

9:30 Worship | March 8th, 2026 | Acts 8.26-40

How much feels like too much to ask of you when it comes to seeking to understand someone whose (racial, religious, sexual, political, spiritual, educational, financial) story is different from your own?

Allen Hilton has suggested that the U.S. has a 'selective empathy' problem. Increasingly, we count others worthy of our compassion only to the degree that they are like us (especially in our political leanings).

Enter Acts 8.26-40. Here we find the Spirit of God spurring a Jewish apprentice of Jesus to pursue spiritual intimacy with an Ethiopian eunuch. Here we find the Spirit of Christ prompting a growing disciple to embrace someone he might have rejected as (religiously, racially, nationally, sexually, politically) other.

But notice: God breaks through our prejudice and reluctance not by simply calling us to do better, but by empowering empathy within us. By pouring Christ's own power of Love into our hearts.

How much is too much to ask of me and you if it is God who empowers what God invites?

Prayer: Lord, it is so hard to seek empathy for someone whose story I don't know (and frankly don't want to). Would you empower me by your Spirit to break through my prejudice with your own love?

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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/Dw1o7j0-F0w?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.'

BUNKO!

Come join us this Sunday, March 8, at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a few rousing games of Bunko! This has traditionally been a great time of fellowship, light snacks and slightly competitive games of Bunko! Children and all ages welcome.

Youth & Parent Gathering – March 8

All middle and high school students and their parents are invited to a gathering immediately following worship on Sunday, March 8. We'll share food and spend time in conversation as we listen to students, gather input, and begin discerning the direction of our youth ministry for the coming season. Students are encouraged to come even if they haven't been involved in youth group before. We hope you'll join us!

March 10th Senior Luncheon

Beautiful March where flowers bloom and so does hope. Come and enjoy the Senior Luncheon on March 10th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be gathering at 11:15am. **Please RSVP to Barbara Miller @ 406-239-7999.**

Sending Sunday - Empower Packs: March 22, 2026 Following Worship

We will be helping at the Missoula Food Bank (1720 Wyoming Street, Missoula) 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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE! March 27th - 28th Rummage Sale!

The Rummage sale this year will be the week of March 22.

Set up will be 4:00pm, Sunday, March 22

Donations will be taken and sorted Wednesday, 9-5 and Thursday (donations 9-11) (sorted til 5pm), March 25-26. The sales will be Friday 9-5 and Saturday Half Price 9-11:30, Bag sale 12-2:30. March 27-28.

This year, we are trying something a bit new, we will be taking early donations (Monday and Tuesday of that week) of Estate type (think Boutique!) items. We will not take clothing, bedding, books, children's items that go into the large room until Wednesday. This is to give our Boutique ladies a head start on sorting their room. If you have items that you feel can go into that room and can be brought early, please contact Jo. jo@fpcmissoula.org If you have things like dishes, jewelry, silver, collectables, furniture (nice) etc. please contact Jo.

This is an amazing event our church puts on every year. It is a way for us to recycle goods back into our community. It is a way for our community to purchase items they may need for a lesser cost. It is a bonding "experience" for all the volunteers to be together with a common goal!

Would you like to be a part of this great week? We have many volunteer shifts throughout the week. Please contact Jo for where and when you would like to be a part of this. You won't want to miss out!

SAVE THE DATE! April 18, 2026 is our annual Toppers Party!

Join your Deacons in unlocking the memories of yesteryear! Watch for invitations coming out soon.

New Solar Panels for FPC & the Care of Gods Creation!

As some of you have heard, the Resource Committee has been pursuing the addition of solar panels for our Fellowship Hall and CE Building. We successfully obtained a grant last fall from NorthWestern Energy which covers 40% of the overall cost. In addition, we're pursuing other tax credits and donations which we hope will cover the majority of the remaining cost. This new solar array will provide no-cost power for decades to come. The installation consists of fifty-two American-made panels providing 62 kilowatts of power output. This is the maximum size of solar array allowed in the state and will save us around \$8,700 per year in utility bills. The installation of the solar panels will start this Monday and will continue for several weeks. Staging will mostly occur in the school's parking off of the alley. During this time, we'll allow teachers to park in our church lot during the day. Other than that, we don't foresee any major impacts for our church activities. Once the solar installation is complete, we'll put out another announcement. If you have any questions, you can direct them to our friendly Resource Committee members Jack Chambers, Neil Shepard, or Colin Lane.

Lenten Devotionals

As we enter into the season of Lent, we invite you to consider the ways in which the Lord is calling you to practice returning to God with your whole heart. The three practices of Lent are fasting, prayer and generosity. We fast from – set aside – what gets in the way of God, in order to incorporate and practice closeness to God (prayer) and generosity in our lives. What will you wish to set aside? How will you wish to practice prayer? How will you wish to practice generosity? (A Lenten Spiritual Practices card can be found in the Narthex or attached to your email.)

You may be glad to be guided by Emily Huff's 'Forty' Lenten Devotional. Emily is Dan and Tracey's sister-in-law. Each year she draws together a profound and lovely book of Scriptures and quotations for each day of Lent that invite reflection, prayer, and the riches of returning to the Lord with all your heart. The PDF version of the Devotional is an attachment to your email.

We also invite families with young children to make space for Jesus during the season of Lent. Click [here](#) to access a simple resource to help you and your child notice God's presence in everyday moments. Over the course of Lent, your family will create a simple paper home. This home serves as a symbol of the space we are making for Christ in our own lives. There's no right or wrong way to do it—just an invitation to slow down, make room, and notice God.

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

March

- March 1 - 7 Family Promise Week
- March 8th - Youth and Parent Gathering
- March 8th - FPC Bunko Night
- March 10th - Senior Luncheon
- March 22nd - Sending Sunday Empower Packs following church service
- March 26-28 - Lamb of God
- March 27-28 - Rummage Sale
- March 29th - Palm Sunday

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Support: Victor Schlimgen, Tom Tucker, Kelley Nicholson, Nick Bailey, Peggy Schalk, Mike & Mary Fussell, Tyler Winchell, Ray and Susie Risho, Lois and Jack Puckett, Jean Johnson, Sarah Shepard

Prayers for Health and Healing: Jill Gilliam, LeeAnn Meloche-Porter, Betty Winchell, Mike Hickey, Becky Tucker, George Lightner, Carole Fickinger, Jane Bahls