

Acts and Philippians are important for understanding, igniting our imaginations about how to be citizens of heaven *first*, to be disciples and the kinds of disciple communities which “have the mind/attitude of Christ”, embody Jesus in the complicated and conflicted context with low trust, polarizations/ divisions of many sorts, injustices, racism, continuing fallout from economic and virus related challenges and tragic deaths. There is a great need for the Spirit’s redemption, reconciliation, healing, resurrection and restoration, where God has placed us all for such a time as this.

We are struck with how Phil. 2 in particular is rich in guiding, equipping, convicting, and empowering us. Because of Jesus ...

Intro: Think Macro and Micro Levels and Context of Ministry

On the National Scene Having an Effect on YP and other Churches, our communities and families

- A. Pandemic has had tragic results (several illness, deaths, disruptions, isolation and emotional and mental health needs among all ages groups hitting children and teens hard, financial devastation for some and phenomenal income boomers for a some companies, widening economic gaps, food scarcity,) has necessitated and will continue to require deep Changes in all aspects of life and where and how we are and do Church...
- B. Racial Reconciliation & Justice are important themes in Scripture and a call on the lives of God’s people.
- C. Red/Blue Tensions
 - a. Montana State Legislature’s.
 - b. Calling & Challenges of being citizens of heaven first above all else
 - c. Most of our churches are some shade of purple

D. Many places in western and central Montana are seeing a huge influx of new residents and longterm visitors. This is taxing many aspects of communities and driving housing prices up fast = exciting opportunities and some challenges.

- E. Many of our people are being pulled in many directions, sometimes hard to know how to keep the main thing the main thing and live that amidst intensity, pressing issues and challenges.

II. YP Mission – Discipleship, Equipping, Spiritual Formation and the Reign of God

A. Status of Churches-pastors (We have been working with PMT leadership on wide range of needs)

- a. **Without a pastor, pastor out for a while or will begin a pastor search-**
 - i. Poplar – Lay-led. Session, Ric Kern and others, Neva Rathbun is liason, electing PNC
 - i. Lewistown – Welcome Kimmy Stokesbury Briggs (Atlanta Presbytery). examined 2/11
Kathy & Debbie Blackburn have worked for a year with the PNC. Kathy moderated congreg. meeting 1/24
Jordan – Jed Cauffman is contracted to fill into May (family needs = he is in MT)
 - ii. Miles City –Welcome Rev. Charlie Blom, HR, examined 2/11, as stated
 - iii. Colstrip –Rev. David Murchie (UCC, just returned from serving in Asia) in April

- iv. St. Andrew – Grateful for Susan Thomas and Curt Kochner are preaching and leading Bible studies...about 2/3 Sundays, Doug Johnson & Kim Woeste fill in also.
- v. Forsyth – assorted supply _ MIF with Hysham approved
- vi. Hysham – Waine and others – MIF with Forsyth approved this week. George working with them on search, preaching for Easter.
- vii. Philipsburg – Debby Schmidt had knees replaced... recovering...
- viii. WSS – We extend our heartfelt love and condolences to Wenda Fry, ELCA, whose husband died suddenly of complications from a ruptured appendix and then she was down with COVID. George has been in touch with key leaders there and preached/lead worship several times while Wenda has been on leave.
- ix. Butte - Chuck Carlson doing excellent interim there. PNC elected. JP Carlson, PMT liason and Kathy as staff training and working with them.
- x. Ennis - Steve Hundley moves to much more part-time Interim after 15 months. PNC is searching. Chuck Wright and Debbie Blackburn are working with them.

A1 – It has been a season of health and other challenges and loss for quite a few of our pastors, CRE’s and leaders.

Rev. Paul Krebill, 93, passed away on February 19, as we sent out in a prayer update late that day. Our prayers go out to Doris, Dan and Jody and their families. Condolences may be sent to Doris, Dan and Jody at 2903Westridge Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715. **Memorials** may be made to **First Presbyterian Church Campus Ministry Fund** PO Box 1150 Bozeman, MT 59771.

A Zoom Memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. Instructions will be published next week.

Rev. Freeman McCall’s wife, Susi passes away as well. Our hearts and prayers go out to Freeman

- B. Guidelines, policies for protection and good of congregations, pastors and their ministry & mission.** Kathy has been researching, working with PMT leadership and some church leaders on aspects of 2 policies or guidelines:

Family Leave (YP requires this for all pastors/CRE’s in terms of call/contract); Child and Youth Protection Policy – a few do not have one yet ; later this year will be working on Sexual Offender Policy and Covenant for congregations and presbytery. Soon, updating our Sabbatical guidelines.

- C. CRE – Adapted, updated Training important**

- a. The need/opportunity – Hybrid Program
- b. JP, Debbie, Kathy and George met via zoom with Current CRE’s..
- c. Piloting a new training program next month –
 - i. Three Current CRE’s
 - ii. Six met for first gathering/training.. just meet this week... Others are interested. Talk with George or JP.

- D. Continued need for emphasis on relationships, community, discipleship, evangelism and seeking to serve the needs, justice, “welfare and peace” of communities (Jer. 29), including with tiny groups/PODS, importance of New worshipping communities, Fresh Expressions.**

- a. Decline in membership and Zoom attendance for some.

- b. Those under 35 are only 10% likely to attend church, especially an existing one.
- c. The Hybrid Model of existing churches identifying those gifted to start new Fresh Expressions of Faith that are part of and their own, has been such as explained in *Deep Roots*, *Wild Branches*, and other books, webinars...work by Michael Beck and Matt Lake.

E. Prayer – Planned and helped lead 2 different focused times for Prayer and Fasting in January amidst the turmoil in our nation. We worked with some on LC and others with gifts of prayer.

D. Ministry Teams, subgroups, Stated Clerk Search Com., PCUSA & ecumenical ministry...

- d. Camp – decision for summer to be made later, though calendar out, preparing now
- e. Harlowton church sale AC – George working with them, Jim Tarr on AC, Lloyd Mandeville, Moderator
- f. Stated Clerk Search Committee – Kathy is staff. Position sent out and posted next week.
- g. Rocky Mtn College Covenant and Board - George
- h. Synod Staff Forum has had a great deal of change (EP's General Presbyters,... in Synod of Rocky Mountains), George & Kathy led last gathering and the next one. 2 presbyteries have new part-time EP or GP, Denver none but will do a search, and Steve Shive just left Wyoming to be an Interim EP in Texas.
- i. Personnel subgroup of LC, G & K both met with them for consultation on St. Clerk Search. New labor laws impact us.

Yellowstone-Glacier-Presbytery boundary HAS BEEN OFFICALLY CHANGED by the Admin. Commission elected to accomplish this and similar actions by **the 2020 GA** which met virtually. This moves the line slightly south in the region between Butte and Helena, placing the NWC at the radon mines NE of Butte within Glacier's bounds. Kathy has worked on/communicated about this with LC, Glacier Presbytery leaders, Synod Clerk & PCUSA Stated Clerk Staff.

III. Other

- A. Plenary *The moderator as spiritual leader*- George & VilMarie taught Plenary again at Moderators' Conference via zoom in November. Received highest praise and feedback, Tricia indicated they hope to invite them again next year.
- B. George: Spiritual Direction - Montana Assoc. of Christian's ecumenical Pastors Group on Thursday afternoon and 1-1
- C. Preaching in this Covid era...
- D. Huge Thanks for your prayers and very generous support from to the Administrative Support Fund in 2020! \$39,208.90 at year end. Yellowstone's half-time General Presbyter position could not continue without your support. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this ministry.

IV. Personal – We are grateful for many blessings, answered prayers and meaningful time with local family over Christmas. George's mom in memory care has survived COVID remarkably! After 6 months and a lot of health and other challenges in 2020 , Kathy's mom is doing a bit better but needs more from family. We are excited that Gillian and Peter are expecting in August! she has been quite

dizzy and nauseated, teaching her MSU Spanish classes from home on the horizontal. Prayers welcomed. We are thankful for Chip's new job after her previous one was a COVID casualty.

Supporting/Equipping pastors and leaders how to be rooted/grounded abiding in Christ, to understand the "signs of the times/contexts" and to be transformed to be more congruent with Christ and his character and ways, LEAD and be resilient in times of change and crisis, as well as to *manage*.

A. Tribe of Issachar - "those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs and all their kindred under their command.: I Chron. 12:32

Contextual Intelligence offers us a way to live out Phil. 2, having the same mindset as Christ, living the humble, incarnational self-emptying way he did, cooperating with the Spirit that the shifts can be turned into God's opportunities. (Based on I Chron. 12, Phil 2 & Eph 4) *Contextual Intelligence: Unlocking the Ancient Secret to Mission on the Front Lines*, Leonard Sweet and Michael Beck (UMC Pastors/professors)

B. *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*, by Tod Bolsinger

"A leader is a person who must take special responsibility for what's going on inside him or herself, inside his or her consciousness, lest the act of leadership create more harm than good." Parker Palmer

Tempering a leader is a process of reflection, relationships [community], and practices and leadership skills during the act of leading that form resilience to continue leading when the resistance is highest. (adapted from p. 5)

"Resilience for faith leaders is the ability to wisely persevere toward the mission God has put before them amid both the external challenges and the internal resistance of the leader's followers." (p.37)

Learning	Listening	Looking	Lamenting					
Teachable	Attuned	Adaptable	Tenacious	Resilient				
G	R	O	U	N	D	E	D	(Our identity rooted in Christ

Practices that "hammer in" the characteristics/traits yielding resilience - see p. 137

Interview with Tod Bolsinger by the Ministry Collaborative - <https://mministry.org/webinar/tempered-resilience-how-leaders-are-formed-in-the-crucible-of-change-a-conversation-with-tod-bolsinger/>