

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2023

Worship with FPC | November 19th, 2023 | Galatians 6:11-18

In closing his letter to the Galatians, Paul asks us once again to consider: In what do we take pride? In what do we find our identity? In what do we track our purpose, belonging, and hope?

His answer?

The cross of Jesus.

'May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.' (Galatians 6.14)

On the cross of Jesus the old self-indulgent values, the old status-seeking identity markers, the entire status-quo way of seeking worldly worth and security – was crucified. And at the empty tomb, a whole new way of life – a whole new creation – opened up for all who respond in faith.

To boast in the cross calls for scars of sacrificial allegiance. But to boast in the cross promises a harvest of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Prayer: Lord, give me the faith to choose you (again) today, to become truly free from the way of the world, and truly free to enjoy the fruit of new life.

We will be together in the Sanctuary for worship this week.

You can also click this link **to live-stream** our worship service (or view it afterward):

<https://youtube.com/live/dRFPwbAuKZE?feature=share>

Bridge Walkway/Restroom Construction

Please see attached document for important information regarding the bridge walkway/restroom construction, which began on November 13th.

Ongoing Security for FPC

As you may know, over a week ago, the church received angry threats of possible disruption to our worship. And what a heartening day of worship we had anyway!

This is to assure you that FPC's security team will continue to be at our doors and has taken additional steps to bring safety to our gatherings. Please be greeted at the west front entrance to the Sanctuary nearest the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall building will be locked, and there will be greeters for coffee fellowship. Children's Church will continue in the Sanctuary building for now rather than the Fellowship Hall.

During the week, doors to the Office/Fellowship Hall building will remain locked. If you are hosting an event, please post someone at the door to welcome participants. If arriving late, you may find a phone number posted for you to gain entry. If you are needing access during office hours, please use the buzzer/doorbell at either entrance. If you would be willing to assist the security team, please contact Jack Chambers. Thank you to you all for your trust in God, care for one another, and courageous witness to Jesus Christ.

No Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, November 22nd.

Morning prayer will return on November 29th.

Helping Hands Giving Trees

It's time to be thinking about families in Missoula that may need a little help this Christmas season. We will be setting up our annual Giving Trees on Sunday, November 27th. Once again, we will be asking for gift cards to

local stores. Last Christmas, Helping Hands used your donations to help about 25 families! More info to follow next week.

Invitation to Make Pledges for 2024

We'd like to extend an invitation to prayerfully complete and return your 2024 pledge card. Stewarding our talents, time and funds in this manner assists the FPC leadership in planning for the year's activities and programs. Over the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving by mail the Stewardship Letter asking for your consideration of making a pledge of funds for the church. Also included will be the 2024 pledge form. For planning the budget for 2024 it is very helpful if you could complete the pledge card with your time, talents, and monetary pledges for God's work via giving to FPC. **Please return your pledge card by November 30, 2023. If you have not received the Stewardship letter call the church office for assistance (Tues-Fri 9-3) 406-549-5144.**

Volunteer Opportunities at FPC

As we enter into the colder months, we are looking for volunteers to help with projects such as deep cleaning of the Fellowship Hall Kitchen and snow removal. For more information on volunteer opportunities please contact FPC Facility Steward Carl Miller at (406) 207-4263.

Alpha Omega Open House - BBQ & Bingo Bash: Friday, November 17th, 6:00-9:00pm

Join the Alpha Omega House for a BBQ & Bingo Bash on Friday, November 17th from 6:00-9:00pm at the AO House (501 University Ave)! This is a fundraiser for student programs. Bingo cards are \$25 or 5/\$100. Start off your Griz vs. Cats weekend with a bang!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship: **Updated Time**** Wednesday, November 22nd, 5:30pm**

On the day before Thanksgiving, we will gather in the sanctuary at **5:30pm** (this is an updated time) for a time of worship that is especially crafted with children and families in mind. For our offering, we invite you to bring items for our Warming Tree, including gloves, hats, mittens, scarves, and socks. All are welcome to join as we name our thanksgivings and praise to a God who gives abundantly.

Click here for the livestream link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB-kplJDfTs>

Turkey Bowl Football!

We're doing a Turkey Bowl football game on Thanksgiving morning! This is (probably) FPC's first ever Thanksgiving day football game, and we want you to join us at 10am at the Sentinel High School track for a flag football game, hot chocolate, a Thanksgiving prayer, and a field goal kicking contest. This is an open event, so if you have friends or family who might be interested, bring them along! Please RSVP to Austin if you're thinking of coming so we can prep enough hot cocoa, coffee and treats.

November Sending Sunday: Sunday, November 26th, Following Worship, Fellowship Hall

On Sending Sunday, November 26th, we will be building Blessing Bags. Handing out a blessing bag to someone gives you a very real way to meet some of their immediate needs by providing some basic supplies such as toiletries, water, food, and warmth. We are looking for donations of the following items prior to Nov 26th: quarters, bottled water, band aids, travel size toiletries - baby wipes, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, soap, deodorant, comb, lip balm or woman's hygiene items. Also, nonperishable food items; granola or energy bars, trail mix, raisins, trail mix, nuts, hot chocolate, gum, or hard candy. This time of year, hand warmers, socks, gloves, and hats are also thoughtful items to include. We hope you will join us on the 26th as we assemble Blessing Bags for our sisters and brothers in need.

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Support: Victor Schlimgen, Eva Tsosie and son Chaske, Tom Tucker, Sheryl Tegelberg, Lou Power

Prayers for Health and Healing: Carol Farmer, Kelley Nicholson, Peggy Schalk, Betty Winchell, Bob Maitland, Valerie (Muir) Cabral

Condolences: The family of Dick Ramberg, the family of Lynda Clegg, the family of Irene Smith