

FEBRUARY 9th, 2025

Worship with FPC | February 9th, 2025 | Luke 6.1-11

Someone once wrote a little book called *How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious*. Not sure I remember reading it, but great title.

The idea is that *religion* (including forms of Christian religion) often burdens us with joyless, even angry, rule-following. A *relationship with Jesus*, by contrast, sets us free for life and love.

One of my Bible teachers used to translate 'Pharisees' as 'the seriously religious,' not to make fun of them, but to take their dedication seriously.

Why are the Pharisees so infuriated by Jesus in the two short stories from Luke 6.1-11? And why do Jesus and his disciples feel free to gather grain to eat and heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath?

If the point is *not* that every religious tradition should be broken, what is it?

Prayer: *Lord, set us free. Give us life. Teach us love.*

We will be together in the Sanctuary for worship this Sunday at 9:30am. You can also click this link **to live-stream** our worship service (or view it afterward): <https://www.youtube.com/live/OefotKCnfbI?feature=share>

To listen by phone to the live 9:30am worship service on Sunday via Zoom, call 253-215-8782. You will be asked to enter three codes:

Meeting ID: 84025131691 (then #)

Participant ID: (just press #)

Password: 658627 (then #)

You will also be able to join worship by clicking the link on FPC's web page at www.fpcmissoula.org, or find it on Facebook at 'First Presbyterian Church Missoula.'

2024 FPC Annual Report

A pdf copy of the 2024 annual report is available for download on FPC's webpage at www.fpcmissoula.org

FPC Receives Anonymous Gift of \$75,000!

How joyful we are as a church family to celebrate the receipt of an anonymous gift of \$75,000 announced at our congregation's annual meeting last Sunday! Nearly half the gift will go to the Christian Legacy Fund, which provides long-term yearly support for FPC ministries. \$2000 will go to support Helping Hands, which provides direct support to houseless families (and more). The rest has been left open to where it might help the most. We give thanks to God for this generous offering made to the Lord and to his mission to surprise our city with Christ's astonishing love. So many thanks to the giver!

No Youth Group February 9th

Super Bowl Sunday is February 9th! Due to the game, we will not be hosting youth group that evening, and hope that students and leaders have a fabulous time enjoying the game with their families and friends. Youth group will return as usual on Sunday, February 16th.

Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, February 11th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall

Spread God's Love Everywhere You Go- unknown. Please attend the Senior Luncheon on February 11th, located in the Fellowship Hall gathering at 11:15am. Please RSVP to Barbara Miller by Sunday Feb. 9th at 406-239-7999.

Sending Sunday: February 23, Following Worship, Fellowship Hall

As families from Family Promise or the Housing Advocate Network "graduate" into homes of their own, each receive appropriately sized housewarming gifts of necessary supplies needed to reestablish home life. In 2024, 44 deliveries were made. **It's time to RESTOCK THE SHELVES!** Donations of cleaning supplies, basic kitchen items, toiletry and bathroom supplies, and food staples are needed. In addition, donations of Welcome Basket Extra Items (new or gently used) items that are given to families are needed. A list of items is attached to the weekly email and included as an insert in this week's bulletin and will be posted at collection sites in the office, Narthex, and Fellowship Hall. **We will be collecting items until Sending Sunday, February 23.** On Sending Sunday, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 to sort and organize into baskets for cleaning supplies, kitchen, bathroom and food staples, and extra items.

Bunko is Back! March 9th, 5-7pm, Fellowship Hall

Come join us for a rousing game of Bunko! This has traditionally been an amazing night full of fun and laughter and a great game. We will have snacks to enjoy as we play several rounds. Come join us!

Rummage Sale is Coming!

Save the Dates! Rummage sale week is the week of March 30th, 2025.

Set up: March 31

Donation drop off days and volunteer sorting: April 2-3 (hours to follow)

Sale: April 4-5.

If you would like to help, it is never too early to sign up with Jo! jo@fpcmissoula.org. Come one and all!

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

February

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, February 11th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall
- Sending Sunday: February 23, Following Worship, Fellowship Hall

March

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Bunko Night: Sunday, March 9th, 5-7pm, Fellowship Hall

Announcement Guidelines and Office/Staff Hours

Announcements for FPC's Friday News Emails and for Sunday Worship must be sent to secretary@fpcmissoula.org by Wednesday.

- FPC Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm, 406-549-5144
- FPC Staff Meeting: Tuesdays, 9:30am-11:15am
- Pastor and Ministry Directors (Dan Cravy, Emma Thackston, and Austin Graef) work Monday - Thursday; unavailable Fridays
- Operation Manager (Becky Kress) works Monday - Thursday; unavailable Fridays
- Secretary (Haleigh Adair) works Tuesday - Friday; unavailable Mondays
- Program Support Administrator (Jo Ruby) typically works Tuesdays & Thursdays

Helping Hands

For questions related to emergency assistance, please contact our Helping Hands Team: Jan Everett (jeverett53@gmail.com), Jane Hogan (2jhogan@gmail.com) or Krista Hellem (kristahellem@yahoo.com).

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Support: Victor Schlimgen, Eva Tsosie and son Chaske, Tom Tucker, Kelley Nicholson, Haleigh Adair, Nick Bailey, Peggy Schalk, Mike & Mary Fussell

Prayers for Health and Healing: Annabelle Olds, Jill Gilliam, Sarah Shepard, Betty Winchell

Condolences: The family and friends of Ruth Card, The family and friends of Henry (Red) Barringer, The family and friends of Joe McKay (father of Mike McKay)