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am</p> <p>District # 11 7 pm</p> <p>It's In the Book AA Group 7 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon</p> <p>Hand & Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p>
 <p>15</p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY</p> <p>Worship & Education Hour 10 am</p> <p>Small Group Study At the Meyers' - 7 pm (see <u>Adult Study</u> above)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Staff Meeting 4 pm</p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm</p> <p>Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am</p> <p>12 Noon Small Group</p> <p>SESSION 6:30 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm</p> <p>AL-ANON 7:30 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am</p> <p>CHOIR 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am</p> <p>It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PW RUMMAGE SALE 8am - 7 pm</p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon</p> <p>Hand & Foot 1:00 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8 am - 1 pm</p> <p>District #61 Workshop 8am - 5 pm Rich. Hall</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship & Education Hour 10 am</p> <p>Small Group Study At the Meyers' - 7 pm (see <u>Adult Study</u> above)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm</p> <p>Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am</p> <p>12 Noon Small Group</p> <p>ALANON 7 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Willing Workers 9:30 am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bridge Club 11:00 am</p> <p>It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Small Group 12 Noon</p> <p>Hand & Foot 1:00 pm</p> <p>AA Group Friday Night Speaker 7 pm</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship & Education Hour 10 am</p> <p>Small Group Study At the Meyers' - 7 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Helena Xpress 6 pm</p> <p>Girl Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Bridge Club 11 am</p> <p>12 Noon Small Group</p> <p>ALANON 7 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>MAY 2016</p>			



First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
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www.fpchelena.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.
Friday
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406-442-4775

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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!