November 2021

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

“Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us”.

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Worship with us, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Worship is meant to change us. It is meant to be a deeply felt, transformational experience, held together by the Spirit of God. This is our hope every Sunday.

Join us 10:30am, All-Year Round. In-person and online.
Dear friend,

God loves you.
We love you.
Let’s change the world!

This past Sunday, we embarked on a 4-week sermon series, Rooted in Love: Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice, that reframes what stewardship means and what it means to live into God’s economy, an economy based on relationship, generosity, and compassion - where all are fed and welcomed at Christ's ever-growing table of grace. We asked questions about how we might grow in spiritual practice and in love for God, for God’s holy community, for creation - and ourselves, holy temples of God’s love and spirit.

This year, for our Stewardship Campaign, we invite you to join in our joy and our delight: serving God and God’s holy community. We hope you see Billings First Congregational Church as vital to the health and wellness of our community. When you give of your time, talent and tithes to our church, you are supporting not only spiritual transformation, but incredible ministries like Family Promise, the Elk River Intertribal Center, 406 Pride, White Eagle Talking Circle, the Phoenix Gym, Eat. Share. Give., Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center, and Sister Mary V’s Pantry. Our ministries are many, too many to name here, but know that when you support our church, you create a more just and equitable world with us through an ongoing act of generosity and solidarity with God’s plan for peace and wholeness.

We are doing great things and want to keep doing them, here in our neighborhood and city, with you. Your help in this work is vital.
Enclosed you will find a Covenant Card that offers ways to engage spiritually and financially with Billings First Congregational Church. Are there ways that you would like to live out God’s peace and justice with stewardship as a spiritual practice to restore the well-being of the earth, the well-being of the church and community? Maybe you’d like to strengthen your study or prayer life? We are a covenantal people of a covenantal God; God is with us on this journey and we, as the Psalmist says “are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” Come, join us.

Simply fill out the Covenant Card and return by mail or bring to church to place in a basket during a special service, ‘Stewardship Sunday’, November 14th at 10:30am.

In the love of God who gave to us first, we honor your giving as sacred and holy.

In Community and in Christ,
Pastor Lisa K. Harmon

P.S. To see our church and campus in action, come for a visit or check out our website!
Next Sunday Seminar: On Fire for Passion and Purpose. Start Date to be Announced! We will be using the book, River of Fire: On Becoming an Activist, by Sister Helen Prejean, for our 4-week study and discussion. Sister Helen will join us on Zoom as we work through the module and materials. Written in accessible, luminous prose, it speaks to how to live a spiritual life that is wide awake to the sufferings and creative opportunities of our world. This series will be led and moderated by Rev. Lisa K. Harmon

Youth Group meets this Wednesday, November 3, at 5:30 p.m. at Billings First Church for pizza and fun! Pastor Lisa will be leading and she is so excited to play and visit about the upcoming holiday season.

We have great things planned!
Please let us know if you/your children plan to attend - so that we can get a head count for pizza. Signups are below!

Join our Youth Group!
“Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and for Healing the World” by John Philip Newell (JPN) is this year’s selection to read together from September to May. Discussions will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom followed by 30 minutes of contemplative Celtic Evening Prayer. We will also make use of podcasts of conversations between JPN and Rob Bell and submit questions to JPN. Be sure to purchase your book in time to be ready to discuss the Introduction and Chapter 1 for the first meeting on September 21. Register for the Zoom call by contacting Barbara Gulick at barbaragulick@billingsfirstchurch.org

On Tuesday, September 14, at 7:45 a.m., this venerable group will meet in person in the Sweetgrass Room to begin discussing “Witness to Spirit: My Life with Cowboys, Mozart, and Indians,” by Robert Staffanson, founder of the Billings Symphony and the American Indian Institute. Coffee will be available. Walt Gulick (wbgulick@bresnan.net) facilitates this group which discusses non-fiction works of importance, suggested by its members, that deepen our understanding of the social, historical, political, religious, economic, and scientific forces that illuminate our place in the world. A few copies of the Staffanson book are available at This House of Books. Newcomers are welcome!
No appointment needed, just stop by. Everyone is welcome.

Join Pastor Lisa for yoga, community and giggles!
Thursdays at 10 am, in the chapel at BFCC. In this class, foundational yoga postures are practiced to align, strengthen and promote flexibility in the body. Breathing techniques and meditation are also integrated. You can expect an emphasis on simplicity, repetition, and ease of movement. This all-levels yoga class is free and open to the public. Bring your mat, props encouraged. Must sign a liability waiver.

First Friday, 5pm-9pm, every other month starting in October. The next Artwalk is December 3rd. ArtWalk Downtown Billings began in 1994 when a group of
visionary folks created a recurring event to highlight the ever-growing community of artists and art galleries in downtown Billings. Billings First Congregational Church is a proud Artwalk member. ArtWalk in the Chapel Gallery October and December 2021. For more dates and information, contact Edward Barta, edward2b@yahoo.com

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**Take Back Tuesday**

Join us the first Tuesday of every month, 8:45am, at the Jameson Federal Building (corner of 4th & 29th Street in downtown Billings) for prayer and song in solidarity for and with our immigrant sisters and brothers. This event is sponsored by Billings Sanctuary Rising, a group that accompanies advocates on behalf of the immigrant and refugee.

**Monday Meditation with Sarah Hoffman**

You are invited to join Sarah for a beautiful guided meditation adventure every Monday at 4pm on Zoom. All are welcome! For more information visit: [https://www.billingsfirstchurch.org/get-involved](https://www.billingsfirstchurch.org/get-involved)

**Billings Sanctuary Rising** is a compassionate, fierce group that accompanies and advocates on behalf of the immigrant and refugee community. Join us the 3rd Monday of each month, 5pm-6pm, in-person at the church or on Zoom.
Empowered by the wisdom of our traditions, we will name injustice, act in love, affirm the interrelatedness of all creation, and advocate for the dignity, sanctity, and equality of every human being.

This powerful, interfaith group meets the 3rd Wednesday every month, at noon, in-person & Zoom.