

FIRST WORD
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 235 S 5TH ST W | MISSOULA, MT 59801 | 406-549-5144
WWW.FPCMISSOULA.ORG

DECEMBER 22nd, 2023

FPC Christmas Eve Worship | December 24th, 2023 | Luke 2.1-20; John 1.1-5, 10-14

*And the Word became flesh
and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.
-John 1.14*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all,
on whom his favor rests.
-Luke 2.14*

In a world of dark, where are we to find the light of true hope, true joy, true love, true peace?

The mystery at the heart of our Christian spirituality is that the Word has become flesh, that the One we had only hoped for has pitched his tent among us, that Christ has moved into our neighborhood.

The good news of Christmas is that in Jesus, we have witnessed the blaze of divine light. In him we experience the convicting honesty and surprising embrace of God-with-us to restore wholeness, flourishing and delight – his peace to all.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus. Move into my neighborhood. Be born in me today. And lead me in the paths of your hope, joy, love and peace.... Amen.

We will be together in the Sanctuary for worship this Sunday, at 9:30am and 8:00pm.

You can also click these links **to live-stream** our worship services (or view them afterward):

[Click here for Christmas Eve 9:30am worship](#)

[Click here for Christmas Eve 8:00pm worship](#)

To listen by phone to the live worship services 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.'

Christmas Eve Worship with FPC: 9:30am and 8:00pm

There will be two opportunities to celebrate Christ's coming on Christmas Eve at FPC. The first worship service will be at 9:30am and will feature songs and stories crafted with children in mind. The second worship service will be a contemplative candlelight service at 8:00pm. Our offering on Christmas Eve will go to Helping Hands, which financially supports families in Missoula with emergency needs. Both services will be in the FPC Sanctuary, and both will be livestreamed. We hope you will plan to join us in celebration at one of these services.

Christmas Eve Worship - Calling all Kids!

For our 9:30am Christmas Eve Worship, Austin is putting on a small skit! We're asking you and your kiddos to show up by 9am that morning to get in costume and get ready for our retelling of the Christmas story during worship! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Austin.

No Children's Church 12/24 or 12/31

We are ever so grateful for our crew of Children's Church volunteers for all their work this year with our kids! There will, however, be no Children's church on December 24th or 31st. Our Christmas Eve 9:30am service is planned with kids and families in mind, so we hope you'll come join us for that, and have your kids with you in worship as well for our Lessons and Carols worship on New Year's Eve as well.

No Morning Prayer on December 27th

Wednesday morning prayer will return on January 3rd. Perhaps you will consider participating in this time of contemplative prayer in community. Morning prayer is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary.

Casas Deadline Fast Approaching!

If you are interested in joining us on our Casas 2024 trip (June 23-29), we need your registration! We are gathering our group for our meeting Jan. 7th (6pm) and need to get names to the airlines soon. If you need a registration, they are in the office and the narthex. If you have any questions at all about the trip, don't hesitate to ask Jo, Austin, Tracey or Dan!

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

December:

- Christmas Eve Worship: Sunday, December 24th, 9:30am (Family & Children) and 8:00pm (Candlelight), Sanctuary
- Lessons and Carols Worship: Sunday, December 31st, 9:30am, Sanctuary

January:

- Senior Luncheon Bible Study: Tuesday, January 9th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall
- High School Ski Retreat: January 12th-14th
- January Sending Sunday: Sunday, January 28th, Following Worship

Announcement Guidelines and Office/Staff Hours

Announcements for FPC's Friday News Emails and for Sunday Worship must be sent to secretary@fpcmissoula.org and emma@fpcmissoula.org by Wednesday.

- FPC Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm, 406-549-5144
- FPC Staff Meeting: Tuesdays, 9:30am - 11:30am
- Pastor and Ministry Directors (Dan Cravy, Emma Thackston, and Austin Graef) work Mondays; unavailable Fridays
- Operation Manager (Becky Kress) and Secretary (Haleigh Adair) work Tuesday - Fridays; 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

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