

First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
MOSCOW, IDAHO

# News & Views

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This fall I offered what I feel as some of the seminal moments in our origin story and in the descriptive moments of our ancestors in faith. I began November with the story from Samuel 8 for the Israelites once again rejecting God's leadership and asking for a human king. They give their reason as they want to be like other nations. They seem to think a king will take care of them. God through Samuel warns them that it will be just the opposite, the king will take from them and not care for their quality of life. Rather the king will treat them as resources for what the king wants. Humans in power too easily see other people as resources for their wants.

This seems a cautionary tale about thinking that looking to see how everyone else is doing something and assuming that that must be what to do works out for the best. But where do we look to find our way in life. We look to a king that is different, that truly cares for us rather than takes from us. God is such a king. God would guide us through the scriptures, through the teachings and life of Jesus, and through the continued work of the spirit to know and experience this care. In our secular age, these guides may seem quaint or unrealistic or even dangerous to many.

However, claiming one is doing God's will and that God sanctions ones use of power is not the same as following Jesus and giving our first loyalty to God as our ruler, leader, and guide. The people want a king and God gives them a king. God says ok, and in a way sanctions their decision, even though God knows it will not work out well for them. God deals with rejection through letting the people experience the natural consequences of what then decide to do.

Too often we must live with the choices we humans make that are not in accordance with God's will and experience the natural consequences. Too often humans have claimed their power is God given power, justifying themselves using the name of God. I wonder how often this is using God's name in vain. Is saying we made this choice as to how we want to use power associated with God, and we even believe God sanctions our choice necessarily going bring about a good choice and a good experience? Will the consequences of our choices help God's people's lives flourish or not?

We have too many stories from history where atrocities are done in the name of God, claiming the power and primacy of God as justification. The Inquisition, the crusades, burning people at the stake for disagreeing all seem to me to be examples. We have a sorted history of using our beliefs to persecute, torture, and enslave because of what was thought to be the God given right to do so. How often have we taken God's name in vain in the pursuit of our own goals?

Sunday School  
9:15 am  
Sunday Worship  
10:30 am

## From the Pastor *...continued from Page 1*

I continue to wonder how often we humans take God's name in vain in pursuit of our own goals and pervert the message and the real leadership of God. I believe we must take a close look at both scriptures and what they teach us and at the choices we have and the actions they lead to. I believe taking time to cultivate our spirituality, our ability to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit is essential. I believe that following Jesus begins with the love of God and then our neighbors as ourselves. And I believe that Jesus defines neighbor broadly to include all human beings.

So, as we are able to be less isolated and gather to work on discerning the will of God as revealed in scripture and through the Holy Spirit, we will begin to have more opportunities do this in small groups. We may begin with fellowship and common interests. Yet, always in the mix will be the question, at what point must our loyalties to our own self-interest, our groups, our world views, and our social norms give way to the higher loyalty we owe God? I believe that how we answer this and the choices we make looking sideways instead of to God as our basis for our choices will have real consequences. I hope we can look to God for the way and the work we might do and find that consequences will enable us to truly find the experiences for which we can be thankful. I hope we in see God's guidance, grace, and goodness a way of life which others can be thankful when we let this guidance, grace, and goodness shape our lives. God's way is not always easy, but it is good.

Grace and peace,

Norman

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### **An update from Delany**

Seminary has been a journey filled with blessings and challenges. Classes have been challenging but intellectually rewarding. I spent a lot of time over the past two years studying Hebrew and then Greek. My favorite class last year was World Christian History: 1492-Modern era. This semester I am taking classes I am especially excited about, including a theology class called "Empire & Capital," an ethics class on "Theories of Justice," and a pastoral care class called "Transforming Shame, Transforming Self."

This year I am also excited to be learning and serving at Middle Church in NYC. It is a dream internship and I feel very lucky to be learning from so many fabulous ministers. Here is the website if you are interested in learning more about the placement! >>> <https://www.middlechurch.org/>

Personally, it's been a year of joy and also challenges. I've loved being closer to my family. I've made some great friends and found some lifelong mentors. Ames and I found a wonderful church in Trenton, although I definitely miss the comfort and belonging I feel at FPC. I spend too much time working on school and student group activities, such as the Anti-Racism Coalition, but I am trying to carve out more time for rest. As far as challenges, you surely know about Corbin's health scare. We are so grateful for his recovery and always praying for his, Jessa, Chris, and Lyla's continued recovery. We are also navigating a brand new health challenge--Ames was diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes last week, so we are learning all about the world of insulin, glycemic indexes, etc. etc. Despite this, we are doing well.

## Deacons Spotlight

### Kathy Pendegraft

If you want a guide to a good retirement, look no further than our spotlight on Kathy Pendegraft. Kathy has been retired for about a year and a half from her work as Administrative Assistant in our church office. Kathy's was the voice on the phone at nearly every hour of the day! Moving on gives Kathy the opportunity to do other activities around church.



Kathy currently shares Praise Team leadership with Mary Read. Their guitar duos are nothing short of amazing! As Worship Coordinator, Kathy helps plan music appropriate to the worship service. She schedules monthly teams of Communion servers, and often prepares elements for Communion services. Her ingenuity has been evident as COVID caused changes to in-person worship. A videographer joined the team to extend Sunday services to those worshipping from home. Finding a back-up videographer is tricky, Kathy said, as most of those who understand the system are also in the Praise Team, juggling set ups in the back of the church and in the chancel.

Kathy oversees the moving parts of our Advent services and decorating, from "tree branch fluffers" to high ladder tree trimmers. Though out of sight for most of the year, the Advent decorations are carefully stored. Just follow Kathy to retrieve everything from candle sconces to Christmas ornaments.

As happened for many of us, Kathy's life changed during COVID. After carrying out her job as Administrative Assistant from home for over a year, she joined her husband, Norman, in retirement, which suits Kathy and Norm well. They have been spending some time sorting through cupboards and closets, paring down 42 years' accumulation of stuff. Reading and taking walks are favorite pastimes for both of them. They also spend a lot of time gardening for fresh air and exercise. This summer they grew mostly tomatoes, green beans, and winter squash. Xeriscaping their side yard is an ongoing project.

As for the fun stuff, Kathy and daughter Amy made a couple of trips to Reno to visit son Richard and other family members once COVID restrictions lifted. Last January, Kathy and Norman spent a week at the Snow Lodge in Yellowstone National Park, enjoying the winter sights in the Old Faithful area, where tourist and Bison interactions were a source of entertainment. Yellowstone's winter landscape by Snowcat afforded glimpses of wolves, bison, swans, elk, moose, deer, and coyotes. Wolves could be heard howling at night.

Back home in Moscow, the family again settled into retirement mode. Norm pursues University projects, enjoys coffee with friends, and Karate. Kathy said she misses the people, but not getting up in the morning to go to work. She moved here from California 39 years ago. We are glad she stayed!

# FAMILY MINISTRY

Julie Hopper, Director of Family Ministry [familyministryjulie@gmail.com](mailto:familyministryjulie@gmail.com)

November is here, and Thanksgiving reminds us that it is a season of gratitude. There are currently many things to have gratitude for in Family Ministry.

Looking back, I'm thankful that none of us were sweet enough to melt during Trunk or Treat, a very wet activity. We had a smorgasbord of options available for trick or treaters: candy, cheese, candy, nuts, candy, potatoes, candy, glow sticks, candy, tangerines, candy... You get the picture. It was fun despite the wet weather and corresponding low turnout. We were visited by Batman, a pigeon named Bridget, the three bears and various other characters, including a jellyfish who cleverly incorporated an umbrella into her costume.

On October 21, we hosted a Parent Night Out in partnership with the UU church. We watched out for 18 kids, while they ate, played, created, cooperated and made various crafts. It was a really good time, and the parents were appreciative of a chance to get some time to go out without kids. It was exciting to fill our upstairs classrooms with happy, active children. Keep your eyes out for an announcement of a Parent Shopping Afternoon, coming in December.

We had two Youth Group meetings in October, which gave us a chance to do a duct tape craft, play silly Halloween themed games and create ridiculous mad libs. We also introduced a Jeremiah-era practice of sharing highs, lows and experiences of being spiritually alive or connected. This offered the additional opportunity to share what it means to be vulnerable and how that can be brave.

At our first November Youth Group meeting, we worked together to bake a pumpkin cake and brownies. We also put together two delicious salads, one with kale and brussels sprouts and the other featuring spinach and pomegranate seeds. If you need any help with your Thanksgiving menu, our youth group kids can fill the gap. Harper helped us stay focused and on track, and Caitlyn offered support and encouragement. Our second November meeting, coinciding with Wednesday Supper Fellowship, will focus on gratitude and thankfulness.

So, how am I thankful for Youth Group? I'm filled with gratitude that we have an actual group, mostly middle schoolers. I'm thankful that we have had a couple of kids invite friends to join in. I'm grateful for my faithful, skilled and experienced adult helpers, Harper and Caitlyn. I'm so glad that the parents are willing to bring the kids to the church for evening meetings. I'm thankful for Wednesday Supper Fellowship because middle schoolers need a lot of food. I'm also thankful for my lone high schooler, who manages to make things work with lowly MMS students.

... continued on page 5

## Special FOON Update

There is so much to report about FOON, it needs a dedicated section this month.

October FOON dates gave us a chance to feed and connect with many high schoolers, ranging from 40 to 75 students per week. We found out that many things make them laugh, like memes, standup comedy, puns, friends, people falling down, their cat/dog, silly people, fart jokes, stupid people, everything. One thing I appreciate about this list is the honesty that it represents. We ask them an open ended question, and they give a real answer. Another week, we asked them what animal they would like to be for a day. That really elicited a wide array of responses including birds (eagle, magpie, crow, owl or non-specified), mammals (wolf, cat, dog, tiger, star-nosed mole, sloth, giraffe, rat, rabbit, horse), mythical or extinct (dragon, dinosaur) and, in a category of its own, bee. So, why do I list out all these responses? Because I want you to know we are not just handing out pizza. We are feeding and interacting with people. Young people who can be blessed by food and by caring adults who look at them, ask their name and get a little glimpse into their life via a silly or inconsequential question.

Speaking of which, I'm full of gratitude about FOON, and here is why. FOON is a weekly ministry of our church that serves scores of high school students. An intergenerational outreach, dozens of folks from our congregation are involved over the course of each school year, with six to eight people participating per week. I don't think there is another comparable weekly ministry in our church, which I mention not because I want to compete, but because I want to rejoice. Thank you to everyone who contributes to FOON. Thank you for helping us buy pizza. Thank you for bringing cookies and other treats. Thank you for dropping drinks off by my office or the youth room refrigerator. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for suggesting questions we could ask the students. Thank you for setting up and cleaning up. Thank you for serving pizza to high school kids.

Let's also thank God for letting us take part in his love for high school kids. Thank you, God, for placing our church directly next to the high school. Thank you for blessing us with resources to implement this ministry. Thank you for the original idea for FOON and for the many people who have continued it for almost 20 years. Thank you for the beauty and benefit of sharing food together. Thank you for the joy the high school students bring to us when we feed them pizza. Thank you that you love us and help us love one another.

~ Julie

## Lael Work Day November 12

Lael's fall work day is scheduled for November 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until noon or for as long as folks are willing to stay. The Lael Board has identified a number of tasks that need to be completed at our church's retreat facility, and we need your help! All ages are welcome! Coffee, juice, and donuts provided. Bring work gloves, water bottle, sack lunch, and tools/supplies appropriate to completing the project(s) of your choice.

### To-do list:

- ◆ Wrap window air conditioner in plastic for the winter (cover provided)
- ◆ Limb trees around pond and haul limbs to designated area to be burned
- ◆ Pick up previously cut limbs from trail and haul to same designated area
- ◆ Burning brush
- ◆ Weed around the barn
- ◆ Reinstall second row of benches in the amphitheater
- ◆ Put up bird spikes on chapel
- ◆ Replace damaged drywall upstairs in the barn (~2 ¼ sq. ft. of ½ in. drywall)
- ◆ General indoor cleaning and reorganizing
- ◆ Winterizing the facility

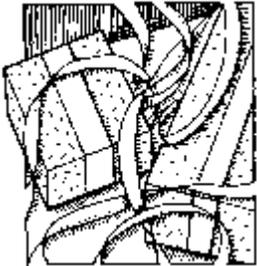
For more information, contact Lael Board President Neal Wallen at [wallehollow@msn.com](mailto:wallehollow@msn.com). Together, we can continue to make Lael a welcoming, peaceful, and beautiful spot where everyone can appreciate God's creation.



## WINTER MISSION ACTIVITIES

### Joyful Jars

On November 16 in conjunction with our Wednesday night supper and stewardship dinner, the mission team is inviting our church family to create dried soup mix Joyful Joys for those in need. For several years we have distributed dry soup mix jars to local food banks. Please bring wide or narrow mouth mason jars preferably with lids.



### Christmas for Kids

Christmas for Kids was started by members of our church and has become a beacon of our community coming together to bring joy to local children. Their website is now available to sign up to sponsor a family, fulfill tags or provide other donations. [ChristmasforKidsMoscow.org](http://ChristmasforKidsMoscow.org)

### Thanksgiving Worker Appreciation

Many folks are working on Thanksgiving Day, Hospital staff, fire and police workers are often acknowledged with food and other acts of kindness, but what about grocery store workers, gas station attendants and others? As suggested by members of our church family this year we are going to pilot an effort to thank those working on Thanksgiving by delivering small loaves of pumpkin bread or other goodies. We have some volunteers to bake and we could use more. If you would like to help bake, deliver (help please!) our gratitude gifts or add to the list of deliveries, please contact Julie Hopper or Dianne Daley Laursen.





### Finance Report

As of September, 2022

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 17,557	\$221,117
Disbursements	\$ 26,966	\$ 221,860
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$743)	
Cash Balance (checking/savings)	\$43,197	

# WINTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** Advent begins November 27, and it is the tradition in our church to begin each Sunday worship service with the lighting of the Advent candles. If you and your spouse, family, or a group of friends would like to light candles for worship, **please sign up** on the sheet on the office window as soon as possible. Readings will be provided in advance.



**HELP NEEDED SETTING UP FOR ADVENT** On Sunday afternoon, November 20, a crew of volunteers is needed to set up trees in the sanctuary and chapel, and prepare for the Hanging of the Greens service. Anyone who would like to help with the preparations is invited to come from 2-4 p.m. All ages welcome. Contact Kathy Pendegraft at [kathyp8623@twc.com](mailto:kathyp8623@twc.com) to volunteer or to get more information.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS NOVEMBER 27** During 10:30 a.m. worship on the First Sunday of Advent, the congregation will participate in the "hanging of the greens" by hanging wreaths and adding Chrismons to the tree in the sanctuary. We will remember the meaning behind the Chrismons, lights, ever-greens, Advent wreath, and poinsettias, and begin to prepare our hearts for Christmas.



## TAKING ORDERS FOR POINSETTIAS

Would you like to help decorate the church and honor loved ones with beautiful poinsettias during Advent? The plants are \$12 each, and you are welcome to take yours home after Christmas. Please return this form with your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettia" on the memo line) to the church office before Nov. 16.



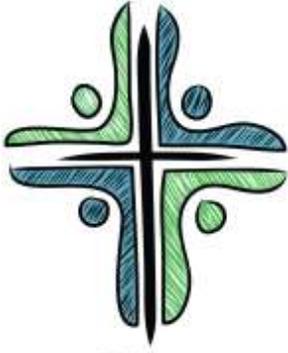
Name \_\_\_\_\_ How Many \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated to/In Memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

# November 2022

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m.– Sunday school 10:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship	7	8	9 10:30- <b>Men's</b> Bible Project via zoom	10 10:00 a.m.– <b>Women's Bi-</b> ble Project in the Library	11	12 9:00 a.m.– Lael Work Day 6:30 p.m.– SAI Dinner
13 9:00 a.m.– Sunday school 10:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship	14	15 Last Day to turn in Poin- settia orders! 3:30 p.m.- Prayer Shawl Meeting	16 10:30 a.m.- <b>Men's Bible</b> Project via zoom 6:00 p.m.– Stewardship dinner and Joyful Jars	17 6:00 p.m.– NSA concert rehearsal	18 6:00 p.m.– NSA Concert	19
20 9:00 a.m.– Sunday school 10:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship Set-up for the hanging of the Greens	21 7:00 p.m.- Deacons	22	23 10:30- <b>Men's</b> Bible Project via zoom	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m.– Sunday school 10:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT	28 7:00 p.m.– Session	29	30 10:30- <b>Men's</b> Bible Project via zoom			



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## *First Presbyterian Church*

*“Growing in Christ”*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.**

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/moscowfirstpres>

YouTube: [First Presbyterian Church of Moscow - YouTube](#)

Office Hours: By appointment—call 208-882-4122

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