

The Cathedral Times

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

Helena, MT February 2026



From the Dean

Visioning for 2026

At the Annual Meeting I asked for to help with casting a vision for 2026 by reflecting on areas of ministry that could use transformation and also what that transformation might look like. Here's a sampling of your responses:

"We need to embrace tolerance of our differences."

"Explore how our faith is lived out in the world."

"We need to create something eye catching for visitors to take with them to tell them about who we are and inviting them to learn about God's love for them and inviting them to join us."

"Congregational participation across all ages of Christian formation (intergenerational)"

"Robust Bible studies"

"We need to invite more people into leadership and serving in various roles."

"Church members need to take part in talking about their giving and why St. Peter's is important."

"We need to partner with the Montana Community Foundation to process planned gifts."

"A full-time choir director and more choir members."

"A greater variety in music--some informal singing (think guitars, etc), some thoughtful (think Taizé), some youth singing (learn new songs)."

Of the 31 responses, 7 focused primarily on worship and music, 7 on volunteer recruitment/training/retention, 6 on Christian formation/education for all ages, and 5 on hospitality/welcoming new members/growth. Guided by this, I'd like to initiate conversations about worship starting in March. For now, I invite your prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide us in these conversations.

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Worship News

Sunday Worship during Lent

Our Sunday worship patterns change in Lent as we invite the cathedral family into a season of turning and re-turning. (“Return again to the home of your soul,” is the refrain of a song we’ll sing each Sunday.)

The Lenten path begins the Last Sunday after the Epiphany (Feb 15), when the children process the Alleluia out of our worship space at the liturgy’s close. We’ll bury it after our cathedral supper on Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 17). (See an entry elsewhere in this issue for info about Ash Wednesday offerings.) We will not say “Alleluia” again until Easter Day—beginning at the Great Vigil at sundown on Saturday, when the liturgical day of Easter dawns. On Sunday morning, we will “resurrect” the Alleluia; look for the colorful banners decorating our walls through the Great Fifty Days!

Not only do we silence the Alleluia during Lent, we also withdraw the “Glory to God” hymn which we often use to open our Sunday Eucharist. We will replace this outburst of praise with the simple, spoken plea Kyrie or “Lord, have mercy.”

Sunday worship in general will be a bit quieter, as we speak (rather than sing) portions of the Eucharist, such as the Sanctus. A cantor will offer the appointed Psalm so the congregation can listen intently with the ear of their heart.

We’ll return to the 1979 edition of Book of Common Prayer for our Confession and for The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer D).

With fourth-century roots, the prayer (Prayer D) attributed to St. Basil—a champion of our understanding of the Holy Trinity—gives a more complete recitation of Christ’s redemptive work than any other Eucharistic prayer in our BCP. It acknowledges that the scope of Christ’s salvation is not only for humans, but for all creation. Prayer D includes intercessions within its body, so there are no separate Prayers of the People during Lent.

On the first Sunday of Lent, our worship begins with the Great Litany—whose lineage also dates back to at least the fourth century—sung in procession. Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer cast the Great Litany in English in 1544, making it the first component of the Book of Common Prayer (1549) to be published and spoken in the vernacular. It emphasizes our dependence on God’s mercy in every aspect of our lives. *Cont. on page 4*

Worship News

SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday, February 17

5:30 pm Pancake Supper

(Donations to St. Peter's Social Concerns Committee)

6:00 pm Bury Alleluias and Make Ash

Thanks to our Flippers from the Social Concerns Committee, we'll gather to feast on pancakes and sausage the night before we begin our Lenten fasts. Dress warmly because then we'll process to the columbarium garden to ...

Say good-bye to our friend, the Alleluia!—for a time. During our move into the season of Lent there are certain words of praise that we “bury,” the better to focus on quieter aspects of Christ's joy. We don't sing the Glory to God (Gloria) in the opening of our Sunday worship and—during prayer and song—we strike the alleluia from our lips.

These weeks, the Sunday School children are creating small, colorful alleluia banners that we'll parade out of the church on the last Sunday before Lent, and “bury” them together on Shrove Tuesday (after we feast on pancakes!). They'll be resurrected with Jesus on Easter Day—and they'll decorate the walls of our buildings throughout the Easter season.

We have plenty of alleluia banners to color. Don't be surprised to find them on the tables during coffee hour for children age 3 to 93 to color. We hope you'll step into the company of Christians through the ages and enrich this tradition at St. Peter's with your own participation.

... Make ash

Another tradition we'll enjoy this year is burning our last year's palms to make ash for this year's Ash Wednesday observance. With our acolytes lighting the way—and plenty of adult supervision—after burying the Alleluias, the children will gather round to help our clergy make ash for the next day's liturgies when we “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

When Shrove Tuesday rolls around on February 17, come hungry, fill your bellies, and—with our cathedral children—enliven your spirit with the richness of traditions old and new.

Worship News



Ash Wednesday at St. Peter's

“Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts...”

—From the Ash Wednesday Collect.

You are invited to take the first steps on the Lenten path by receiving the mark of ash and/or the gifts of Holy Communion. Join us at:

- 7:00am (at the cathedral)
- 12:00pm (at the cathedral)
- 12:30pm (at Touchmark)
- 6:00pm (at the cathedral)

Enjoy fellowship and food at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper the night before—to benefit the Social Concerns Committee—and help our Sunday School children bury the Alleluias and make the Ash we'll offer the next day.

Celebration Sundays

Celebration Sundays, held the third Sunday of each month, are an opportunity to celebrate God's gifts being used in and through our community. For the Celebration Sunday in February we will give thanks for those who serve on our Chapter--both those who are “outgoing and incoming” in 2026. The basic responsibilities of the Chapter (known in other parishes as the Vestry) are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

Continued from page 2 On the second Sunday of Lent, the liturgy opens with the Penitential Order, an expanded section of confession and absolution. It replaces the Confession and Absolution that normally appear later in the Eucharist.

We hope these practices help foster for you a Holy Lent. —The Rev. Robin Biffle, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

Worship News

An Ecumenical Lenten Journey on Thursdays

Because of the strong and joyful response to our ecumenical Youth Collective on Wednesday evenings for confirmation and high school students, this Lent, St. John's Lutheran Church (1000 Helena Ave, Helena) and Saint Peter's Episcopal Cathedral (511 N Park, Helena) invite you to journey together through the season as we worship, share meals, and grow in faith as one community.

Each Thursday offers two opportunities to gather in fellowship and prayer as we journey through the Stations of the Cross together. For more details about the ECW Lectures, see page 12 of the Cathedral Times. The schedule will be as follows:

February 26 11:45am Midday Prayer, "Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested" St. Peter's
12:00 pm Lunch, St. Peter's followed by ECW lecture by Matthew Bishop
5:30 pm Dinner, St. John's
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Prayer, "Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested" St. John's

March 5 11:45 am Midday Prayer, "Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin," St. Peter's
12:00 pm Lunch, St. Peter's & ECW lecture by Corrie Williamson, American Prairie
5:30 pm Dinner, St. John's
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Prayer, "Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin," St. John's

March 12 11:45 am Midday Prayer, "Jesus is Denied by Peter," St. Peter's
12:00 pm Lunch, St. Peter's & ECW lecture by Corrie Williamson, American Prairie
5:30 pm Soup Supper, St. John's
6:30-7:00 pm- Evening Prayer, "Jesus is Denied by Peter," St. John's

March 19 11:45 am Midday Prayer, "Jesus is Judged by Pilate," St. Peter's
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch, St. Peter's & ECW lecture by John Tubbs
5:30 pm Soup Supper, St. John's
6:30-7:00 pm- Evening Prayer, "Jesus is Judged by Pilate," St. John's

March 26 11:45 am Midday Prayer, "Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns,"
St. Peter's
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch, St. Peter's & ECW lecture by Bishop Marty Stebbings
5:30 pm Dinner, St. John's
6:30-7:00 pm Evening Prayer, "Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns,"
St. John's

Whether you join us at midday, in the evening, or both, we hope you'll walk with us through this Lenten season of reflection, community, and shared faith.

Worship News

Morning Prayer is Online 8:30 to 9 AM Monday through Saturday

Join us on zoom for Morning Prayer! This worship ministry began during Covid and has endured because so many of us find it a wonderful way to start the day in God's presence with each other. The morning prayer liturgy is in the Book of Common Prayer but you don't need one to take part. Some folks join every day. Some folks only come on Saturdays or when they don't have to work.

We read the psalms, lessons, and gospel for the day, use intercessions from the BCP, and add prayer requests from the parish and from our hearts. We enjoy praying and being together. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (New Revised Standard Version)

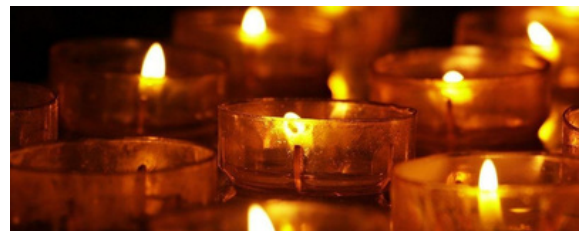
All you need is a computer, tablet, or phone to join Zoom.

- Go to www.spchelena.org which is St. Peter's Cathedral website.
- Click on Virtual Center near the top.
- Click on Morning Prayer under Worship.
- Open Zoom.
- Click to join.
- Click on "Join with computer audio."
- If you have trouble joining Zoom, call Maggie Stockwell at 406-465-0707 for help and we will get you started!



St. Peter's Lenten Taizé

"Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Spirit, is already prayer."

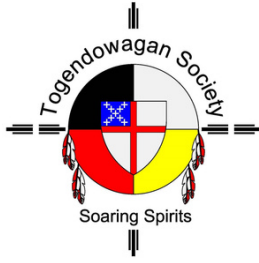


Come and be wrapped in prayerful quiet, gentle candlelight, and simple melodic chanting as the workweek comes to a close.

You are welcome to St. Peter's worship space during Lent—Fridays at 5:15 starting on February 20—for 30 minutes of Taizé-style prayer and music, an oasis of calm for the weary, burdened, and worn.

Join Katie Loveland and musician friends for meditative songs from the Taizé tradition, each followed by a short spoken invitation into reflection or prayer, and a few minutes of silence. The mind calms and the soul opens. God speaks and the heart hears. Turn. Return. Return again.

Worship News: Togendowagan Spirit Society



*A whisper of winter reveals that when we dare to face
what the wind is hiding, faith leads us through
the doorway truth opens.*

A Reflection: Truth Lifted by Wind (Wdetthēwen mbeshkek gtebenegen)

In these winter weeks, when the winds move strangely across our valley and our nation feels pulled in many directions, I've been listening to the burdens friends and family are carrying in these restless days and sensing Gichi-Manidoo's (Creator's) breath pushing these words forward, I keep returning to an old Anishinaabe story, one that speaks with surprising clarity to the work of faith.

Long ago, a village existed in the shelter of a great hill. The winds were their teachers, their helpers, their messengers. But one winter, the winds began to behave in ways no one understood. They came at the wrong times. They carried dust instead of blessing. They stirred fear instead of comfort.

People argued about what was happening. Some said the winds were angry. Some said the winds were lying. Some said nothing was wrong at all. Suspicion grew heavier than the snow.

In that village lived a young boy who spent his days watching the hill. He noticed something the adults had missed: a group of outsiders had cut a path through the trees on the far side of the ridge. Those trees had been the windbreak that protected the village. Without them, the winds rushed in wild and confused.

The boy told the leaders what he had seen. Some dismissed him. Some were embarrassed. Some were angry because the truth meant they would have to act. But the boy kept speaking, not loudly, not with blame, just with clarity. Finally, an elder woman said, *"Truth is not a weapon. It is a doorway. Let us walk through it."* And when the leaders walked through that doorway, they discovered the fuller story: the strangers who cut the trees were not enemies. They were hungry, cold, and trying to survive a harsh winter. The winds were not angry. The people were not cursed. The village simply had a responsibility to respond.

So, the community gathered. They replanted the trees. They built shelter for the strangers. They made agreements about how to share the land and protect the hill. And slowly, the winds settled back into their proper rhythm.

Later, the boy asked the elder, *"Why did the winds calm down?"*

She answered, *"Because the winds carry what we carry. When we live in fear, they bring fear. When we live in truth, they bring truth. When we live in balance, they bring balance."*

This story isn't important because it mirrors our political moment. It's important because it mirrors our spiritual calling. *cont. on page 8*

Worship News

Truth-telling, accountability, compassion, resisting fear, and working for the common good are not political stances, they are faith practices. They are the way we keep our hearts aligned with Creator's heart, the way we protect the vulnerable, the way we restore what has been damaged, and the way we live as people who believe that every person carries worth.

Faith teaches us that:

- Truth is a spiritual discipline, not a weapon.
- Accountability is a form of care, not punishment.
- Compassion is the measure of our integrity, not a sign of weakness.
- Fear is not a guide, love is.
- The common good is a sacred responsibility, not an optional charge.

The winds of our time may be unsettled, but our calling remains steady: to walk through the doorway of truth and help restore the world.

May we carry truth with courage.

May we carry compassion with tenderness.

May we carry the common good with joy.

And may the winds, within us and around us, shift toward balance once again.

Aho -Darcy O'Dell, Elder Togendowagan Spirit Society

Language can make a difference in meaning: Wdetthëwen mbeshkek gtebenegen -
Truth lifted by the wind.

Breakdown (Potawatomi)

- Wdetthëwen — truth
- mbeshkek — wind
- gtebenegen — it is lifted/carried upward

Truth is not just in the wind, but lifted or carried by it. There are moments when truth does not rise from our own strength, but is carried to us; lifted, revealed, and set before us by forces older than memory. The wind has always been a messenger, moving between worlds, stirring what has settled, uncovering what has been hidden. When truth is lifted by the wind, it comes not as accusation but as guidance, not as a weapon but as a gift. It asks us to listen with the whole of our being, to steady our hearts, and to walk with humility into whatever doorway it opens. For when the wind carries truth, it carries us toward balance, toward right relationship, and toward the path Creator has been whispering all along.

Worship News

Communion Bread and Communion Wafers

Do you prefer to receive Eucharist through bread or wafers? There are good arguments for both, with bread winning the theological arguments and wafers winning the practicality argument.

Bread signifies sustenance—that we are “made full” with God’s grace, love and forgiveness. Unleavened bread implies a connection with the Passover meal and the Exodus, i.e. the preparation of the unleavened bread as the Hebrews prepared to flee slavery in Egypt and the rescue from slavery to sin and death offered through the bread of Eucharist.

The history of wafers dates back to the 7th century. The cracker-like wafer was prized for its long shelf life and easier storage. Another common point of praise for wafers is the lack of crumbs which, when left in the chalice, may be off putting for subsequent receivers. Yet, the bread conveys the story of Christ’s death on the cross, which was not a “nice” or “neat” or “sanitary” event. The bread, therefore, does not need to be “neat.”

As bread does create more work for the already busy Altar Guild, we’ll only try it for the Sundays of Lent. Gluten free wafers will still be available.

Calling All Bakers! We are looking for people to bake communion bread for the Sundays during the season of Lent. Please contact Dean Kendra to sign up. Thank you!

Honey Whole Wheat Communion Bread

Ingredients: 5 c whole wheat flour
1 tbs plus 2 tsp. baking powder
2 ½ tsp salt
⅔ c milk
⅔ c extra virgin olive oil
⅔ c honey
⅔ c water

Combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the milk and olive oil to the dry ingredients and mix well. Warm the honey and mix with the water. Add the honey and water to the batter gradually. The batter should not be too sticky. Shape the dough into a log and cut into 10 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one ball into a large circle, about 6" in diameter. This will be the priest’s host. Roll out remaining balls into rectangles about 3/16" thick. Bake at 400 degrees for 10-12 minutes. When cool, cut rectangular loaves into 5/8" x 1 1/4" bite sized pieces. Store the bread in an air-tight container.

February 2026

Legend of Locations
SPC: t. Peter's Cathedral Sanctuary
T: Touchmark
WH: Wilson Hall

G: Guild Room
UC: Undercroft
DH: Diocesan House
V: Virtual

FCC: First Christian Church

SUNDAY	4th Sunday after the Epiphany 1 8:15 am - Choir rehearsal, choir room 9:00 am - Holy Eucharist 10:00 am - Fellowship, UC 10:15 am Sugarcane debriefing, G	5th Sunday after the Epiphany Migration with Dignity Sunday Family Promise Host Week, FCC 8 8:15 am - Choir Rehearsal, Choir room 9:00 am - Holy Eucharist, SPC 9:00 am - Sunday School, WH 10:00 am Fellowship, UC 10:15 am Migration with Dignity, WH 12:30 pm- Holy Eucharist at Touchmark	6th Sunday after the Epiphany 15 8:15 am- Choir Rehearsal, Choir room 9:00 am - Holy Eucharist, SPC 9:00 am- Sunday School, WH 10:00 am - Fellowship, UC 10:15 am- Celebration Sunday 11:00 am Chapter meeting	1st Sunday of Lent 22 8:15 am - Choir Rehearsal, Choir room 9:00 am - Holy Eucharist, SPC 10:00 am - Fellowship, UC 10:15 am Strategic planning, WH
	2 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 10:15 am - Lectionary Study Group, WH 6:00 pm - Gamblers Anon, WH	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 9 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 10:15 am- Lectionary Study group,WH Family Promise 6:00 pm - Gamblers Anon, WH	16 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 10:15 am - Lectionary Study Group, WH 6:00 pm - Gamblers Anon, WH	23 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 10:15 am - Lectionary Study Group, WH 6:00 pm - Gamblers Anon, WH
MONDAY	3 7:00 am - Mens Fellowship, V 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 12:05 pm- Holy Eucharist, Bishop Marty Stebbins presiding, DH 6:30 pm- Women's AA, G	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 10 7:00 am - Men's Fellowship, V 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 12:05 pm Holy Eucharist, Bishop Mary Stebbins presiding, DH 6:30 pm - Women's AA, G	Shrove Tuesday 17 7:00 am - Men's Fellowship, V 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 12:05 pm - Holy Eucharist, Bishop Mary Stebbins presiding, DH 5:30 pm Pancake supper, UC 6:00 pm Burn palms & bury alleluia 6:30 pm - Women's AA, G	24 7:00 am - Men's Fellowship, V 8:30 am - Morning prayer 12:05 pm Holy Eucharist, Bishop Marty Stebbins presiding, DH 6:30 pm - Women's AA, G
	4 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 12:00 pm- Happenings Deadline 4:30 pm Serve dinner at God's Love 5:30 pm - Spiritual Social (Lewis & Clark Brewing Co) 2125 N Last Chance 7:00 pm - Youth Collective, New Life	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 11 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 12:00 pm- Happenings Deadline 4:30 pm Serve dinner at God's Love 7:00 pm- Youth Collective, St. Johns	Ash Wednesday 18 7:00am Ash Wednesday, SPC 8:30 am - Morning prayer, V 12:00 pm - Ash Wednesday, SPC 12:30 Ash Wednesday, Touchmark 4:30 pm Serve dinner at God's Love 5:00 pm- Spiritual Social, 2856 Jeannette Rankin Dr. 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday, SPC	25 8:30 Morning prayer 12:00 pm Happenings deadline 4:30 pm Serve dinner at God's Love 7:00 pm Youth Collective
TUESDAY	5 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:15 pm Heart of Helena, WH	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 12 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:15 pm Social Concerns, WH	19 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 9:30 am - Prayer Shawl Ministry, WH 5:15 pm Heart of Helena, WH	26 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 11:45 am Lent Midday Prayer, SPC 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon & Speaker, UC 5:30 pm Soup Supper, St. John's 6:30 pm Lent Evening Prayer, St. John's
	6 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 13 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V	20 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:15 pm Lenten Taizé, SPC	27 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:15 pm Lenten Taizé, SPC
WEDNESDAY	7 8:30 am Morning prayer, V	Family Promise Host Week, FCC 14 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:30 pm - Togendowagan Spirit Society, SPC 6:30 pm - Togendowagan Fellowship, UC	21 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V	28 8:30 am - Morning Prayer, V 5:30 pm - Togendowagan Spirit Society, SPC 6:30 pm - Togendowagan Fellowship, UC

Christian Formation

Migration with Dignity Sunday: February 8th, 2026

The Episcopal Migration Caucus has designated February 8, 2026 as Migration with Dignity Sunday. The Montana Diocese adopted a resolution for all of the parishes to observe this Sunday at the annual diocesan convention held in October of 2025.



The six Migration with Dignity principles are:

1. A universal right of movement, including freedom to leave and return to one's country of origin, freedom of movement within one's country of origin or country of settlement.
2. The right to be secure: from sexual violence including rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery, forced labor and arbitrary and abusive detention.
3. The right of equality, to include: 1) equal treatment with no discrimination under the law based on color, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin; and 2) equal opportunity for upward mobility.
4. Rights to a basic quality of life, including employment, housing, and food rights.
5. The right to access services such as health care, education and legal representation.
6. Civil and political rights guaranteeing the right to identity, to the use of one's language, and to freedom of speech and religion.

Stay tuned for more details on how we will observe this at St. Peter's.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Baptisms

Kalvin Dayvon Biesecker Jan 24

Finnlee Fern Pocha-Eller, Jan 24

Christian Formation



Debrief about the film Sugarcane

A debriefing session of the film and further conversation will be offered at St. Peter's on Sunday, February 1 at 10:15 in the Guild Room.

St. Peter's co-hosted a screening of the film in January at St. Paul's United Methodist. There were 120 in attendance.

ECW LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Women will again host their popular Lenten Luncheons held on Thursdays at noon beginning February 26th and continuing every Thursday through March 26th. The focus this year is "Stewards of our Land and Environment".



- Our first speaker will be Matthew Bishop, a senior attorney at the Western Environmental Law Center's Helena office. Matt, whose parents, Joan and Don Bishop were long-time St. Peter's parishioners, leads the Center's efforts to protect iconic Western predators including wolverines, Canada lynx and grizzly bears
- Corrie Williamson of American Prairie is the speaker for March 5th and will discuss their work in land acquisition and provide public access to it, rewilding the shortgrass prairie ecosystem, restoring bison and leasing land to local livestock producers who run approximately 7,000 head of cattle.
- On March 12th, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper Board President John Tubbs will discuss the evolution of Montana's water and property rights, the public trust, and how we can meet the growing demand for water while restoring our rivers.
- Family rancher, co-founder and CEO of Old Salt Co-Op, Cole Mannix will talk about building a marketplace that supports stewardship on March 19th
- Bishop Marty Stebbins will conclude the series on March 26th talking about theology, stewardship and the environment

These series have proven to be quite popular and are open to the public. There will be sign-up sheets near the kitchen in the undercroft. We need 3 soups for each time, at least 1 bread and 2 cookies. Please sign up!

Cannons, canons, and much gratitude

By Canon Stephen Brehe

I am deeply grateful to Dean Kendra Wilde for naming me a Canon of the cathedral and Dean Emeritus. Notice that there's just one "n" in the middle of canon. Two would make me an artillery piece. One "n" is for building up; two is for blowing up. The term is used for lay and ordained diocesan or cathedral officials. It comes from a Greek word meaning "measuring rod." If you are interested in the etymology of the term "canon," see me. I don't want to bore you here. Or see Canon Robin Biffle. Mostly, I want to thank you for the honor and opportunity to continue serving. I'm not ready to be put out to pasture just yet.

Scripture, tradition, and reason

By Canon Stephen Brehe

Last month, I introduced you to Richard Hooker and his magnum opus, "Ecclesiastical Polity." Long story short: This book defines our Anglican identity. In it, Hooker argued that the Church of England represented a balanced middle way between Roman Catholicism and Puritanism. He called it the "via media" (middle way). Or as we sometimes describe ourselves today, as a "bridge church" between Catholicism and Protestantism.

Balancing scripture, tradition, and reason is how we discover truth. I like to describe this interplay by picturing a tricycle.

- Scripture is the driving wheel at the front and the primary source of salvation. It steers us. Scripture alone, however, is like a unicycle, precarious and difficult to balance.
- Tradition is a trailing wheel. It is our conversation with those who have gone before us, including the councils of the church, the creeds, the liturgies, the music, the church fathers and mothers, and the Book of Common Prayer, among many voices. We see tradition as a living engagement with the past, not blind adherence to a fossilized past.
- Reason is the other trailing wheel. It interprets the world and solves problems where the Bible is silent. We take Paul seriously when he tells us that "we have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:6) Hooker believed that the



the physical laws of the universe revealed God's wisdom. That began our long practice of taking science seriously. If you visit Westminster Abbey, for example, you will find Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, and Stephen Hawking are buried near the altar.

Bottom line: unless all three theological wheels are on the ground, the tricycle goes nowhere.

Hooker instilled in us a spirit of moderation, one of our great strengths. In a world that often demands "either/or," Hooker's dynamic framework allows "both/and" by honoring the scriptures, using a modern mind, and recognizing the importance of past insights. St. Peter's Cathedral owns a rare second-edition copy of "Ecclesiastical Polity" from 1611, the same year the King James Bible was published. You can view Hooker's magnum opus in the Guild Room.



Ministries and Outreach

You are invited to journey with the Social Concerns Team as we come alongside organizations that help those less fortunate in our community. We assist them through volunteer services, financial support, and prayer.

Serving Dinner at God's Love

St. Peter's folks are teaming to serve meals each Wednesday at God's Love. Food is prepared by other churches or God's Love staff. All we have to do is show up at 4:30, lend a helping hand, and share an encouraging word to those we serve. Please reach text/call Sioux (406) 439-1267 or Donna (406) 439-6811 if you are interested in helping serve.



Helena Food Share Kid Packs Build

Did you know Helena Food Share distributes 1,200 packs of food to area kids to ensure they get the weekend nutrition they need? We are just one group that helps assemble some of these packs. It's easy--just walk in an assembly line, put the food into a sack, and repeat! It's easy, a great way to get to meet new people, and make a difference. Join St. Peter's at 5:15 pm on April 28, 2026. Let Kim Wilson know you can join our team.



Flippers Sundays

The first Sunday of every month from September until May. Come enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall prepared by Saint Peter's Flippers Group. Donations are designated for St. Peter's Social Concerns Committee to provide outreach and support to local nonprofit service agencies in our community. Thank you for your generosity and commitment so that we can continue this community outreach ministry.



Social Concerns Meetings

Come join us as we meet once a month, usually the 2nd Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in Wilson Hall. Watch the Happenings for Social Concerns meeting schedule. Contact Hank Hudson (406) 459-8561 or Kim Wilson (406) 439-9056 for more information. Our next meeting is scheduled for 5:15 pm Thursday, February 12, 2025.

Ministries and Outreach



Family Updates:

Family 1: Mom, Dad, son (6) and two daughters (4, 1) are staying at First Christian Church (FCC) due to the children's high needs. All three children have various physical, speech and skill needs. The parents stay incredibly busy running the kids to their much-needed services. Together this couple is working very hard to provide the best life possible for their children. Dad is working as an assistant manager at the Town Pump Express Car Wash.

Family 2: Mom and three children. Son 7, Son 5, and daughter 4. Mom has children from 7:30 pm Wednesday through 7:30 pm on Sundays. Mom works for a cleaning service which also stages houses, teaches early morning yoga classes on mornings she does not have the children. Mom has medical struggles that she is seeking treatment for in Arizona where she has family support. Mom is without a vehicle but has been working on the goal to save up for her own vehicle.

Please continue to **pray for FP** families past, present and future as they tackle some pretty tough circumstances, for FP volunteers, staff and Board who work together in support of this ministry.

Shelter Update – The 14 room overnight shelter construction is well underway. Family Promise is seeking partners for construction funding, programming and operations support. Their plan is to be serving those in need by Spring of 2026. Please contact them if you are interested in helping achieve this goal.

Upcoming events in support of their mission:

Winter Craft & Bake Sale - Family Promise will hold a winter craft market at First Christian Church on March 7, 2026 9am-1pm

They are asking churches to bake and sell at this event to help support Family Promise. If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna Church.

To learn more or to find out how you can help, please contact:

Donna Church (406)439-6811, Donna3439@msn.com

Maggie Stockwell (406) 465-0707, magnolia9@hotmail.com

Tammy Andridge at (406)465-5976, tammyandridge@aol.com

St Peter's 2026 host weeks:

- February 8-14, 2026
 - April 26-May 2, 2026
 - August 9-15, 2026
 - November 15-21, 2026
-

News from Around the Diocese

Montana Episcopal Cursillo

Volume 2, January 22, 2026

NEWSLETTER

By the Diocesan Secretariat

BREAKING NEWS!!!

Episcopal Cursillo is returning to Montana...

HELP WANTED! We need Candidates and Cursillistas for Team Members to attend this amazing weekend!

To obtain Weekend Candidate or Team Applications, have questions, or need more info:

Nancy Shively Cell: (714) 588-4122
E-mail: chaplainsnanshive@gmail.com

Frank Pickett, Pres. Cell: (406) 565-8121

E-mail: frankanddonna@bresnan.net

"Weekend Team" Planning Meetings:

Saturday, Jan. 24 3:00 PM - ZOOM

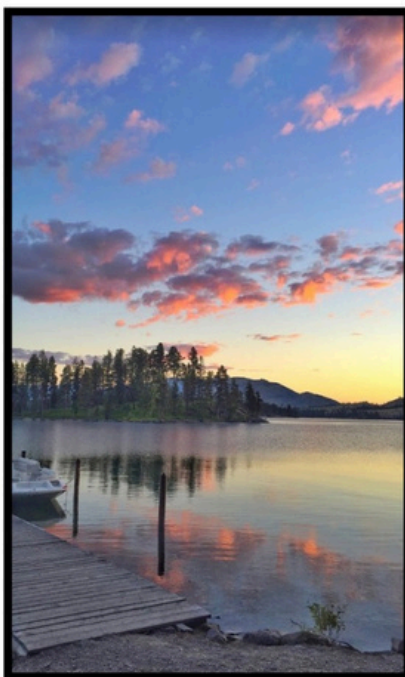
Saturday, Feb. 21 3:00 PM - ZOOM

*Saturday, March 21 11:00 AM - LIVE @ St. John's, 15 N. Idaho St., Butte

*Please bring a dish to share

Saturday, April 4 3:00 PM - ZOOM

For ZOOM Link: Contact Frank @ (406) 565-8121 or frankanddonna@bresnan.net



Mark your calendars:

Diocese of Montana
Episcopal Cursillo
April 17-19, 2026
Camp Marshall
41524 Melita Island Rd.
Polson, MT 59860

How YOU can help:

Sponsor a Candidate
Provide "Palanca" for Weekend

Attend Parish Palanca Party
Bake/provide cookies/snacks for Weekend

Attend Weekend Closing
Support Candidate's Fourth Day

PRAY...for Candidates, Team Members & Weekend

Sign up for Episcopal Cursillo today!

Diocese of Montana Episcopal Cursillo
POB 2020, Helena, MT 59624
Phone: (406) 442-2230 or admin@diomontana.com

News from Around the Diocese



COUPLES *Core Values Workshop*

Hosted by
Dr. Ali Kenny, PsyD
Marital / Relational Psychologist

Workshop participants will:

- Uncover and identify essential life values
- Gain insight and awareness
- Cultivate closeness through understanding

PRICE:

\$225 per couple

SATURDAY
February 14th
12:30 - 4:30pm

Reeder's Alley
Convention Center

Refreshments + Light
Snacks Provided

Information + Registration
<https://creatyl.com/alexisckenny/products/374>

HEART OF HELENA



Our Heart of Helena team is accepting artwork for the upcoming auction. Artwork may be dropped off with our bookkeeper, Roger Reynolds, in Wilson Hall, Monday-Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm. Thank you!

Chapter News



Thank you to all who completed the CAT survey. The cats are busy tabulating our report!

Dean Kendra will lead an overview of the results in Wilson Hall on Sunday, February 22 at 10:15 am.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting, held Jan 25

- All of those nominated to the Chapter were elected including Sandy Gumbert, Katie Loveland, Julie Liston, and Jill Sallin. Melinda Schell was re-elected for a second term. Those whose were going off of the Chapter include Scott Leak, Janet Kirkland, Manny Hoag, Ray Paige, and the Clerk of the Chapter, Vicki Tiberi.
 - A bylaw amendment was proposed to change the required number of Chapter members from 10 to a range of 6-10. The change was approved.
 - Ruth Ann Schuler suggested that a youth be elected to be part of the Chapter. Beth Demmons moved that it be explored by the chapter for youth willing and wanting to be on the Chapter.
 - The following names were presented to be delegates to the 2026 Diocesan Convention to be held in Bozeman on September 25-27. They are Ruth Ann Schuler; Melinda Schell; Chris Boyce; Donna Church and Darien Scott. Mark Kelley and Robin Erickson will be alternates.
 - Laura Brown requested a replacement as the leader of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium ministry.
 - Jr. Warden Chris Boyce added more information to his report. They are waiting for an estimate for roof repair on Wilson Hall.
 - Dan Carlson-Thompson gave an update of the elevator. They are exploring a \$250,000 grant and other options for elevator placement. The price of an elevator continues to go up.
 - Thanks to Darien Scott for recording the minutes.
-

Chapter News: Junior Warden

This is Chris Boyce's last report as Junior Warden as he is moving into the Senior Warden position for the coming year. He has done a commendable job in this capacity and deserves our deepest gratitude. Be sure to thank him! --Dean Kendra

February is here! We are (as of this writing) actively seeking our next Sexton (part-time janitor). If you know of a good candidate please let Dean Kendra or myself know. I am also asking for your help doing a little to keep our buildings clean – if you notice something that needs a little TLC, please take some time to help cleanup/remove trash/mop an area. There is a small group of us already doing this but please pitch in.

All outdoor lights near the entrances to our Cathedral, Wilson Hall, Diocesan House, parking lot are now LED and on dusk to dawn. This improves our safety in the dark and overall facility security. The lights also add a nice touch to our beautiful campus. Pls stop by some evening or early morning and take a look.



New LED outdoor lights near the entrances to the Cathedral, Wilson Hall, Diocesan House and parking lot.

February planned projects include:

- Replacement of Bargain Basement front glass door (Fire Department access requirement).
- Reinstalling of the end of hallway security door in Wilson Hall.
- Installation of our Dean's name on the front sign.

Pls plan on attending all events and making your voice and opinions known. You are always welcome to discuss any building/property items with me. Chris Boyce, JW

Cathedral Keepers:

If you have abilities and interest in small projects around our buildings such as painting, organizing, dusting, etc. pls let me know – any job or effort is appreciated to help us deliver our Mission and serve God! Pls talk with Chris Boyce, Junior Warden, on how you can help.

AV tech/Video Editor:

Do you like technology or video editing? We are in need of more AV techs and a video editor to help with our online worship efforts. Will train you in all that is needed to know. Pls talk with Chris Boyce, Junior Warden, on how you can help. Our Sunday Service video is viewed over 150 times on Facebook every week!

Birthdays

Jay Templin, Feb 2
The Very Rev. Ray Brown, Feb 3
Bob Docktor, Feb 3
Travis Kirkland, Feb 3
Donna Lloyd, Feb 4
Nancy Burnham, Feb 7
Matthew Reynolds, Feb 9
David Torgerson, Feb 10
Rita Charles, Feb 11
Loretta Day, Feb 12
Bobbie Spilker, Feb 13
Will Berg, Feb 14
Peter Jaynes, Feb 17
Gariel Masiak, Feb 17
Sharron Moran, Feb 17
Donya Parrish, Feb 20
Maren Keener, Feb 22
Hailey Scott, Feb 22
David Fine, Feb 23
Dawn Lockwood, Feb 23
Jean Smith, Feb 23
Tom Johnson, Feb 24
Annetta Kraayeveld, Feb 26
Abraham Lemon, Feb 26
John Fine, Feb 28



Anniversaries

The Very Rev. Ray & Joyce Brown,
Feb 10



Let Us Pray

The Church: for Sarah, our Archbishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Marty, our Bishop; for Kendra our Dean; for the Togendowagan Society, Darcy and Dan, their Elders;

The Government: for Donald, our President; for Greg, our Governor; for Congress, especially Tim, Steve, Ryan and Troy. Also, for Kelly, Vickie, and Emily, our area mayors.

The Community: for the staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries of God's Love, Good Samaritan Ministries, Family Promise, Helena Food Share, Friendship Center, Head Start, and YWCA.

Comfort, Healing & Hope: for Kevin, Janet, Sarah, David, Charlotte, Jennie, Hannah, Kathy J., Stephanie, Jeannie, Jim.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: for David Emineth, Shane Medley, Charles Lewis, Kenneth V Liston, and Parker Jones.

Chapter Members

Senior Warden: Chris Boyce

Junior Warden: TBD

Clerk of the Chapter:

Treasurer: Ron Gumbert

Beth Demmons

Sandy Gumbert

Nick Jaynes

Julie Liston

Katie Loveland

Sioux Roth

Jill Salin

Melinda Schell

Contact information for Chapter members may be found in our new church directory. Pick up yours today!

**ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL
CATHEDRAL**

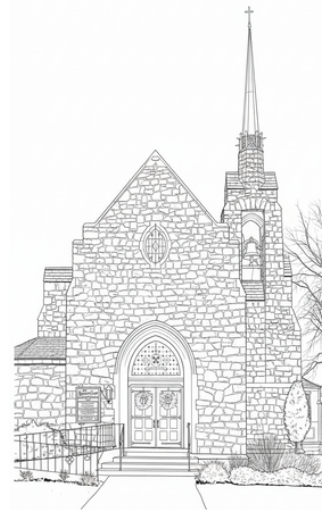


**2026
Church
Directory**



STREET ADDRESS:
511 N PARK AVE
HELENA, MT 59601
(406) 442-5175

MAILING ADDRESS:
PO BOX 819
HELENA, MT 59624



St. Peter's Cathedral

Street Address:

511 North Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59601

Mailing Address:

PO Box 819, Helena, MT 59624

Look for St Peter's on INSTAGRAM, Facebook and BlueSky social media.

Telephone: 406.442.5175

Email: info@spchelena.org

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins,
Bishop of Montana

The Very Rev. Kendra Wilde,
Dean, Dean@spchelena.org
406-465-8590

The Rev. Dcn. Roger Reynolds,
Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@spchelena.org

The Rev. Robin Biffle, Canon for Liturgy and
Worship

The Very Rev. Steve Brehe, Canon for
Formation, Dean Emeritus

Retired Clergy in Residence

The Very Rev. Ray Brown, Dean Emeritus

The Rev. Dcn. John Board

The Rev. Dcn. John Moran

The Rev. Dcn. Rick Johnson
