

Palm/Passion Sunday with FPC | April 13th, 2025 | Luke 19.28-44

This Sunday morning, we enter into the drama of Holy Week.

Jesus mounts a colt to ride into the city. And the crowds rightly hail him as their King.

But Jesus sees something the crowd fails to see. Something that causes him to weep.

What causes Jesus tears? What can *you* see through the eyes of Jesus that the crowd on Palm Sunday could not?

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://www.youtube.com/live/GfkUDIfNehM>

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.'

Invitation to a Lenten Spiritual Journey

Ruth Haley Barton says, "unfortunately, most people reduce the Lenten season to the question, 'what are you giving up for Lent?' The real question of Lent is, 'how will I return to God with all my heart?'" As we journey through 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. Attached to this email you will find a table that invites you to consider how you will journey through Lent.

What will you wish to set aside?

How will you wish to practice prayer?

How will you wish to be practice generosity?

You may also wish to be guided by Emily Huff's Lenten devotional (attached to the weekly email as well). Emily is Dan and Tracey's sister-in-law, and she has put together this book of Scriptures and quotations that spark reflection and prayer.

Welcome New Members!

We are overjoyed to announce and celebrate the newest additions to our church community! We have recently been blessed to welcome eight wonderful individuals into our fellowship. Please join us in worship this Sunday as we extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to:

- Nathan Broch
- John & Karen Riordan
- Jeanie Brenneman
- Debbie Schneider
- Toni Morris
- Betty Hershman
- Melanie Mellgren

Celebrating Emma Thackston!

Emma joined our community in August of 2020 and has poured her musical gifts, creativity, compassion, and care into our worship and lives these past years. We are far richer for her presence and leadership in countless ways! Emma's last Sunday as our Worship Director will be April 27th. We will celebrate Emma following worship and the congregational meeting that day. You are welcome to consider words of affirmation to share with her that day and bring notes of thanks and/or cash to contribute to a money tree as an expression of our deepest gratitude. You may bring those on April 27th or direct them to the church office.

Announcing FPC's Interim Worship Director

As Emma Thackston completes her time of service with us on Sunday, April 27, this is to welcome Rev. Steve Lympus to the position of Interim Director of Worship! For over two years now (as Steve and Laura Lympus have served as house parents for the Alpha Omega college Christian community at UM) Steve has served as part of the worship leadership and preaching team here at First Pres, Missoula. Steve knows and loves this congregation where he got his start in college ministry and was ordained. He takes great joy in cultivating the collaborative relationships and attentive Spiritual creativity that come together for meaningful, participatory worship. It is a tremendous gift to have someone of his more-than-twenty years in pastoral ministry and worship leadership help guide our musical/liturgical/preaching/tech teams for this next season even as we continue advertising and searching for FPC's next Director of Worship.

Maundy Thursday Dinner in Homes: Thursday, April 17th, 2025

Maundy Thursday dinners with Gather at the Table groups in homes with a program are coming up on April 17th. If you are not in a Gather at the Table dinner group and want to participate in a Maundy Thursday dinner group then **please reach out to Jo Ruby (jo@fpcmissoula.org) or Joy McKay (joymckay10@gmail.com) by April 13th** and we will form additional dinner groups as necessary. Materials for the evening will be emailed to the contact person for each dinner group.

Good Friday Worship: April 18th, 5:30pm, FPC Sanctuary

We will gather for Good Friday worship on Friday, April 18th at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary to remember and reflect on Christ's death on the cross. Join us as we enter into the Story.

Livestream link: <https://youtube.com/live/dXEh7zuNu38?feature=share>

Easter Sunday Egg Hunts: Sunday, April 20th, Following Worship

Easter Sunday is always a joyful time of celebration. After our service we enjoy 3 easter egg hunts together.

Gather at the base of the Fellowship Hall stairs following Worship.

Come join in the fun!

5 and under: 11:15am

Grades 1-3: 11:20am

Grades 4-adult: 11:30am

Johnson Street Housing Sprint Training Session: Wednesday April 23rd, 5:30-7:30pm, 2205 34th Street

As many of you know, the Johnson Street Shelter is closing, and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC) and the Housing Advocate Network are stepping up to support the individuals most impacted by this transition. We are launching a "Housing Sprint" initiative to provide targeted assistance to those in need. **We need your help!** We are seeking dedicated volunteers to join our Housing Sprint teams. You will be matched with specific individuals, identified by Johnson Street providers, who will greatly benefit from your support in navigating the housing process.

Training Opportunity: To equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge, we are hosting a ***J Street Housing Sprint Training session on Wednesday, April 23rd, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the MIC Office***, located at Atonement Lutheran Church (2205 34th Street). Sam Hilliard from the City Housing Department will be present to provide valuable insights and guidance.

This training will focus on two key areas of volunteer support:

1. **Long-term Housing Navigation:** Work one-on-one with individuals identified by staff as requiring sustained volunteer support in their housing journey.
2. **Housing Group Support:** Assist service providers during housing group sessions at the Johnson Street Shelter, held on Mondays from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM and Wednesdays from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Your participation will make a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable individuals during this challenging time. Please sign up using the following link to join our team: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DABAE2BAAFBC34-56058374-jstreet>. Thank you for your compassion and willingness to surprise our neighbors with the astonishing love of Christ!

Sending Saturday: YMCA Riverbank Run Aid Station, Saturday April 26th, 8:40am-10am-ish

Join us for the joy of serving together at FPC's YMCA Riverbank Run aid station. We'll provide water, encouragement, and support to runners as they participate in this iconic Missoula event. We've invited the Celtic Dragon Pipe Band to make our corner festive. It's a fantastic way to surprise Missoula with Christ's astonishing love. Location: The corner of Arthur Avenue and Evans Avenue. Runners will pass twice, first going south on Arthur, then going east on Evans. Count this a chance to be out in the sun to start your weekend generously together. We'll bring the coffee.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 27, 2025, Following Worship, Fellowship Hall

The Session has called a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers following worship on Sunday, April 27th. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall so we can move quickly to our celebration of Emma Thackston!

End of Year Gathering for Roots Groups: Wednesday, May 14th, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

We are excited to announce our End of Year Gathering for Roots Groups on Wednesday, May 14th! Mark your calendars and get ready for a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Join us at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for an unforgettable night celebrating the connections and growth we've experienced together. We look forward to gathering with you for a memorable evening!

International Choir Festival: July 17-20th, 2025 - Host Families Needed

FPC has a special opportunity to host a mixed adult and young adult choir from Estonia as part of the July's International Choral Festival Adopt-A-Choir Program. Since the Festival's inception in 1987, FPC has had the pleasure of hosting several choirs, fostering enriching cross-cultural experiences for both host families and choir members. These interactions often result in lasting friendships. Host families are asked to provide a place to sleep, breakfast each morning, and transportation to a central drop-off/pick-up location in downtown Missoula or the University area. Each host family is asked to accommodate at least two singers, with a total of 25-27 hosts needed. Signing up is easy—families can register online at www.choralfestival.org or soon via paper forms. **Please confirm your participation by April 15th.** For any questions, contact Bob Luceno at FPC at 406-370-4325 or email Lucenos@msn.com.

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

April

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Palm Sunday Worship: Sunday, April 13th, FPC Sanctuary
- Good Friday Worship: Friday, April 18th, 5:30pm, FPC Sanctuary
- Easter Worship: Sunday, April 20th, FPC Sanctuary
- Sending SATURDAY - Riverbank Run Aid Station: Saturday, April 26th, 8:40am-10:30am, Corner of Arther & Evans Ave.
- Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 27th, Following Worship, Fellowship Hall

May

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Baby/Graduate Sunday: Sunday, May 11th, FPC Sanctuary
- Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, May 13th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall
- Roots End of Year Potluck Celebration: Wednesday, May 14th, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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, Kelley Nicholson, Haleigh Adair, Nick Bailey, Peggy Schalk, Mike & Mary Fussell

Prayers for Health and Healing: Annabelle Olds, Jill Gilliam, Sarah Shepard, Betty Winchell, Audrey Peterson, LeeAnn Meloche-Porter, Gloria Andrews, Barb Miller

Condolences: The family of Katherine Scott (Greg & Pat Scott)