

FIRST WORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 235 S 5th ST W | MISSOULA, MT 59801 | 406.549.5144 | WWW.FPCMISSOULA.ORG

November 28, 2021

Advent Worship in the Sanctuary | November 28th, 9:30am

This Sunday we enter the season of Advent, which means 'coming.' We mark the four Sundays before Christmas with a posture of expectant waiting, hearing the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for his coming again. We wait in the dark for the light to dawn. We wait in a broken world, hoping for the love, peace, justice and joy of Christ's kingdom coming.

It's hard to wait. No one much likes it. This first Sunday in Advent we will read a letter from the prophet Jeremiah to the captives in Babylon where they had been taken into exile (Jeremiah 29.1, 4-7, 10-14). Notice the acknowledgment that this is not going to be a quick fix. But notice, too, just how the prophet invites the people to wait for God's gift of a healing, forgiving, redeeming future homecoming: Love while you wait. Let the wholeness and flourishing you anticipate shape how you wait for it now. Invest in the welfare of the city to which you have been exiled. Bloom where you are planted, even if it feels far from home. And you will find yourself experiencing the fruit of your hope even in the land of your disappointment. Christian hope is God's assured future laying claim to the present.

We will be together in-person in the sanctuary at 9:30am. You can also click this link to live-stream our worship (or view it afterward):

<https://youtu.be/UqzMjxo1ntk>

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, or find it on Facebook at 'First Presbyterian Church Missoula.'

All-Ages Advent Devotional

Advent is a season of waiting that is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions — past, present, and future. In Advent we look toward the coming of Christ as a baby, and we also look toward the second coming of Christ at the end of time. During this season we have the opportunity to practice spiritual disciplines in the confident expectation and hope of Christ's coming. Attached to this email you'll find an All-Ages Advent Devotional, created by Selina Mullin. It provides short, weekly reflections based on the texts that we will be hearing in worship. We invite you and your household to use this devotional as a guide for your Advent season as we wait and watch and hope for our Savior to arrive.

Advent Song Playlist

Click here to listen to songs centered around the themes of Advent:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_kJeWF6N9Uiii4XxUadzID7o7XYif5iD

Prepare to GIVE with Thanksgiving for the 4th Sunday Mission Day on November 28th

After worship on November 28th, we'll be gathering to put up the Giving Tree in the back of the sanctuary and the Warming Tree outside near the fellowship hall building. We will get to decorate the Giving Tree and hang tags on it that invite people to bring gift certificates and other specific items for families experiencing homelessness. The Warming Tree will be a place for people to give and receive items for the cold winter ahead for both children and adults.

FPC Financial Health Snapshot

Thru NOV 18, 2021	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Better or (worse)	% Difference
Total income	\$409,108	\$411,206	\$2,099	1%

Total Expenses	\$405,137	\$369,640	\$35,496	9%
Net Operating Income	\$3,971	\$41,566	\$37,595	

Three large, unbudgeted expenses:

- New fire alarm system incorporated with present security system
- Repair for the Christian Education building first floor heating system
- New front steps for the Christian Education building

The expenses for these projects were covered via:

- Funds from the stewarding pass-thru account
- Cash on hand from FPC checking and savings (money market) accounts

Neil Shepard, Ron Salesky, Kim Brander, Dan Cravy

Beautiful Music Coming December 12!

Christmas Handbell Concert by combined Presbyterian and Methodist Choirs.

WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3:00 pm (not 4:00 pm as previously announced)

WHERE: First United Methodist Church, 300 E. Main St., across from the old public library

NOTE: Elevator is accessed from the alley behind the church. Masks are required, free admission. Questions? Call Tomi Kent, 241-7843.

Footsteps of Jesus Weekend: January 21st-22nd

Bob Rognlien is a pastor, author, teacher, trainer, and guide. His passion is the adventure of following Jesus, and empowering people to do the same. Bob and his wife Pam are cousins of Mike and Joy McKay, and led the Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land that Mike and Joy went on in June of 2019. Mike and Joy will both share with you is how impactful and educational and soul enriching that experience was for them. It filled in both misunderstood or partially understood parts, and other gaps in the story of Jesus's journey from Bethlehem to the Cross.

What the Friday evening and Saturday daytime event in mid-January will provide, is a virtual experience of what being in Israel is truly like and the context of the timeframe that Jesus was in that special place. Normally this Experience would cost ~\$30 each, but FPC will instead be accepting a free will offering to offset the cost of getting Bob and Pam here to lead us on this Journey.

More information for this will be coming very soon, but until then, please mark Friday night the 21st (6pm-8:30pm) and Saturday the 22nd, 2022, (from ~9am-5pm), so as to not miss out on this rich opportunity.

Find the PDF at the bottom of the email for more information on the weekend and instructions for signing up.

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings

- 4th Sunday Mission Day: November 28th after Worship
- Family Promise Week at the Meadowlark: November 29th-December 5th
- GROW: December 7th, 5:30pm, Youth Room
- Senior Luncheon Bible Study: December 14th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall