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The Presbyterianian

Embracing Grace
Embracing Community

Publication of First Presbyterian Church Great Falls Montana

NOVEMBER 2025

The Dogs of First Presbyterian Church are very blessed

The Garth of First Presbyterian Church was the scene of wagging tails, doting owners and blustery winds as our pets their annual blessing from Pastor Risa Paul.

The “blessing of animals” ceremony, held in October, honors St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. And it reminds us of our spiritual bond with all of God’s creation.

The ceremony also serves to seek divine health and healing for our pets, and to reinforce the sacred bond between humans and all animals.

This practice is rooted in the belief that all creation is significant to God and deserves love.



Do you enjoy eating, laughing, singing, buying, and winning?

Then Mark Your Calendar for

Fall Follies - Sunday, November 16th

Talent Show - start planning your Talent to share
(playing an instrument, singing, dancing, reading, comedy, etc.)

Country Store - Baked Goods

Handmade Items - Silent Auction

Raffle Items - 50/50 Drawing

Fun starts with a delicious **Pot Luck** meal after church service.

Bring **your favorite dish** to share

Rolls & Beverages will be provided

All contributions are welcome for the Country Store, Silent Auction or Raffle
Monies raised go to the **Deacon's Fund** for use in the Community
For more information, contact Tom Hazen at 406-771-0075 or cell 406-868-9207

NOVEMBER PENSAMIENTOS

Pastor Risa Paul

Gifts, Gift Cards, and Appreciation

October was my birthday month, and I feel like we celebrated all month!

So many of you remembered me either for successfully completing another revolution around the sun, or for “Pastor Appreciation Month (a holiday begun by Focus on the Family in 1992). Lots of gifts and lunches and dinners.

I felt both appreciated and loved. I said at one of those dinners that your care and appreciation has made this one of the easiest places I have ever served! Thank you.

Thank you for the cards, and the hugs, and the warmth, and the trust that happens not just one day or even one month of the year, but that I feel week after week!

On the other hand, I know that again, someone tried to scam us by using my name in an email that supposedly came from me asking for help in a “very discreet manner”. *IT WAS NOT ME!*

1. If I need help, you know me well enough to know that I am direct
(maybe even Vblunt I’ve been told).
2. I will tell you upfront about the need,
3. I will not broadcast a “discreet need” in an email.
4. AND YOU CAN ALWAYS CALL ME AND CHECK WITH THE NUMBER YOU HAVE
not the number in an email.

I am grateful for the many of you who called and checked.

This kind of scam is multiplying and like the game of “whack a mole” is almost impossible to stop or police. It is our response that will either fuel it or stop it. Please call me directly if you get a text or plea from me to check that it REALLY is me.

I appreciate you all, and I appreciate being able to share my journey with you as you all share your journey with me. And I will sign this as I do ALL MY EMAILS --

Still praying,

Risa

Life is not the way it’s supposed to be. It’s the way it is.

The way You cope with it is what makes the difference.

Todo lo puedo en Cristo que me fortalece Fil. 4:13

Living Out the Mission on Campus

By **Starfish Scholar**
Rhizza A. Valderama

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV)

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

What a great joy to have the opportunity to teach again on campus. We started doing this in 2016. I was scared then. But I knew in my heart this was the fascinating part of the interaction with the students. I am not alone now, Paulo is with me, although not all the time because he also busy attending the work with our church.

We currently have ten team members. I am so grateful as this ministry is opening to others who share the same vision. I am also thankful that the school has welcomed this partnership. We coach them in values formation.

I am saddened by the youths that are even thinking of suicide because of family problems, insecurities, and what social media has made them do for the affirmation of others. The lessons reflect the current issues for young people. They do not feel loved by their parents, they are expected to be at the top in school, they do not have, and they are abused verbally and physically by their relatives. They feel ugly as well as other confidential issues.

The school and the Principal embrace the partnership. The school’s guidance counselors are overwhelmed with the need. From grades 7 to 10, we teach 12 40-minute classes from 5:30 am to 5:30 pm. When I get home, I am tired because when I add up the students we are teaching on the team, it is almost 2500 a day. My throat after that was not in good condition, I had a hoarse voice that eventually ended up in a cold. My feet are sore, and I cannot get up... but when I think of the smiles on their faces when they see us, it feels like I have a trophy in my hands.

In the hallway, they will say “hi ma’am.” Some of them are so excited shouting “Ma’am!,” are you going to teach us today? “When I say yes,” they jump with joy and excitement I love what I

am doing. I love them the way God loves them, and it doesn’t disappear. Even when students are hardheaded, over time, I see their attitudes change, and now they are listening to the lectures.

Sometimes they cry during our lessons. Most of them opened up to me about their problems, which I didn’t expect. They share their emotions and situations with their family and friends. Different issues, different situations, and sometimes I cannot imagine how they can live with those circumstances. These youths need consideration and someone to listen to as they express what they feel and what they are going through.

Eventually, the “Inspire hour” has been established, wherein our term for the “Bible Study” at the school, can you imagine that 120 students are having suicidal thoughts? We conducted an activity, sorted it out, and reported this to the guidance counselor. That’s why they made this activity to clear out this thinking. We encountered one student who doesn’t believe in God. But we are not surprised since this world has been changing their young minds. The guidance counselor reported that cases involving students with issues with the school have been fewer, and we praise the Lord for that, because we know God is moving toward the school. But of course, the enemy is also taking action, as we received news that a group is attacking the Principal to remove her from her position. Besides being tired physically, we need to move double time to pray because Satan is not happy.

We are asking for prayers as we are doing our best for these students; the enemy is also doing something to stop this ministry from opening their minds to the fact that God is alive. God is alive in their lives and we need to share the good news for this young minds, this is not about the religion that we have but this is all about their relationship to God who made their lives and to stop doing wrong doings not thinking the future

Annual PW Christmas Tea

Don't let 2025 go by without coming to the annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea. Festivities begin at 11:30 am. (Use the back alley entrance. The door will be unlocked from 11:15am-11:45am.)

If you feel inspired, please bring 2 dozen finger foods (sweets, treats, canapes, etc.) Beverages will be provided. There will be door prizes, laughter and a good time for all!

Questions? Contact Marla Wilckens
(406) 452 0226

"Kick The Cans"

AT First Presbyterian Church to benefit **FISH**. Root for your team, place a can of food on the side of table representing your team.

If you can't choose, donate *two* cans, one for each side! We will announce the winning team Nov 16, BUT the real winners are the clients of **FISH**. **GO FISH! BEAT HUNGER!**

You'll find the "**Kick the Cans**" table in the narthex vestibule by the FISH wicker basket.

Cats/Griz Game Date: November 22

Ken, Diane Nordquist Gone South!

We will miss Ken and Diane Norquist as they venture back to California. Diane supplied us with delicious, sweet breads that she baked, and we kept in the freezer. They showed up on our Coffee Hour snack table for many weeks and were greatly appreciated.

Please consider signing up for a Sunday or donating some frozen breads or whatever freezes well. This helps for those weeks when no one has signed up.

Thanks so much!

YOUR PNC AT WORK!

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is on the move again. The Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been approved by Glacier Presbytery Committee of Ministry (COM). The MIF is a type of job description that will be posted on the Presbyterian job site. Potential candidates will be able to read what our church is seeking in a pastor.

The MIF will eventually be posted on other job sites such as seminary education institutions, and commercial job sites (such as Indeed). Pastor Risa will still be involved in offering advice to the committee members as they work through this process.

The committee members are April Hansen, Brian Massey, Kaela Fuller, and Marla Wilckens.

STARFISH Cont'd from page 4

ahead, most of the parents didn't know about this and this youths didn't know what the future lies ahead. We need the strength, good health, and the wisdom that comes from the Lord. And be wise to every step that we make, and that the Lord guide us, each one of us, and humble hearts that we are doing this for His glory, not for our own ministry, but this is the heart of Jesus. He wants us to do for everyone who knows who God wants us to do.



Kent & Randi Graves, Dave Herman

"Our church staffed FISH October 6th thru the 10th serving 18 clients. I had again a great staff working doing boxing, bagging, stocking shelves, and working the counter, plus helping clients load their vehicle."

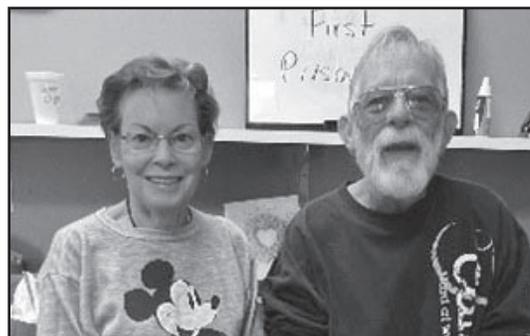
Dave Herman



Sara Buley



Brian Massey, Toni Larson



Paula Jackson, Dean Schamp



Dave Herman, Jane Hashley, Dean Schamp



Shirley Davis, Brian & Janet Massey



Town Pump has again selected FISH to be part of the 2025 Town Pump Foundation Campaign. Town Pump will match every donation that adds up to the total \$25,000.00 from September 1st through November 28th.

What a way to double our money!

Please send your donation to

FISH P.O. Box 662 Great Falls, MT 59403

Thank you for your support of FISH

Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) is Montana's only statewide food bank and member of Feeding America. MFBN serves 330 Network Partners that include community food banks, pantries, schools, senior centers, and shelters to end hunger in Montana. MFBN's hunger relief programs include Backpack, Child Nutrition, Hunters Against Hunger, Mail-a-Meal, Retail Food Rescue, and SNAP outreach. MFBN advocates for long-term policy solutions to strengthen public nutrition programs and address the root causes of hunger.



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Coming here!
December 10
6 p.m.!

“Kick The Cans” at First Presbyterian Church to benefit FISH!
Root for YOUR team by placing canned food on the side of the table that matches your team. Table will be next to the FISH basket in the vestibule.
Collection Sundays are: November 2, 9, 16. Go team! BEAT HUNGER!!



Happy Birthdays

NOVEMBER

Jan Horton 2
Bill Quast 3
Allen Funderburk 4
Debra Royce 16
Dave Herman 17
Jamie Ronholdt 17

Fall Follies
November 16
Fellowship Hall

The Presbyterian is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Great Falls
Deadline for submissions: 20th of each month
Send pictures or story ideas our way
Email articles, ideas and/or pictures to:
secretary@firstpresgfmt.org
Subject: NEWSLETTER
For images, please include the name of photographer and any information you'd like added to the newsletter.

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MONDAY - THURSDAY 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO NOON
SUNDAY SERVICE: 10 A.M.
FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING SERVICE
ALL ARE WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church Operating Fund
Activity Report September 2025

	Actual	Budget
	YTD	YTD
Revenue	\$195,189.45	\$242,443.44
Total Expenditures	\$ 206,026.50	\$ 233,239.19
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (10,837.05)	\$ 9,204.25

Calendar for November:

Sundays Nov 2, 9, 16
Kick the Can for FISH!!

- 2: **Sunday**
Communion Sunday
- 4: **Tuesday**
Noon Souler Energy
4 p.m. Property Committee
- 5: **Wednesday**
10 a.m. Galatians - Deep Dive
11:30 a.m. My 1 Word/lunch
6 p.m. Dinner and a Movie
- 6: **Thursday**
8:30 a.m. Coffee with Risa
- 9: **Sunday**
11:30 p.m. Personal Prayer Sanctuary
- 11: **Tuesday**
10 a.m. Iris Service
3 p.m. Finance Committee
3 p.m. Worship Committee
- 12: **Wednesday**
10 a.m. Galatians - Deep Dive
6 p.m. Dinner and a Movie
- 13: **Thursday**
8:30 a.m. Coffee with Risa
10:30 a.m. Grandview Service
6:30 p.m. Session
- 15: **Saturday**
10 a.m. PW Women
- 16: **Sunday**
Fall Follies/Potluck after service
- 19: **Wednesday**
6 p.m. Mid-Week Ministry
- 20: **Thursday**
8:30 a.m. Coffee with Risa
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 25: **Tuesday**
5:30 p.m. Deacons
- 27: **Thursday**
HappyThanksgiving
- 30: **Sunday**
First Sunday in Lent
Decorate the church for Christmas!