

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Dear Friends,

I so want to simply focus on the joyful Christmas season and let the weeks leading up to it fill with anticipation of the birth we celebrate and the joy of our Christmas gatherings. Yet, and unfortunately this year we have another yet, we have a tragedy I our community and the weight of trauma like a wet blanket remains with us. So, while the murder of the four college students cannot be undone and as that act continues to produce a shadow on the life of our community, we must carry on.

Last night, December 6, we had a service of remembrance that acknowledged both this community trauma and our personnel struggles, losses, and dismay. Acknowledging these concerns and feelings, I expect, reduces the pressure these feelings and concerns create in our lives. The hope is that as we acknowledge our feelings and concerns, reducing the pressure that they might cause, then we may also make room for a little light to shine in and the warmth of compassion to be felt. I thought particularly about how we as human beings can have mixed emotions. We can feel the concerns and grief of our community and of events in our own lives, and we can notice moments of grace. We can feel the anxieties, grief, and uncertainty of our times and due to events in our lives and we can remember that God loves us. We can still remember that God comes among us.

It is Jesus' entry into our world in which God offers a gentle "and". For Jesus enters our world nearly unbeknownst to most of it, a gentle way to enter in to bring the "and" God loves us through the gift of God's Son amongst us. We feel and experience and wonder at the way our concerns can seem all consuming and God gives us that "and" – 'and' God is with us, "and" the prince of peace comes among us, "and" the saving grace of God becomes ever more evident.

So, as we progress through Advent and return to the events and drama surrounding Jesus' birth, we are invited to accept the grief and

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Sunday School

9:15 am

Sunday Worship

10:30 am

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

loss in our community, **and** notice the way light comes into our darkness. We are invited to open our hearts again to make room for this Christ child and to feel the embrace of God's compassion in the very act of coming into the very human context of our lives and the worlds situations. We don't solve all the mysteries around us however, we do remember, and open again to, the love of God gives to us, holding us when we hurt and engaging with us when we need to be engaged.

Of course, we offer our Christmas season worship and a few extra events. We will go Caroling on Dec 18th. We will have a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will also have worship services on December 25 and January 1. This year Christmas falls on a Sunday and we will have a service at the normal time. So put these down on your calendar and join us for these special Christmas services. The service on Jan 1 will be a carol sing. Each Sunday is such a wonderful opportunity to worship God together. And worship is in some ways a defiant act amidst the darkness of our world, an act that declares we see the light, the light of Christ shining in our darkness, and a confidence that no darkness can overcome that light.

May the grace of God and the peace of Christ be yours,

Norman



Caroling ~ 4:00 pm December 18th
Christmas Eve ~ 7:00 pm December
24th
Christmas Day ~ 10:30 am December
25th
Epiphany ~ 10:30 am January 8th

New Members and Baptisms

Baptisms~ Lee and Scott Cortner

New Members~ Christy Castro and Caitlyn Probasco



 **Finance Report**

As of November, 2022

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$	\$
Disbursements	\$	\$
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		



Family Promise of the Palouse is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower families experiencing homelessness – or in danger of becoming homeless – to achieve sustainable independence for a more promising future. Along with providing temporary housing and meals for up to four families in local church facilities, they also work with homeless families in our community to guide them to long-term sustainable housing. Families receive education related to financial literacy, parenting and life skills. With the support of a case-manager, families are guided to employment, health care and housing.

One factor that helps families succeed is the long term relationships they develop with Family Promise volunteers.

First Presbyterian Church and our friends from Quail Run Ward are hosting Family Promise guests **Jan 15-22**. Our hosting duties include preparing and taking down guest bedrooms, providing and hosting evening meals and hosting our guests overnight on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be sign up sheets in the narthex, or please contact Celeste Brown at bioinfo-mom@roadrunner.com.

Deacons Benevolence

The Benevolence offering for December will go to FOON. FOON is our churches outreach to the Moscow High School students. FOON has grown exponentially since the beginning of the school year, the average number of students participating is ~80 kids. This gives us a chance to be more involved in the community and show the students we care. Thank you for helping with this important work through your October benevolence giving. Offerings may be put in the offering plate or mailed to First Presbyterian Church (marked October Benevolence) or give online using the Tithe.ly app or the "Give" button on our website at fpcmoscow.org.

FOON

FAMILY MINISTRY

Julie Hopper, Director of Family Ministry familyministryjulie@gmail.com

If we're moving through December, that means it's the end of the year. Yikes! This has been a busy season for Family Ministry. Now we have made it to the last flurry of activities before the New Year.

Sunday School and Children's Church have offered some great lessons and fun times. We follow along with the same Scriptures used in the regular worship service. Now that we have reached Advent, these narratives around the birth of Jesus have offered food for thought and a great opportunity to act out the stories. I'm pretty sure that we have had enough stories about angel announcements that all the young people in our church could tell you the consistent human reaction to angel visitations: FEAR.

The kids in our youth group, plus several of our younger kids, were a big help in assembling the Joyful Jars at the Wednesday Supper Fellowship on November 16. Nadine had a beautifully organized assembly line, and we filled a lot of jars! Our early December meeting provided the opportunity to create ornaments together, which we managed with no serious glue gun burns. It was so fun to see the variety of ways the kids assembled cinnamon stick ornaments. Originally designed as reindeer, our creative bunch also morphed them into longhorn ornaments and a reindeer/snail hybrid with eye stalks.

We continue to host a large number of students at FOON each week, with our totals hovering in the 70s, but not quite topping 80 yet. Thanksgiving week brought the news that we had received a grant of \$500 from the Latah County Community Foundation. We're grateful for this donation to help cover pizza costs. One fabulous recent gift to FOON was new, more durable and attractive signs put together by Tom Richards. I'm also thankful for the whole team of folks that helps put on FOON each week, as well as those who bring cookies and drinks. And we all know that the LCCF grant will cover only a small fraction of our pizza costs. This outreach of encouragement relies on gifts from many generous members of our congregation.

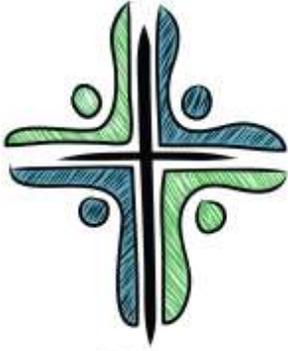
Let me give you a little view into our inventive and sweet high school kids. They wish they could invent a crazy selection of products, especially things related to travel like a transporter, time travel machine, magic carpet or flying car. And one young woman wanted to invent a new president. They were also forthcoming concerning what they like about snow. Adolescents can cultivate a tough image, so it was actually heartwarming to hear how many of them liked that snow was sparkly and pretty, and they enjoyed watching it fall, particularly at night lit up by street lights. Of course, there was no shortage of kids who preferred snowballs and snowball fights, and a few who did not appreciate snow unless they were somewhere warm looking out at it. I confess, I feel privileged to see these kids each week and get a glimpse into their minds and hearts through simple questions. That's why I share a few of their responses with you, so you realize that although they come to eat pizza, we have the chance to connect with them, too.

With school break and Christmas coming, we will be having fewer of our regular youth activities over the last part of the month. Friday, December 16th, we're planning a gathering for youth and families (and anyone else who wants to show up) to spend time in my pasture around a fire, roast hot dogs and marshmallows, sing Christmas carols and celebrate the beginning of Winter Break. Our Sunday services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will not have Sunday School or Children's Church, but the kids are invited to join in for these special, less formal services.

~Julie

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:15 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Sunday Worship	5	6 12:00- Tuesday Sisters Group	7	8 10:00 am- Women's Bible Project	9	10
11 9:15 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Sunday Worship	12	13 12:00- Tuesday Sisters Group	14	15 10:00 am- Women's Bible Project	16	17
18 9:15 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Sunday Worship 4:00 pm- Caroling	19	20 12:00- Tuesday Sisters Group	21	22	23	24 7:00 pm- Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 10:30 am- Sunday Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31
Family Promise Host Week						



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First Presbyterian Church

“Growing in Christ”

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Pastor Norman Fowler
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