

May 2023

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Friends,

My children love a good treasure hunt. It is made all the better if it includes a map, some dirt digging, and a pirate outfit. They don't care so much about what they find. It is the joy in the process of finding the treasure that they truly enjoy. This is perhaps because my children are "spoiled". Kids today have more than their basic needs met – they have toys and electronics and games and all sorts of things that were luxuries for the wealthy in ages past.

Once they find the treasure box, it's quick work to empty it out and then move on to another activity or game. They don't linger over it.

Now, an adult finding a treasure box may find it a bit more exciting – that is, if it's a "real" treasure box. Gold coins, cash, gems – who wouldn't want to find these things? And yet, every explorer seems dissatisfied with finding 'only' one box of treasure. They quickly move on to another hunt, another lead, another possibility.

This makes me wonder about what treasure we would truly want to grasp ahold of. Is there anything in a box that would keep us occupied and satisfied enough that we wouldn't move on?

We already know the most precious things can't be stuffed into a box at all. Joy, time with family and friends, rewarding work, community – those things are un-boxable.

Jesus knew this when he spoke the words of Matthew 6:21: *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Our treasures are where we invest our time and our energy. What are you currently investing your time and energy in? Are you investing in the things that are most precious to you?

It is so easy for us to become sidetracked by the many interruptions and distractions in life. We get bogged down in the day-to-day of living. Laundry, trips to the grocery store, doctor appointments, and bill paying – these things are all necessary in life. But do we let these things and all our other obligations and responsibilities keep us from focusing on what matters?

Summer can be an opportunity to reset. They say the best time to start or stop a habit is at a natural time of transition. Summer can be exactly that - a time of transition that leads us to refocus on what treasures are really important.

May your summer be filled with the riches of good company, fulfilling conversations, time with loved ones, and meaningful activities .

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jessica



My son Jesse's treasure chest

May 2023

SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

As a young child in a small town on the plains of NE Montana, I spent many hours on the lawn gazing up at the sky and watching the clouds move and transform with the movements of the wind. On those days when the clouds were white and puffy I could imagine almost any shape from animals, to land formations to people. But with that breeze they were constantly changing. I knew the wind was moving the clouds, I could feel the soft cool breezes on my face, I could hear the rush of the wind as the leaves rustled through the new spring leaves. And yet I couldn't see that elusive thing called wind and I would marvel at how the clouds could transform in an instant. Such a puzzlement to a child. And it was even more compelling when the thunderstorms of late spring/early summer would appear. Almost out of nowhere the blue skies and soft white clouds would turn dark with the rush of rapidly moving winds. Felt but not seen.

And so it is with the winds of God's Spirit. We feel that spirit in our lives as we move through the changes in our lives. We hear it the words of scripture. We sense it in the peace of prayer. It is there in the warmth of our community of believers. Yet it remains to us the great mystery of faith. And yet, as the scripture says, God's spirit blows within us and through us as we live out our faith.

We pray this month for those who have lost a beloved friend or family member and ask prayers as this change blows into our lives bringing grief and loneliness. We pray for Ruth Hickey on the loss of her niece, Connie. Barb Hickey's Mom, Genevieve, at 101 years, is in the final stages of her life. Prayers for the family in the days ahead. We keep Joyce Newman in our thoughts for her son, Daryl, who is in hospice care. We pray that his recently received Quilt of Valor gives him comfort in his final days.

We give thanks for answered prayers. Ann Crawford is doing well at home after a serious heart issue this month. Rod Paronto has turned a corner with his health after being either in the hospital or rehab since February. He continues to improve at Park Place. Kevin Ferry had a toe amputated and is doing well with the hope that this will prevent what has been an ongoing battle with infection. Prayers for Stacey Zins and her brother Steve upon the death of her step-mother Jean. It was great to have Archie Fuhrman back in worship after many health issues. Janette and Ben Forsyth were able to support her brother, Mike, as we underwent surgery in Seattle after weeks of concerns. He is doing well.

It is with sadness for us yet joy for her, that the winds of change have led Mary Perkins to New Mexico to be with her daughter, Clory. Mary has been a faithful member of Sunrise for decades, working for the glory of God, most notably as a longtime Clerk of Session. We will miss you, Mary.

The breezes of life blow through our lives at Sunrise. Don and Shirley Roehm welcomed another great grandchild to their fold with the birth of a new baby to granddaughter, Emily, in Portland. (...continued on next page)

May 2023

We congratulate Wyatt DeVoss, son of Rikki and Steve and grandson of John and Helen as he graduates from Great Falls High. Likewise we celebrate with Jim and Ilene Casey the graduation of their grandson, Aiden Reinhart, son of Tonya and Brent, from West Point. Ember Woods was blessed to accompany her daughters and son-in-law on a trip to Colorado as her granddaughter, Mary, received her Master's degree.

What a joy to have so many little people that we could present Bibles to our upcoming 3rd graders and preschool Bibles to the younger children. May they find God's spirit in their reading of His word through the years.

Our Columbarium is being blessed with additions from our memorial funds. A new bench has replaced the center one in Memory to Jim Woods, joining the other two in memory of Bill Harp and Allen Woods placed a year ago. We have also added two new concrete planters for flowers at the back of the columbarium - one in memory of Bill Harp and the other for Jim Woods. They both would have been pleased with the ongoing enhancement of this area. Ember Woods has planted flowers in all the planters and with the help of Dan Agnew getting the drip system in place it will be a beautiful spot for meditation - celebrating and remembering those who have left us with the winds of God's spirit.

"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me; Your right hand will hold me fast." (Psalm 139:9-10)

The above passage has always been meaningful to me as the winds of change have moved through my life, knowing that wherever the Spirit of God leads, from births, through childhood, graduations, weddings, jobs, sending a child to live across the sea, through illness and death, God's hand is always there to guide and hold me fast. The winds may change the clouds in our lives, but God's love never changes.

See you in the sunshine, Tana

The mission committee, representing our caring Sunrise family, provided a donation of cookies, snacks, and fruit to the Great Falls Police Department. We felt that there had been a significant amount of serious situations that the members of that department had to deal with, and we wanted to show our appreciation for what they do.

Cookies were baked, snacks were purchased, and fruit and coffee were all a part of this care package.

Please continue to pray for the members of our Great Falls Police Department and the job they do in our Community.



May 2023


FISH Food Bank


	Apr 2023	Year to Date 2023
Families (non-Single)	43	163
Singles	39	166
Adults	113	460
Children	66	173
Meals	2,685	9,495
Pounds of Food	2,600	18,047

- Food Suggestions for June
- Beef Stew, Chili
 - Tuna
 - Canned Spaghetti & Ravioli
 - Cereal
 - Any Type of Pasta



- The next week to volunteer at FISH will be June 12th-16th.
- Our monthly donations from Sunrise in April were: \$255.86.
- Don't forget, you can catch all FISH announcements on our website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net/fish

Summertime Fellowship

Summer has arrived! May has brought rain, sunshine, and flowers. We celebrated the beauty of Mothers by making cards during coffee hour on May 7th and giving all the women in church on May 14th flowers. Thank you, Moms, for everything you do.

Looking forward please join us for these activities:

June - Crayon sorting **June 11th** during coffee hour for the crayon initiative.

- Celebrate Dad's on **June 18th** with donuts during coffee hour.

July - Watch the bulletin for special announcements.

August - **19th** End of summer picnic 11am until 2pm.

You have been sent a picture of Jesus. This will be a fun activity for the summer. Please take flat Jesus with you wherever you travel this summer and post the pictures to our church Facebook. This will be a way that we all can enjoy your trip and stay in touch during the summer.

We would like to restart having people volunteer to be greeters before church on Sunday. You would need to be at the church by 9 AM Sunday morning. There are greeter pins you can wear. You need to welcome everybody as they arrive. If we have visitors make sure they sign the guestbook. If they would like to be introduced, please do so during the announcement time of the service. Invite guests down to coffee hour. If they have children tell them where the nursery and bathrooms are located.

Enjoy your summer and take Jesus with you,
Eric Chigbrow, moderator Faith and Life Committee.

Reminder: When donating cans to the can shed, please remember to tie the bags they are donated in. Thank you for being committed to the aluminum can recycling project!



May 2023

June Calendar of Events:		
June 2 - 3		Presbytery Meeting in Helena
June 4	9:30 am	Worship/Guest Speaker Terry Chaney from Intermountain
	10:45 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Deacons' Meeting
June 11	9:30 am	Worship / New Members Received
	10:45 am	Fellowship /Crayon Sorting - many hands make light work!
June 12	6:00 pm	Faith & Life Meeting
June 18	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bench Dedication
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Donuts for Dad
June 19		Newsletter Deadline
June 21	6:00 pm	Mission & Memorials Committee
June 25	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship
June 27	5:30 pm	Session Meeting
June 28		Newsletter Assembly
Deacons on call for June: Marilyn Andrews and Ember Woods		

Pill Bottle Reuse Program

Many thanks to those of you who have brought in your empty pill bottles for reuse! We are still collecting so continue to remove those labels and make your deposits in the incoming collection bin located at the end of the hall near the upstairs restroom.

Since the local pharmacies will not accept them, we will continue to send them to Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio. There they are utilized and shipped with medical supplies to disaster areas in this country and around the world.

Last year we were able to send nearly twenty pounds from our collections and our shipping costs are being covered by money collected from our aluminum can recycling. Thank you for all your support!



A SUMMER CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

JUNE TEENTH

Saturday, June 17, 2023

1PM TO 4PM
GIBSON PARK
GREAT FALLS, MT

Free event

FEATURING

**FAMILY FRIENDLY ★ LIVE MUSIC ★
GAMES ★ FOOD ★ STORIES ★ FAMILY**

📍 400 Park Dr N, Great Falls, MT 59401

May 2023

June Scripture Reading List: The Joy of the Lord	
<i>Scripture list courtesy of alyssajhoward.com</i>	
1	Romans 15:13
2	James 1:2-4
3	Philippians 4:4-7
4	Galatians 5:22-23
5	John 16:21-22
6	Proverbs 17:22
7	1 Peter 1:8-9
8	Romans 14:17
9	Psalms 118:19-24
10	Psalms 16:9-11
11	John 15:7-11
12	Isaiah 55:10-13
13	Psalms 30:4-5
14	Proverbs 10:28
15	Psalms 71:22-23
16	Nehemiah 8:9-12
17	Psalms 126:5-6
18	Psalms 33:20-22
19	1 Peter 4:12-13
20	Psalms 5:11-12
21	1 Chronicles 16:25-27
22	John 16:24
23	Psalms 51:10-12
24	Isaiah 61:10-11
25	Psalms 94:1-19
26	Isaiah 9:2-3
27	Habakkuk 3:17-19
28	Psalms 30:11-12
29	Colossians 1:9-14
30	Psalms 100

Online giving is available through our website. Visit our church website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net.

From there, you will see a *donate* button on the top left side of the home page. This donation button will take you to the Presbyterian Foundation platform allowing you to set up a single-time giving or recurring giving. You can pay through your bank account or by debit or credit card.

Mission Giving Online: Select “Local Mission” online to donate to a specific cause. Use the memo line when finalizing your contribution.

Office Copy Machine

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the replacement of the church copy machine. With your financial support, we have been able to order a new machine. The total cost of the new machine is \$8,000. As of 5/23, we have collected \$6,700. That means we have reached 75% of our goal! We hope to reach 100% of our goal by Monday, June 5. If you wish to contribute, you can do so in person or online through the church donation button. Donating online? Put “copy machine” in the memo line of your online contribution.

**You're Invited to
Barbara's 90th
Birthday Celebration**

Reception

2:00 PM Friday, June 23rd, 2023
Sunrise Presbyterian Church
3809 6th Ave South Great Falls, MT

RSVP by June 16th to Eric Chigbrow at echigbrow@gmail.com

Birthday Cake

10:45 AM Following Church Services
Sunday, June 25th
Sunrise Presbyterian Church
3809 6th Ave South, Great Falls, MT

May 2023

The Crayon Initiative

Donate used and broken crayons at the end of the school year to be recycled and given to children in hospitals across the United States.

Drop off crayons at Sunrise Presbyterian Church May 23-June 10. Drop-boxes located outside entrances. 3809 6th Ave South, Great Falls



Crayons don't biodegrade. Give your old crayons new life by donating them to The Crayon Initiative. Crayons will be melted and remanufactured into new crayons for kids at hospitals across the country.



IMPACT TO DATE:

240 HOSPITAL PARTNERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES	709,800 PATIENTS HAVE RECEIVED CRAYONS	53,425,968 CRAYONS KEPT FROM LANDFILLS
--	--	--



Crayon sorting during fellowship on June 11

Schedule change:

Terry Chaney from Intermountain will join us in worship on Sunday, June 4th.



DO YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU DON'T USE HANGING AROUND YOUR HOUSE? DON'T KEEP IT UNTIL IT GOES BAD, BRING IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO ENJOY!

IN THE MONTH OF MAY: BRING THEM TO CHURCH AND PUT THEM ON THE EXCHANGE TABLE. SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE? TAKE IT HOME!

Products must be:

- >In the original containers
- >Half or more remaining
- >No products intended for use on eyes or lips

Items may include:

- shampoos, conditioners, bar soaps (unused), gel soaps, lotions, after shave products, perfume/cologne, nail polish, hair products, household cleaners, etc.

PRODUCT TABLE IS IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY. IT WILL STAY UP UNTIL JUNE 12, AFTER WHICH TIME REMAINING SUPPLIES WILL BE DONATED.

May 2023

2023 Session Elders

Class of 2023: Eric Chigbrow, Erica Rusinski, vacant

Class of 2024: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey, Lianna Gaskins

Class of 2025: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull, vacant



Sunrise
Presbyterian
Church

Family

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»

Sunrise Presbyterian Church
PO Box 6568
Great Falls, MT 59406