



We are Building a Servant Community  
Seeking to be Christ's Hands and Heart.

### **A Prayer for September**

God of the seasons of our lives,  
bless this time of endings and beginnings.

We're grateful for summer:

for sun and warmth,

for travels,

for time with family,

for gardens and growth,

for traditions honored and memories created.

Now, as we edge toward autumn

and our days find new rhythms,

open our eye to the gifts and grace you have for us in this season.

Bless our children as they begin school

and bless those who will teach them.

Grant us fresh energy for our time at work and our time at home,

for our service to others,

and for all that brings meaning to our lives.

We thank you for your constant care.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Written by Susan Thomas

### **Pulpit Supply for September**

September 7th (Communion)  
September 14th  
September 21st  
September 28th

Rev. Susan Thomas  
Rev. David Bierschwale  
Earth Care Service  
Open

### **Liturgist Schedule for September**

September 7th (Communion)  
September 14th  
September 21st  
September 28th

Dave Kimball  
Bob Wood  
Pattie Johnson  
Sandy Welch

### **Musicians Schedule for September**

September 7th (Communion)  
September 14th  
September 21st  
September 28th

Martha Krebill  
JoChatman  
Martha Krebill  
Jo Chatman

### **Greeters and Ushers for September**

September 7th (Communion)  
September 14th  
September 21st  
September 28th

Bob Wood, Mary Wood, Dave Kimball  
Don Johnson, Sandy Welch, Mike Paterson  
Judy Andersen, Janie Wendland, Jim Tarr  
Stan Bayley, Annette Bayley, Cynthia Kessler, Jeff Kessler

### **September Birthdays**

6th Larry Apple  
11th Tanya Molyneaux  
13th Marvel Shearer  
15th Victor White  
19th Virginia Allen

### **September Anniversaries**

26th Annette & Stan Bayley  
26th Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill



September 1st	Labor Day, Office closed
September 3rd	Quilters meet at 12 p.m.
September 7th	Worship time moves to 11 a.m.
	Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.
September 9th	Facilities meets at 9 a.m.
September 10th	Worship Committee meets at 11 a.m.
September 16th	Women's Bible Study begins at 1 p.m.
September 17th	Session meets at 10 a.m.
	Writers group meets at 10 a.m.
September 23rd	Women's Bible Study at 1 p.m.
September 24th	Garden Committee meets at 10 a.m.
September 27th	Garden Room reserved all day
	Homeward Bound 8 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.
	Baby Shower
September 30th	Women's Bible Study at 1 p.m.

\*Al-Anon will continue to be every Thursday at 8 p.m. and Friday at 7 p.m.

### Announcements

- The office will be closed September 1st, through the 5th.
- Office hours will change beginning on September 7th to 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- September 7th Worship service moves back to 11 a.m.

### Women's Bible Study Fall/Winter Schedule

#### **The Eyes Have It!**

This fall, we are looking at varied scriptures that speak about eyes and sight, seeing what lessons and insights God might have for us as we study, pray, and share. Please join us Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room.

#### **September**

Sept. 16	I Sam. 16:7 - <i>The Lord looks on the heart</i>
Sept. 23	2 Chron. 16:9; Prov. 15:3; Ps. 32:8; Ps. 33:13–22 - <i>God is watching over us</i>
Sept. 30	Craft

#### **October**

Oct. 7	Eph. 1:15–23 - <i>Opening the eyes of our heart</i>
Oct. 14	1 Cor. 12:1–17 - <i>We are one body in Christ</i>
Oct. 21	1 Cor. 15 - <i>Resurrection Life: We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye</i>
Oct. 28	Craft

#### **November**

Nov. 4	Matt. 7:1–5 - <i>Judging Others: the speck in one's eye</i>
Nov. 11	Mark 8:22–26; Matt. 9:27–31; John 9:1–7; Mark 10:46–52 - <i>Jesus heals the blind</i>
Nov. 18	2 Kings 6:8–23 - <i>A story of unseen protection and mercy</i>
Nov. 25	Craft

#### **December**

September is a busy month for our Earth Care Team! For the third year in a row, we are sponsors of **Billings Climate Week**, which will take place September 14-17 this year. And then on Sunday, September 21, the Earth Care Team will lead worship. This year, our theme is “Sun Day.”



What is “Sun Day?” We have “Earth Day” in April, so on this autumn equinox Sunday, we will remember the gifts and the power of the Sun. The sun is God’s creation, which provides the Earth with light and heat. The sun’s energy is the beginning of the food chain as well as the driver of Earth’s weather, climate, and seasons. We measure time by the sun. Harnessing solar power is increasingly recognized as a climate crisis solution. This seems like a good time to think about the Sun, God’s gift to the world God loves!



BILLINGS  
CLIMATE COALITION

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Sunday, Sept 14, 10:30 am ***Ride for Their Lives***. Sponsored by MT Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate and Billings Trail Net, and part of an international campaign, this annual bike ride draws attention to the effects of climate change on children’s health.

Sunday, Sept 14, 5 pm ***Understanding Eco-Anxiety and Channeling it into Action***, keynote address sponsored by Billings Climate Coalition. Speaker Heather White and youth panelists will share inspiration and practical wisdom to strengthen community resolve and motivate collective action toward a sustainable future. Come at 5 pm to meet sponsors and student activists (light supper provided) and then hear the program at 6 pm in Petro Theater of MSU-B.

Tuesday, Sept 16, 5:30 pm ***Single Use Planet***, a free film screening describing the plastics crisis and what communities are doing about it. Discussion will follow, including launching the “Billings Skip the Stuff” program. At Art House Cinema. Ticket reservations are highly recommended. (arthousebillings.com)

Wednesday, Sept 17, 5:30 pm ***Indigenous Sovereignty as a Climate Solution***, led by *Honor the Earth* spokesperson Krystal Two Bulls. How do these two concerns connect? At Art House Cinema

The early rain, the heat of summer, and plenty of watering have blessed us with a beautiful garden this year. Our gardeners are rolling in more produce than they can use, so they're sharing with neighbors and contributing generously to the Mission Garden deliveries for Family Service. Deliveries have now passed the **2,500 lbs.** mark, and we're not done yet, with plenty of summer and winter squash and potatoes still coming on. Family Service is thrilled with the fresh produce and reports that clients are receiving it with joy.

The **Parade of Gardens** in early August, sponsored by the Magic City Community Gardens coalition, was a big success. We had about 25 visitors tour the garden and share in its beauty.

Have you tried our **new honey supply**? One-pound bottles from Magic City Apiary are for sale in the Garden Room, and sales have been brisk!

As summer winds down, we're planning for fall activities, including our annual **Harvest Dinner** in October. Final garden workdays will be scheduled in late October to clean up and prepare for winter. The days and weeks seem to have flown by, and it's hard to believe the gardening season is already nearing its end.

In August, a group of gardeners enjoyed a **Mustangs baseball outing**. The weather was perfect, the Mustangs won in the last inning, and we all had a wonderful evening together. We're already looking forward to another outing next year.

The new **Native Plant Garden** is doing well in its first year. Have you seen the native blooms? Shirley has put in hours of hard work pulling weeds and clearing rocks, so we're ready to add more plants and sow grass seed this fall. Establishing it will be a multi-year project, but it's off to a strong start.

The Creator has truly blessed us with the great bounty of the earth. For this, we can be deeply thankful.



Does God hear our prayers? Of course he does and he will answer them. 1 John 5:14 assures us that, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

Even though God hears us, we might not like his answer. Sometimes he answers "yes," sometimes "no," and others "not yet." Many people think that if they don't immediately get the answer they desire, God has not answered - not even considering that the answer might be "no" or "not yet." Sometimes it takes a little patience. By the way, we have to be careful for what we pray. If we pray for patience, God might just send us things that test our patience until we learn it. And God has been known to change his mind due to insistent and persistent prayer. Jesus also tells his disciples a parable in Luke 18:1-8 "to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Jesus compares God to a judge constantly pestered by a woman until he finally relents and gives the woman what she wants.

In any event, we should maintain contact with God or we may end up like the Jake the rancher in this poem:

### **"The Rancher's Prayer"** by Bill Jones

Jake the rancher went one day to fix a distant fence. The wind was cold and gusty, and the clouds rolled gray and dense. As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go, the temperature had fallen and the snow began to blow.

When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart. From the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start. So Jake did what most of us would do if we'd have been there, he humbly bowed his balding head and sent aloft a prayer.

As he turned the key for the last time, he softly cursed his luck. They found him three days later, frozen stiff in that old truck. Now Jake had been around in life and done his share of roamin', but when he saw Heaven, he was shocked it looked just like Wyomin'.

Oh, there were some differences, of course, but just some minor things. One place had simply disappeared the town they called Rock Springs. The BLM had been shut down; there were no grazin' fees. And the wind in Rawlins and Cheyenne was now a gentle breeze.

The Park and Forest Service folks, they didn't fare so well. They'd all been sent to fight some fire in a wilderness called Hell. Though Heaven was a real nice place, Jake had a wondering mind. So he saddled up and lit a shuck, not know'n what he'd find.

Then one day up in Cody, on a cold fall afternoon, he saw St. Peter coming, and he knew he'd be there soon. Of all the saints in Heaven, his favorite was St. Peter. Now, this line, it ain't needed, but it helps with rhyme and meter.

So they set and talked a minute or two, or maybe it was three. Nobody was keepin' score, in Heaven time is free. "I've always heard," Jake said to Pete, "that God will answer prayers. But the one time that I asked for help, He just plain wasn't there.

"Does God answer prayers of some, and ignore the prayers of others? That don't seem exactly square, I know all men are brothers. Or does He randomly reply, without good rhyme or reason? Maybe it's the time of day, the weather, or the season.

"Now I ain't trying to act smart, it's just the way I feel. And I was wonderin', could you tell what the heck's the deal?" Peter listened very patiently, and when Jake was done, there were smiles of recognition, and he said, "So, you're the one!

"That day your truck, it wouldn't start, and you sent your prayer a-flying, you gave us all a real bad time, with hundreds of us a-trying. A thousand angels rushed to check the status of your file, but you know, Jake, we hadn't heard from you in quite a while.

"And though all prayers are answered, and God ain't got no quota. He didn't recognize your voice, and started a truck in North Dakota

This month we celebrate one of our own, Dave Kimball, whose faith, leadership, and hard work have helped make the St. Andrew's Community Garden what it is today. Dave was recently recognized by *Q2 News* for his decades of service and dedication to both our church and the wider Billings community.

More than 23 years ago, Dave and a small group of members planted the seed, quite literally, for what has now become the St. Andrew Community Garden. Under his vision and faithful leadership, the garden has grown into more than 100 plots. Half of these are open to members of the community who want a space to garden, while the other half form our "mission garden." This mission section produces over 2.5 tons of fresh vegetables each year, which are donated to local organizations like Family Service to support families in need. Dave describes it beautifully: *"The wonderful thing about this garden is that it's a community of people working together. It's about much more than growing food, it's about growing relationships and caring for one another."*

Dave's journey to this ministry is remarkable. He grew up on a farm near Hysham and studied Agricultural Education, so gardening has always been a part of him. But before he returned to Montana soil, Dave spent 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a pilot during the Vietnam War, later taught at the Air War College, and traveled the world in service to his country. After retiring, he and his wife Gail returned home to Montana, where Dave also helped launch the aviation program at Rocky Mountain College.

Yet despite such an accomplished career, Dave is known today not for flying high, but for digging deep. Those who work alongside him in the garden describe him as a quiet leader who leads by example, working harder than anyone else while encouraging others to share in the joy of the harvest.

Beyond the garden, Dave is also active in Billings' annual Climate Week, dedicated to education and action around the stewardship of God's creation. His faithful witness has been recognized widely, he has received the Eco-Justice Award from Presbyterians for Earth Care, as well as the highest recognition awarded by Rotary International.

When asked what keeps him going, Dave simply says: *"It's a feeling of fulfillment that you are doing something that benefits other people, strengthens our community, and reflects our call to be good stewards."*

We give thanks for Dave's example of faith in action. His story reminds us that service comes in many forms, sometimes in the skies above, and sometimes right here in the soil beneath our feet.

Please join us in congratulating Dave on this well-deserved recognition!



Address Service Request  
180 24th Street West  
Billings, MT 59102

