



# St. Andrew

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are Building a Servant Community Seeking to be Christ's Hands and Heart.  
180 24th Street West Billings, Montana 59102 (406) 656-9256 [standrewbillings.org](http://standrewbillings.org)

## *Andrew's Net*

Catching up On The Latest News



hello  
*July*

# July 2026 Schedule

July 1

July 2

July 3

July 4

July 5

Speaker:

Liturgist:

Music:

AV:

Greeters & Ushers:

July 8

July 9

July 10

July 11

July 12

Speaker:

Liturgist:

Music:

AV:

Greeters & Ushers:

July 15

July 16

July 17

July 19

Speaker:

Liturgist:

Music:

AV:

Greeters & Ushers:

July 20

July 21

July 23

July 24

July 26

Speaker:

Liturgist:

Music:

AV:

Greeters & Ushers:

July 30

July 31

Garden Committee – 10:00 AM

Al-Anon – 8:00 PM

Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

Bluegrass Jam Night – 7:00–9:00 PM

**Independence Day**

**Worship Service**

Rev. Jody McDevitt

Curt Kochner

Martha Krebill

Brendan McCann

Bob & Mary Wood, Don Johnson

Facilities – 10:00 AM

Worship Committee – 11:00 AM

**Birthday: Linda Molyneaux**

Al-Anon – 8:00 PM

Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

Bluegrass Jam Night – 7:00–9:00 PM

Dab N' Gab – time to be determined

**Worship Service**

Elder Curt Kochner

Dave Kimball

Martha Krebill

Brendan McCann

Sandy Welch, Mike Paterson

Session – 10:00 AM

Al-Anon – 8:00 PM

Writers Group – 10:00 AM

Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

Bluegrass Jam Night – 7:00–9:00 PM

**Worship Service**

Rev. Caleb Perdew

Patti Johnson

Jo Chatman

Brendan McCann

July Anderson, Janie Wendland, Dave Kimball

**Birthday: Curt Kochner**

**Anniversary: Susan Thomas & Curt Kochner**

Al-Anon – 8:00 PM

**Birthday: Kristin Kochner**

Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

Bluegrass Jam Night – 7:00–9:00 PM

**Worship Service**

Rev. David Bierschwale

Dave Kimball

Jo Chatman

Kristin Kochner

Stan Bayley, Annette Bayley, Cynthia Kessler, Jeff Kessler

Al-Anon – 8:00 PM

**Birthday: Cari Kimball**

Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

Bluegrass Jam Night – 7:00–9:00 PM

## REVAMP THE CAMP 2026

By: Annette Bayley

Photos by: Jeff Kessler and Shirley Dore

First Things First – Hats off to Sandy Welch for once again organizing this event and making it such a success! Sandy's commitment and dedication to Westminster Spires Church Camp (spanning decades) is a major factor enabling an ongoing opportunity for youth (and others) to learn of, and enjoy, all that God has provided for us.

### **You don't know what you're missing...**

... if you haven't visited Westminster Spires Church Camp recently. What beauty! The majestic Spires, the forest, rushing Rock Creek, the smell of the pines, and this past week, the fabulous wildflowers and even a bear – or two!

I had the pleasure of visiting and working during Revamp the Camp this past weekend along with 7 other very faithful St. Andrew members who make up the largest contingent of camp workers each year. Sandy Welch, Jeff and Cynthia Kessler, Curt Kochner, Shirley Dore, and Don and Patty Johnson worked diligently for days cleaning, organizing, repairing and mowing in order to get the camp ready for this summer's Church Camps as well as the weddings and reunions held there. Few others dedicate as much time and effort as these loyal servants. They would be the first to admit that none of them are Spring Chickens and the work is great and the workers few. We need more volunteers, and not just from St. Andrew, to keep up with Westminster Spires.

And it's not all work! We enjoyed such camaraderie as we worked, dined, laughed and just plain enjoyed each others' company. The food was great, thanks to Sandy and the kitchen help. The camping was great whether in the admittedly rustic cabins or in our private RVs and trailers. Did you know you can camp in the meadow surrounded by wildflowers and trees and still have electricity and enjoy hot showers either "at home" or at the shower rooms?

Most of us stayed several days but all were welcome to come for as few or many days as they were able. I'm sure Jim Tarr would have been there the whole time if he had been able. And we all missed him. There are opportunities to visit and dine in Red Lodge, to drive up the Beartooth Highway, to go hiking or just strolling, and even fishing just yards away in Rock Creek.

Consider making Revamp the Camp a priority for you in 2027. Or, just make it a summer destination while church camps are going on so you, too, can take in God's splendor under the Westminster Spires. You'll be glad you did. I sure am.





Cinnamon colored black bear



Annette and Cythina enjoying camp



Photos by Shirley Dore and Jeff Kessler

## REVAMP THE CAMP 2026

By: Sandy Welch

Many thanks to the St Andrew family for assisting in getting Westminster Spires ready for another camping season.

Jeff Kessler painted the Women's restroom floor and it looks fabulous.

Don Johnson with the help of Jeff Kessler and Curt Kochner put up a new sign for the camp. (In the Rain.) The sign is shiny and easy to read from the road.

Cynthia Kessler cleaned the Craft Building. It is already for arts and craft projects this summer. Annette Bailey, Shirley Dore, Patti Johnson and Russ Kline assisted me in cleaning the kitchen and Proud Hall.

Bill Stewart (Friend of the Church) figured out the problem with the washing machine and fixed it. He also cleaned the outhouses. He is a true friend of the church.

Russ had an electrician friend come up to help figure out why the 2 outlets and the exhaust fan stopped working. Apparently the squirrels and mice like to chew up wire insulation. There was a flash burn mark on one of the beams. Thank God the Camp didn't burn down. Wires have been replaced and all outlets are working.

The mighty St Andrew warriors and their friends were able to get the camp ready for Summer.

Annette loved the camp so much she convinced Stan to come up and spend the night. (We put him to work.)

Thanks to Patti and Jannie for the cookies.

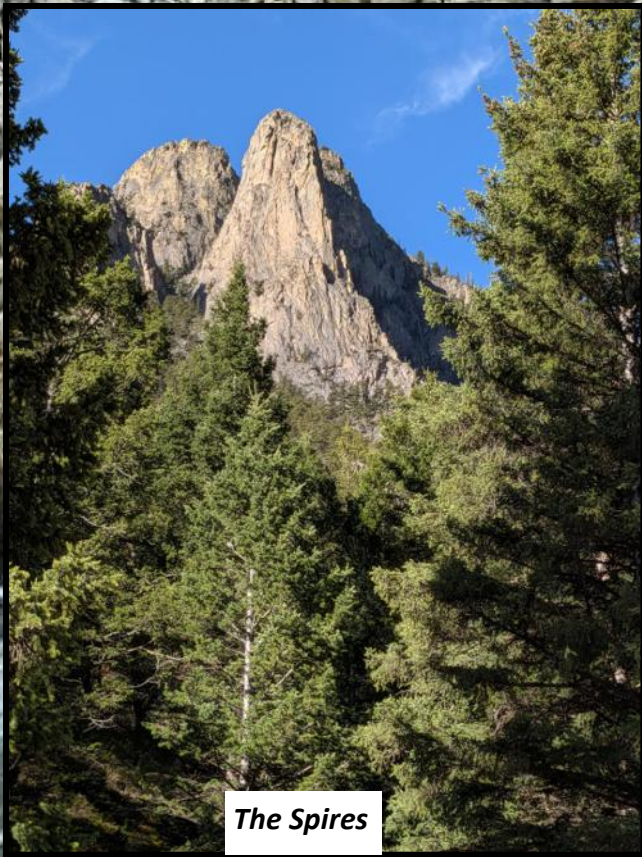
Annette and Shirely took a bunch of pictures of the wild flowers around camp . (Ask to see them.)

Jeff took pictures of the bears that came down in the morning to graze on the grass. We even had whitetail deer visit us.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Welch





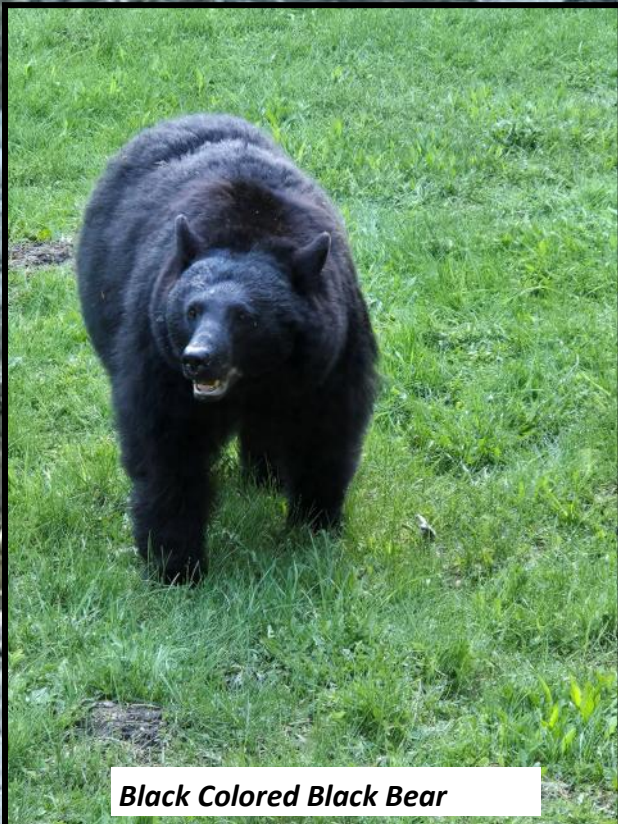
*The Spires*



*Cinnamon Colored Black Bear*



*Chief Cook and Bottle Washer – Sandy Welch*



*Black Colored Black Bear*



Photos by Shirley Dore and Jeff Kessler

## GARDEN GLEANINGS

*by Dave Kimball*

The garden is really coming to life with plants popping out of the ground. It is slowly turning from brown to green. Several good rains have helped us along and, unfortunately, the weeds as well. The recent hailstorm was only pea-sized and did not cause significant damage to the plants.

The first crops from the Mission Garden have been harvested and delivered to Family Services. These include radishes, rhubarb, turnips, and garlic. There will be more early crops to be delivered soon. As the radishes are harvested the pepper plants go into those beds as a second crop.

We thought the orchard tree blossoms made it through the frost we had in mid-May but now see that there is almost no fruit forming other than a few cherries. With a year to rest, the trees should be ready for a big crop next year.

Our warming climate and unusual warm temperatures have lured us into planting earlier. However, frost or snowstorms in May were common in previous decades. Several gardeners lost tomato plants and had to replant this year.

We hosted a Garden Seedling Swap sponsored by the Magic City Community Gardens group that was a big success. A lot of people were looking for plants to replace those lost to the frost. A steady stream of seedlings went in and out of the Garden Room door for two hours, and there were very few left at the end.

We will have a group of teenagers from the Catholic Youth Volunteer program at the garden later in June for a second year. They have been a big help in getting early weeds under control and helping with other tasks. It is a great group, and it is a joy to have them with us for a day.

It is inspiring to know that others in our community appreciate the garden and make donations to support our operations. Our thanks go out to the Billings Bloomers Garden Club and their gift from their annual African Violets sale that they hold in the Garden Room. And we received a memorial gift from a family whose mother appreciated visiting the garden with one of our gardeners.

We are blessed with wonder gardeners and a supporting community.

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### SHEKINAH

I'm reading a bible study book "Growing in the fruit of the Spirit, tending the wild garden" by Eugenia Anne Gamble. It is well written and gives you points to ponder as you read. In the first chapter, we are introduced to several Hebrew words. I want to share the word **Shekinah**. The Hebrew word meaning is "Dwelling" or "Settling". It refers to the tangible presence of GOD on earth. GOD is dwelling among the humans. In Christianity this word is commonly used to describe the awe-inspiring glory of GOD, often linked to the Holy Spirit dwelling inside believers. Eugenia describes Shekinah: "It surrounds us like a morning mist, and while we may think it burns off when the heat is high in our lives, it does not." Shekinah is with us when we are in pain or feel helpless. I like to think of Shekinah as the hug we need during our down and out times. During worship on June 14th, I shared a Shekinah moment. On June 12th, while I was at Presbytery in Bozeman, I received a phone call from my neighbor stating there was a fire over the hill and the winds were blowing toward our homes. Of course I'm all worried, wondering if I'll have a home to go back to after Presbytery. I shared my worries during our meeting and Dave Thompson paused our meeting to say a prayer for me and my neighbors. A few hours later I got the call that the fire was contained to that one location and everyone was safe. I shared the good news with everyone at Presbytery and heard Hallelujah. This was my Shekinah moment. Knowing I am never alone because GOD is with me.

Sandy Welch



# St. Andrew

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



## Prayer for July

Dear Lord, we ask that you go before us this month. We ask for Your grace and mercy to rain down on us and for Your Spirit to renew us. May we feel your power and strength rise up within us. We pray for help for all who are in need. We pray for comfort for the hurting, hope for the hopeless and rest for the weary. Thank you for your faithfulness. We are grateful for our blessings, your promises and your great love for us. may we live each day with an attitude of gratitude and take nothing for granted. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Guided By Grace

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