

September 2023

Dear Friends,

This month's newsletter article was written by my friend Rev. Christie Davis. Christie is a PC(USA) pastor who lives in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Point of a Parable

Jesus tells seven parables about the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 13. The disciples ask, "why do you speak to them in parables?" And Jesus says it's because "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand...for their hearts have grown dull," which sounds rather harsh, probably because we do not interpret parables the way Jesus did.

We tend to treat parables as allegories or metaphors, assigning a symbolic meaning to each element in the story, resulting in a concise lesson or moral. But Jesus' goal wasn't to teach a lesson, it was to shift perspective.

The English word parabola comes from the Greek word for parable. In mathematics, a parabola is "a curve formed by a point moving so that its distance from a fixed point is equal to its distance from a fixed line" which creates a U-shape. In that framework, a parable is a story about our lives set alongside the kingdom of God that changes our perspective on the world. The focus is the fixed point equidistant between heaven and earth, where Jesus meets us.

When our hearts grow dull and we start looking for the quick moral or lesson, we miss the point – we do not perceive or understand. We define categories and rules to determine who is right or wrong and in and out, rather than create spaces of welcome, practice radical hospitality, offer mercy, work toward justice, and cultivate hope and grace.

Jesus invites us to look toward heaven so that when we turn back to earth, we see through the lens of God's promise and Christ's love. Then, we can become co-creators of God's kingdom on earth, which is the point after all.

So, as we look at our lives and the world before us, may we all have the ears to hear hope, the eyes to see the world's need, the wisdom to perceive the good news, and the courage to follow Jesus, through whom heaven and earth meet in us. – Rev. Christie Ashton

I look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you this fall. May these late days of summer bring many joys and blessings.

Pastor Jessica



Backpack blessing donation totals:

- 3 backpacks
- 5 packs colored pencils
- 6 packs markers
- 9 packs crayons
- 68 glue sticks
- 4 large pink erasers
- 5 pairs of scissors
- 266 pencils
- 30 notebooks
- 8 folders
- 1 pencil box
- 95 dry erase markers

Thank you for your generosity!
All supplies were donated to
Whittier Elementary School.



September 2023

SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS*"Jesus Christ is the same - yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)*

An abiding calmness always comes over me this time of year. After the long, warm free and unscheduled - or maybe intermittently scheduled - days of summer, I long for a more structured life with the certainty of what will happen most days. A set pattern to my days of sort. From childhood we all knew that the increasingly shorter days and the cool crisp mornings signaled the beginning of school. And while most of us will not be headed back to school we know that studies and groups will start up again in the fall.

And while the certainty and the calmness of our schedules brings a serenity to our everyday lives, we realize that amidst it all, the only real constant comes from God through Jesus Christ. The steadfast love of our Lord is our peace. And because of the certainty we have in Jesus Christ we too are called to be steadfast in our faith. What better time than now, when we make a plan for our days, to include a dedicated time for prayer and study. To join others in a study of scripture and how it is relevant to our lives. To more fully understand the constancy of God's love in our faith. To find peace in that abiding love.

We ask for God's steadfast love to wash over the lives of Mary Kraft's daughters, Kathee and Dana, as they mourn the loss of Mary as she left us and went to her reward in heaven. Mary was always such a vibrant part of our family here at Sunrise, always willing to step in and help with projects, newsletter assembly, FISH and much more. Mostly, she was our friend in faith and always had a witty word to go with her smile. We will miss her, but Dan was surely waiting to greet her.

Our prayers go to others who have lost friends or family recently. May they feel comfort in memories. And a reminder that grief does not end at any specified time, so we hold up others who could use an extra prayer or hug as they struggle to live without their loved ones

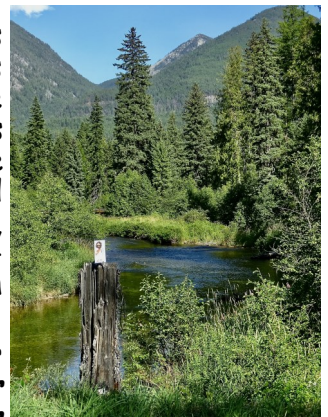
Continued prayers for those sick or hurting. Rod Paronto continues to receive care at Park Place or in the hospital. He and Dixy are in our thoughts. Ed Maki has been released from the hospital and Grandview and is now at home at the ranch continuing chemotherapy. Ed and Lorrie will be moving to a new home in Great Falls soon and we think of them through these changes in their lives. Pam Chigbrow is recovering nicely at home from knee surgery. Doris Pascal is in the comforting hands of home hospice and her signature smile is still there. Benna McGeorge is adjusting to her new home at The Lodge and we wish her well. Prayers for Sandy Lambert as she navigates some new health issues.

As we watch where Flat Jesus has been this summer, we give thanks for the family and friends we have been able to spend time with during this time. And for those who left Flat Jesus at home when they traveled we know He was with them on their journeys too. He hasn't made it on any trips with me but always stands guard as I attempt to write this note! We give thanks to those who made our summer church picnic such a success. And because of our two faithful lawn caretakers, Dan Agnew and John DeVoss, we had a beautiful yard in which to have our picnic. As she does every summer, Ember Woods has the green thumb to make the flowers at the church look especially beautiful.

Through the change of the seasons, and the different seasons in our lives we can have hope because of the steadfast love of Jesus Christ. ***"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** (Romans 8:38) Unshakable. Unending.

Remember these words from ***Isaiah 40:8*** as we embrace the new season of fall and with it the new seasons in each of our lives. ***"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand forever."***

Through the sunshine and rain, Tana



September 2023

THE HUGUENOT CROSS: HISTORY, SIGNIFICANCE, AND MEANING

The purple and gold banner which is hanging on the right side of the front sanctuary wall displays the Huguenot Cross, which has been adopted as the insignia of The National Huguenot Society. However, it is not exclusive to the Society and is being used more and more throughout the world as a sign among the descendants of the Huguenots.

There have been many designs through the years, but the one displayed in our banner was discovered by Rev. Andrew Mailhet in the province of Languedoc, France and dates from at least the eighteenth century. It has become known as the Cross of Languedoc. The Cross was possibly adopted as early as the 17th century by the French Protestants as a symbol and confirmation of their faith.

The Cross of Languedoc consists of four elements:

The insignia consists of an open four-petal Lily of France- reminiscent of the Mother Country of France- in which each petal radiates outward in the shape of a “V” to form a Maltese Cross. The four petals signify the Four Gospels. Each petal, or arm, has at its outside periphery two rounded points at the corners. These eight rounded points are regarded as signifying the Eight Beatitudes.

The four petals are joined together by four fleur-de-lis, also reminiscent of the Mother Country of France. Each fleur-de-lis has three petals. The twelve petals of the fleur-de-lis signify the Twelve Apostles.

An open space in the shape of a heart is formed between each fleur-de-lis and the arms of the two petals with which it is joined. This shape- a symbol of loyalty- suggests the seal of the great French Reformer, John Calvin.

A descending dove pendant representing the *Saint Esprit* (Holy Spirit)- is suspended from a ring of gold attached to the central petal.

Today The Huguenot Cross is worn mostly as a piece of jewelry signifying Christian faith. Some of you may remember that one of our past members, Norma Weimer, often wore this Cross and it has since been passed on to her daughter, Nancy Maynard. Hope this refreshes your memory of the significance of our banner.



-Janette Forsyth



FISH Food Bank



	Families (non-single)	Singles	Adults	Children	Meals	Pounds of Food
July 2023	54	46	165	49	3,210	7,853
YTD 2023	322	310	905	336	18,615	41,333

Our next volunteer week is planned for September 5th- 8th.

Our monthly donations from Sunrise in July were: \$235.00

Thank you to all who have contributed their time, food, and money to FISH!

-Maribeth Doan

Food Suggestions for September

- Beef Stew
- Chili
- Tuna
- Canned Spaghetti & Ravioli
- Cereal
- Any Type of Pasta



The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has again selected FISH to be part of its campaign. From Sept 1, 2023 to Nov 30, 2023, any donations to FISH will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000. You can donate through the church office or send a direct donation to FISH, PO Box 662, Great Falls, MT 59403.

September 2023

A Church Calendar

Here is a simple way to view the church calendar.

- ◆ The New Year – We spend a few weeks enjoying the new baby.
- ◆ Early Spring – We start hopping around with the emotional ups and downs of Easter.
- ◆ Late Spring – We spend a few weeks burning with excitement about the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Summer – We head outside to enjoy the wonders of the world that God has made.
- ◆ Fall – We harvest our memories as we come back to the comfort of family.
- ◆ Winter – We warm our hearts and souls with the anticipation of the good things that the birth of Jesus provides for those that believe.

Now that we have had our annual end of summer BBQ and hopefully have shared stories about the adventures we had with our flat Jesus pictures, it is time to talk about Fall.

I am sure that all of us are aware that this has been a troublesome year financially for Sunrise. The Session has been working hard every week to make sure we can fulfill our duty to be good stewards of the church finances. Thank you to everybody for being faithful in your regular giving and additionally supporting the fund raiser for the new copy machine. If you got busy this summer and fell behind in your pledge, now is a great time to catch up.

We didn't have our usual spring cleaning but we are trying to set a date to clean the carpets. If you see anything else that needs attention, please let Lee or Travis know, or if it is a small item feel free to volunteer.

Speaking of volunteering, the nominating committee is starting to form to find those special people to become Elders and Deacons in January. If you feel called to be on the nominating committee or you would rather serve as a Deacon or Elder, please speak to Scott or Eric.

Now that we have a growing group of young children, we will need more teachers for Sunday school, both youth and adult, please contact Erica Rusinski.

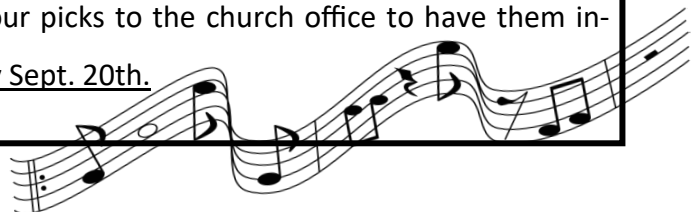
As with everything in life, the more you put in, the more you receive. Active people stay young, just ask Ruth!

Eric Chigbrow, moderator of Faith and Life

October is Congregation's Choice Hymn Month

Turn in your top 3 favorite hymns; October 1st, 8th, & 15th will be selected by individual submissions.

Oct. 22 will be the top three combined choices of the congregation. There will also be a fill-in form in the September bulletins where you can tear off and drop your submissions into the offering plate as you exit the sanctuary. Not in worship during September? Email your picks to the church office to have them included. Hymn submissions must be in to the church office by Sept. 20th.



September 2023

September Calendar of Events:		
Sep 3	9:30 am	Worship, Guest Speaker Chaplain Brennan, Jessica Out of Office
	10:45 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Deacons' Meeting
Sep 4		Labor Day, <i>office closed</i>
Sep 7	10:00 am	Women's Book Study (1 st & 3 rd Thursdays)
Sep 10	9:30 am	Worship, Communion
	10:45 am	Fellowship
Sep 11	6:00 pm	Faith and Life Meeting
Sep 17	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School Begins
Sep 18		Newsletter Deadline
Sep 20	6:00 pm	Mission and Memorials Committee
Sep 21		Office Closed
	9:30 am	Coffee Klatch
	10:00 am	Women's Book Study
Sep 22		Bill & Jacinte McCullough 50 th Anniversary
Sep 24	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School
Sep 26	5:30 pm	Session Meeting
Sep 27		Newsletter Assembly
Deacons on call: Bill McCullough and Marilyn Andrews		





Bill & Jacinte
McCullough

Cordially Invite You to Celebrate Their 50th Anniversary

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
VFW 4123 10th Ave S.

Music by Beerman and the Frosty Mugs
Light snacks will be provided
A no-host bar will be available

Please RSVP by September 10th | Chandelle 406-788-4764

September 2023

About the September Scripture Reading List:

This month’s list was composed by Marcus Hong, my new friend, whom I met at the worship planning retreat at Glacier Camp. Marc is the Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His interests and study focus on the intersections between worship, music, art, and spirituality.

From Marc: “The prompt list is in the image. I’ve also included it in the text above I took the time to choose words that stood out to me from each Psalm already. But other words may stand out to you! Or you may try to make art that represents the wholeness of the Psalm.

“No matter what, if you’d like to join, I encourage you to read the text of the whole Psalm each day, consider what emotions it stirs up in you, choose a medium that speaks to you, and make some art! Folks have painted, used in, drawn with colored pencils, taken photographs, written haikus, and much more. Choose what stirs delight in you!”

If creating art is not of interest to you, consider writing down one or two words each day that catch your attention while reading the psalm of the day.

~ Jessica

PSALMTEMBER 2023					
Sep 1	Ps 31	REFUGE	Sep 16	Ps 46	RIVER
Sep 2	Ps 32	WATERS	Sep 17	Ps 47	THRONE
Sep 3	Ps 33	BREATH	Sep 18	Ps 48	CITY
Sep 4	Ps 34	RADIANT	Sep 19	Ps 49	GRAVES
Sep 5	Ps 35	NET	Sep 20	Ps 50	TEMPEST
Sep 6	Ps 36	MOUNTAINS	Sep 21	Ps 51	CLEAN
Sep 7	Ps 37	SMOKE	Sep 22	Ps 52	UPROOT
Sep 8	Ps 38	BURDEN	Sep 23	Ps 53	BONES
Sep 9	Ps 39	BURNED	Sep 24	Ps 54	UPHOLDER
Sep 10	Ps 40	BOG	Sep 25	Ps 55	DOVE
Sep 11	Ps 41	RISE	Sep 26	Ps 56	BOTTLE
Sep 12	Ps 42	DEER	Sep 27	Ps 57	SHADOW
Sep 13	Ps 43	ALTAR	Sep 28	Ps 58	SNAIL
Sep 14	Ps 44	DUST	Sep 29	Ps 59	DOGS
Sep 15	Ps 45	ROBES	Sep 30	Ps 60	CRACKS

Looking Ahead:

A Special Halloween

Will return this year, providing a trick-or-treat opportunity for children in our community who cannot trick-or-treat due to health, emotional, or physical constraints.

The Special Halloween trick or treat event will take place on Sunday afternoon, October 29 - estimated time 2-4 p.m.

Details and planning are beginning in September. If you would like to participate or help with this event, please contact one of the Mission Committee members. A sign-up for the event stations will be passed around during worship in early October.

Condolences for the family of Mary Kraft may be sent to: Kathee Burkhiser, 1326 12th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405 or Dana Kraft, 930 Cold Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715.

Women’s Video Bible Study **“Mysteries of the Messiah”** by Rabbi Jason Sobel will begin on Thursday, September 7. The study will meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10 a.m. Study guides can be purchased for \$10 and can be helpful to follow the video. The book itself is supplemental. This study is not as intense as the last study. Contact Millie Sivak or Janette Forsyth for more information.

September 2023

2023 Session Elders

Admin & Personnel: Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull

Buildings & Grounds: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey

Christian Education: Erica Rusinski

Faith and Life: Eric Chigbrow, Lee Hickey

Mission & Memorials: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull

Nominating: Scott Shull, Eric Chigbrow, Millie Sivak

Outreach & Social Media: Lee Hickey

Stewardship: Eric Chigbrow, Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull

Worship: Norman Anderson, Travis Harp

Clerk of Session: Millie Sivak

Board of Deacons:

Chair: Ember Woods

Secretary/Treasurer: Janette Forsyth

Beth Hoseck, Dixy Paronto, Ruth Hickey, Bill McCullough, Sandy Lambert, Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow



«City», «State» «Zip»

«Address»

«First Names» «Last Name»

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