

# FIRST WORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 235 S 5<sup>th</sup> ST W | MISSOULA, MT 59801 | 406.549.5144 | [WWW.FPCMISSOULA.ORG](http://WWW.FPCMISSOULA.ORG)

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

## Worship this Sunday

November 22<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am | In-person and Live-streaming

2020 leaves many of us feeling exhausted and beat up, fighting to remain standing in the windstorm. Paul concludes his encouragement to the early disciples around Ephesus with these words: 'Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power' (Ephesians 6.10). This Sunday we will recall that withstanding the windstorms of evil, temptation, and despair has far less to do with *us* than with *Christ-in-us*. It's the power of God's love alive in us that overcomes evil. In Christ, we take up the tools of a love that has already won. Count this my prayer for you, then, that you may be strong in the *Lord's* power to calm the winds with his truth, his righteousness, his peace, his faith, his salvation, and his gospel Word.

Click this link to **live-stream** or later view our Sunday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, service of worship:

<https://youtu.be/gu0hzGXScuM>

**NEW!** If you (or someone you know) wish to **listen by phone** to the live 9:30 worship service on Sundays via Zoom, call 253-215-8782. You will be asked to enter three codes:

Meeting ID: 897 6262 0870 (then #)

Participant ID: (just press #)

Password: 702769 (then #)

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

## Thanksgiving Eve Zoom

Happy Thanksgiving! FPC will be gathering by Zoom on **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm** to share faces, thanksgivings, a special reading of Psalm 100, and the chance to pray and sing our gratitude!

Please print the hymn 'Let All Things Now Living' for us to sing together on that evening. (See *FPC News email* or visit [fpcmissoula.org](http://fpcmissoula.org) to view/download.)

To join the Nov 25<sup>th</sup> gathering by device, click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89892260966?pwd=enZSK1hL04yODFHcnBqSUUpqWGpnQT09>

To call into the gathering, call 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 898 9226 0966 (then #)

Participant ID: (just press #)

Password: 714627 (then #)

## FPC Properties Update

We will be keeping you informed every step of the way as significant milestones are met. This is what has transpired since the congregational meeting on November 1st when FPC decided to sell property on behalf of construction of a senior living facility by Mike and Rachel Robinson of Hogan Senior Living LLC... See Properties Update sent in email or on [fpcmissoula.org](http://fpcmissoula.org).

## Star Word Reflections

One of the traditions of our church family is to receive 'star words' to celebrate Epiphany each year on the Sunday closest to January 6. An epiphany is a realization, a light bulb coming on in your imagination. And Epiphany calls attention to the startling and generous revelation of God to truth-seeking world – the Magi guided by a star to encounter Jesus. We celebrate the Spirit's present power to reveal God to us by each drawing a different star word from an offering plate: maybe 'hope,' or 'friendship,' or 'prayer,' 'humor,' 'restraint,' or 'song.'

2020 continues to be 'the gift that keeps on giving.' And we thought it might be valuable to invite your reflections. What is the star word you received for this year? And how has God used it to reveal something to you? If you would be willing to share your response with others, please return a reflection by the first week in December ([secretary@fpcmissoula.org](mailto:secretary@fpcmissoula.org) or 235 S Fifth St W, 59801). We will look for a meaningful way or two to share them with our congregation.

## A Stewardship Message

Stewardship is an **everyday** discipline. But November begins our "official" time when we concentrate on the resources we have to finish our financial year, and those we will be given to steward for the coming year. We hope you have already received your stewardship letter and a 2021 pledge form. **Please note we are asking for returned pledges by November 29<sup>th</sup>.** If anyone has *not* received the letter and a pledge form, these can be obtained from the office, or from the brochure holder located on the west wall of the Narthex. The ushers can help you locate these materials. If you are not able to join us for in-person worship, please contact the office for help (549-5144, Tue-Fri, 9am – 3pm).

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for all we have in Christ Himself, but we are also grateful for each of you who faithfully join our mission of "Surprising Missoula with the love of Christ".



### GIVING TREE

Even though these past several months have been hard for many of us, there is much to be thankful for.

Please share the Christmas joy with our Family Promise and Helping Hands families

There will be a Giving Tree set up next week with ornaments made by our youth. On the back of the ornaments will be requests for gift cards to either Walmart or Target. There will be a drop box at the back of the church this Sunday where you can leave the gift cards. You can also mail or drop the gift cards off at the church office.

### FOOD PANTRY BOX FOR THOSE IN NEED

There will be a food pantry box in front of the Fellowship Hall that will be kept full of canned goods and perhaps dried goods. This is for those in need through our Missoula community to feel comfortable coming by and taking what they need. Please stay tuned for more information, or contact Jamie Armstrong at [armstrongjmd@gmail.com](mailto:armstrongjmd@gmail.com).

### W A R M I I T R E E

**There will be a warming tree next to the food pantry box in front of the Fellowship Hall where warm scarves and hats will be available to those in need to feel comfortable taking what they might use to help stay warm this holiday season and winter.**

## DEACON MEAL MINISTRY:

Having surgery soon? Sick with Covid? Death in your family? The deacons have a ministry to provide meals to our members in need. If you have a need or know of someone who does, reach out to Mary Lou Stergios at [mloumartin@aol.com](mailto:mloumartin@aol.com) or 406-546-1317.

If you find yourself needing to isolate or quarantine because of Covid and aren't prepared with groceries, medications, whatever else you might need to be able to stay home, the Deacons are here to help. We can pick things up and safely deliver them to your location. Contact Mary Lou Stergios at [mloumartin@aol.com](mailto:mloumartin@aol.com) or 406-546-1317 for assistance.