

OCTOBER 27th, 2024

Worship with FPC | October 27th, 2024 | 1 Kings 5.1-5; 8.27-30, 41-43

Do the ends justify the means? Think of how people have become resigned to the belief that the ends of our favored political leanings justify the means of our mean-spirited politics.

King Solomon, son of David and Bathsheba, was honored with the building of the Lord's Temple. It was to be a 'house' of immense and sacred grandeur, the place toward which the people of Israel could pray. More: It was to be a place toward which people *foreign* to Israel could pray and discover reverence for the Lord.

So the completion of the Temple would confer blessing upon the nations. A powerful end.

But tucked into the story is this word from the Lord: 'About this Temple you are building—what's *important* is that you *live* the way I've set out for you and *do* what I tell you, following my instructions carefully and obediently' (1 Kings 6.11-12).

About this thing that you are doing, says the Lord: the *means* are as important – more important – than the ends.

What is the grand thing *you* are doing – pursuing a degree, building a business, raising a child, electing a president, ...? And – more importantly - just *how* are you doing it?

Prayer: *Lord grant me the humility and discipline to pursue grand ends, even your ends, by means of the way you've called me to live in Jesus Christ...*

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://youtube.com/live/3iwm1EyrO6w?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.'

Sending Sunday - Empower Packs: October 27th, Following Worship, 1720 Wyoming Street

We will be helping at the Missoula Food Bank (1720 Wyoming Street, Missoula.) We will be building Empower Packs for school kids. The food bank provides meals for the children needing meals for the weekends. The Missoula Food Bank has graciously opened on Sunday to accommodate FPC on Sending Sunday. We have committed to having at least 50 volunteers. The event should be completed by 1:30 – 2:00 including clean up. This event is family friendly and a great way to get to know your fellow members. If you have any questions, please contact the FPC office. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

2025 Pledge Cards Coming Soon

Along with the beautiful fall weather we have been blessed with, this is the time of year in our church calendar when we wish to remind all that our pledge letter will be coming forth. You should get a pledge invitation letter via mail in the next 2 weeks. Along with this there will be an enclosed pledge card. This communication will be our request for you to prayerfully consider pledging your families' time, talents and funds to FPC for 2025. In planning the 2025 budget it is very helpful to have your family complete the pledge card with this information and monetary pledges for God's work via giving to FPC. **Please return your pledge card by November 30, 2024 or if you have not received an invitation letter contact the church office, (Tues-Fri 9-3) 1-406-549-5144.** Thank you for your faithfulness in making stewardship a priority in your life helping to further Jesus' love and grace. Neil Shepard, Jack Chambers and Noah Hill Stewarding Elders, for the Session.

AO House Fundraiser: Now Through October 27th

For the month of October the **Alpha Omega House** has a ministry goal to raise \$10k for student programs...will you help us? We are collecting **gift cards valued at \$25-\$100 between now and October 27th** to use as prizes in our Homecoming Sweepstakes Raffle! Restaurants, coffee shops, Amazon, etc. are popular choices. Thank you for being a part

of the Alpha Omega House Family! To donate, please contact Laura Lympus at 509-319-4645 or email laura.lympus@aohouse.org.

Courageous Conversation Across Political Difference: November 3rd, Following Worship, CE 213

What can Christ's Church do in response to a country increasingly torn apart by political polarization? Take a step of Christ-centered faith toward building loving, respectful relationships across difference. Our initial Courageous Conversation Oct 6th was a meaningful and moving experience; participants left asking for the chance to share it with others. Come join us for an **FPC Courageous Conversation on Sunday, Nov 3rd, 11:15-12:30** in the **room just outside the Fellowship Hall**.

As before, we'll center ourselves in the hope we share (Romans 12.9-21), then pair up for conversations that practice curious, careful listening with the goal of deepened appreciation for a sibling in Christ. To be paired, you'll be asked simply to identify (if you're willing) how you may lean from the political center as you see it. Conversation partners will have twenty minutes each to share the answer to this question: ***How has your life story shaped your present political leanings?*** You will be free to choose what and how much you may wish to share. And there will be no expectation for you to report what's shared with the larger gathering. The goal is not to change political perspectives, nor to minimize important differences on policy and leadership, only to better see one another by sharing the humanizing stories of how our present political leanings have emerged.

Bible Sunday - 3rd & 6th Graders: Sunday, November 10th, During Worship

Do you have a *3rd or 6th grader*? We love to honor these kids by giving them their own Bible. 3rd graders will receive an Adventure Bible and 6th graders will receive a Teen Bible. These are age appropriate Bibles they can call their own! If you have a kiddo in these grades, **please let Jo know by October 27th** so they can be included in our special time during Worship on Nov. 10th.

Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, November 12th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall

How we use our blessings is the true measure of our Thanksgiving – unknown. Please come to the Senior Luncheon on November 12th, gathering at 11:15 AM. Kindly RSVP to Barbara Miller at 406-239-7999.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship: Wednesday, November 27th, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

On the day before Thanksgiving, we will gather in the sanctuary at 5:30pm for a time of worship. All are welcome, and we've crafted the service especially with children in mind; their participation and ability to enter in is important to us. Please join us as we name our thanksgivings and praise to a God who gives abundantly.

PCUSA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PDA is actively collaborating with FLAPDAN (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network) and Presbytery leadership to assess needs and respond to the immediate impacts of Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Your financial support and partnership empower PDA to embody the healing love of Christ, bringing hope to communities and individuals recovering from natural and human-caused disasters. You can make a tax-deductible donation to initial response accounts or give to designated disaster accounts via the PDA website. For more information on how you can help, please visit <https://pda.pcusa.org>

EPIC Survey: Now Through November 15th

As the COVID pandemic was winding down in 2022, the Hartford Institute for Religion Studies began a five-year study titled Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) and invited congregations across America to participate, offering a \$1500 stipend to those who opted in. The Session accepted that invitation, and FPC has now received the survey questionnaires for the third year of our participation. The information requested and provided by FPC in the past two years has been largely statistical: patterns of attendance, budget and giving, programs/ministries, and other topics.

This year, in addition to the above usual statistical survey, EPIC also has distributed an Attender Survey, which aims to capture the experiences of the attenders within a congregation. Researchers believe this will be a valuable opportunity to gain insights from attenders of religious communities across the country. We are asking and encouraging FPC attendees ages 18 and above to complete this survey, which will take about 10-15 minutes, by accessing it through the link below. If we can collect 10 or more responses, FPC will receive a \$200 Amazon Gift card for use in our program activities. **The survey is open from now until November 15, 2024.** To take the survey, go to https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwFw?congregation=99056.

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

October:

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Sending Sunday: October 27th, Following Worship

November

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary

- Courageous Conversation Across Political Difference: November 3rd, Following Worship, CE 213
- Bible Sunday - 3rd & 6th Graders: Sunday, November 10th, during Worship
- Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, November 12th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship: Wednesday, November 27th, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
- Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closures: Thursday November 28th & Friday November 29th, 2024.

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, 11:00am - 12:30pm
- 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, Sheryl Tegelberg, Lou Power, Kelley Nicholson, Peggy Schalk, Betty Winchell

Prayers for Health and Healing: Haleigh Adair, Annabelle Olds, Pam Dubois, Jill Gilliam, Lori Guffin-Serra, Barbara Miller, Sarah Shepherd

Condolences: Nancy Meloche and family in the loss of Lee Meloche