

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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As I stood outside the front doors last Sunday in the warmth of the last few rays of October sunshine, I appreciated the warmth and enjoyed the time. I appreciated having snippets of conversations with those that had attended worship standing there in the sun's warming light. In a time when my attention is so often on the struggles, divisions, and tragedies of our times, I am thankful for that moment of simple joy.

As we enter November, we may begin to look forward to a day of thanksgiving and all that day means to us. President Lincoln instituted Thanksgiving Day to attempt to draw a nation divided in the Civil War back together and to encourage the inhabitants of this nation to remember as he begins his declaration: "The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and even soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God."

Lincoln's encouragement to be aware of the good given us and the "ever-watchful providence of Almighty God," and yet how the human heart is "habitually insensible" to these gifts strikes a chord with me. I to get so caught up in the struggles, divisions, and tragedies so prevalent and so oft at the forefront of media and press presentations, that I forget the "blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies." Furthermore, I wonder if in our thanksgiving, our awareness of what we might be grateful for, is shoved aside by our tendency toward being incensed by what we see as wrong. This is not to say we shouldn't see the wrong and desire to right those wrongs. However, I do wonder if our perspective tends to be so focused on the wrongs, we struggle to see any blessings.

Continued on Page 2...



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

How can the writer of Philippians (4:4) write "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!"? It helps me to note that the word for rejoice here could be translated 'glad for grace'. I know that in these times, I must remind myself of God's grace, God's surprising gift of forgiving, redeeming love. The pandemic has added a new dimension of difficulty to our lives, especially our need to be in fellowship with others. For me leading worship in an empty sanctuary and not having the chance to check in with people in times of fellowship on Sunday and Wednesday particularly has been incredibly disheartening.

While I am grateful for the beginnings of our return to in-person worship and some other activities, I still find I need the surprising gift of God's forgiving, redeeming love to help me see beyond my own failures and the stress and anxiety of our times. I need those moments of warm sunshine, of familiar voices, of children running around in our parking lot. I needed that moment of saying thank you to our healthcare workers and the hope that we could bring a modicum of appreciation into their lives. I too easily see mistakes, my own and others, and get caught up in our divisive times. I need time to remember what I am thankful for this year. Even when the year is not what I would have planned, I can find and recognize much to be thankful for. I am happy to be reminded to be thankful for the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

I do want you to know I am thankful for you. That you are each in your own way an essential part of God's family of faith as it is expressed in our church. And as we celebrate a day of thanks, a time to notice what we are thankful for, we can look around that corner to watch, prepare, rejoice, and behold what is central to our hope for this world, and the next. As the last Sunday in November is the first Sunday in Advent, perhaps we can begin to move from what we might be thankful for to noticing again the root of our joy.

May the Grace of God and the Peace of Christ be yours,

Norman

News From the Gardening Group

The "Garden Group" are the volunteers who have spent many Saturday mornings "sprucing up" the FPC grounds. This has included removing the huge juniper (roots and ivy that was growing beneath it). Remember where it used to be?

As you walked on the sidewalk from the parking lot, the juniper was on the right, next to the steps going to the storage room and the side lawn. We have exciting plans for this area! We want to level the ground and have a landscaped patio area where staff, members and friends can sit, eat lunch, meditate, visit or wait for a ride. We are obtaining bids for the hardscape and hope to have the work done in the spring. We expect

the bids to range between \$3000 to \$4000. The Session has designated a permanent Landscape Fund to finance projects like this. We invite you to join us in making a donation to the Landscape Fund.



~ Sally Amador

Deacons Benevolence Offering for the First Sunday in November

Christmas for Kids is a magical annual event where local kids in extreme need are hand-selected by their school counselors. The child then joins a volunteer shopper and they check off a Christmas list mostly comprised of basic clothing needs for the kid and their immediate siblings.

A combination of donated funds, donated items (coats, books, toys, hygiene items, etc.), vastly reduced prices, and volunteer contributions create a unique situation where 95¢ of every \$1.00 donated is spent on the child.

These are the kids most in need, being treated to a day they will never forget, receiving items they greatly need.



Deacons Spotlight on Dan Crimmins

Dan Crimmins, long time member of FPC, was born and raised in Moscow. He was baptized by Reverend Prall and has many memories of growing up in the church. Among his favorite memories at FPC is sitting at the foot of the piano while his mother, Roberta, played the piano for her Sunday School class. He still has his Sunday School certificate for his 3 year old class, recalls running back and forth between the Sunday School house and the church through a brick "tunnel" and remembers singing in the Junior Choir. His family even had their own pew that his parents and he and sister Jean (Currin) sat in each Sunday. He also was a charter member of the Church Bell Choir.

Dan attended the University of Idaho and received a Bachelor's of Architecture with landscape design as one his favorite areas. His studies were interrupted by the Vietnam War. He enlisted in the Army rather than being drafted, attending an electronics school and served 3 years; 2 ½ years were spent teaching electronics. Dan returned to Moscow and worked many jobs as he put himself through school. Among these jobs were as a Sign Maker, Grounds Keeper, Frame Maker and Fuller Brush Man!!

Dan has many hobbies and interests. He is an Amateur Radio Operator, loves woodworking, carpentry, and reading history and murder mysteries. He and his wife Carol also enjoy landscaping. He stepped in to the role of FPC Garden Team Chair about 2 years ago and to quote Dan, "My strength is getting others to do the work!"

Dan spent 38 years as staff engineer in the Public Works Office in Pullman. His job included surveying, drafting, construction inspections of sewer and water projects and designing a fire tower. He also spent 5 years working in a similar job in Moscow.

Dan has participated in many other areas of service at FPC. He was a member of the FPC Guitar Choir and the Praise Team for several years. Among the instruments he has played include the bass guitar, drums and the flute. In the 1990s he and Carol were permanent church ushers, attending to the many jobs of opening the church and preparing for worship each Sunday.

While his daughter Kelly was a teen, Rob Ruckert was the Youth Director at FPC. Dan shared the story of how he felt God grab his hand and direct him to become fully involved in the Youth Program. He especially loved working with Middle School youth and worked with our youth for around 20 years.

Dan is a man of many interests, talents and gifts and we are so very blessed to have him as a member of Moscow First Presbyterian Church!

~ Ellen Johansen, Deacon



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

October showered us with opportunities in Family Ministry. At least, it showered on our opportunities. We restarted FOON, that's Food at Noon, in October. We've been serving high school students pizza at lunchtime on Wednesday on the front lawn of the church. The word is getting out to students, so our numbers are building. So far, we've had rain about half the time, and the wind made serving much more exciting on the last Wednesday of October. It takes a team to coordinate our outdoor pizza service, and many people have shown up to help as well as making generous donations of drinks and treats. Thank you to Ellen Johansen for organizing the treat assignments through December. There are six more FOON dates before Christmas. If you are able to volunteer, please call, email or text me. I have a lovely FOON spreadsheet where I can record where you wish to help.

On October 31, we did Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot from 4:00-6:00. It was a beautiful afternoon, although it chilled quickly when the sun went down. People dressed up and decked out their cars for the event. The Halloween Christmas trunk was beautifully elaborate, and both Harry Potter and Snoopy mingled and handed out treats. Kids from our church families, neighbors of our church and folks who were passing by made the rounds of the parking lot, trick or treating, running around and generally being exuberant. For a while, extra kids were hanging out in the back of the church bus making scary sounds to add to the creepy mood inside.

It was generally a lovely time to be outdoors together, mingling and chatting. There are not many occasions that offer the chance to converse with Hulk Hogan, a cockroach and a monk at the same venue.

We're currently selling Christmas wreaths for a Family Ministry fundraiser. November 7 is the last Sunday to sign up for a wreath at church. Money from wreath sales supports camperships for Camp Spalding.

November is a transitional month. We're solidly into fall, about to celebrate Thanksgiving, and preparing for Advent and Christmas. In Family Ministry, we are beginning a season of thankfulness and encouragement. We're looking forward to participating in the Hanging of the Greens service at the end of November to kick off Advent season.

We'll be continuing our kids' church service, and also participating in special portions of the regular worship service. If you would like to help with our children's Christmas program, get in touch with me. Covid has adjusted our approach to many things, and we would like to prepare something different and special to contribute to the church's celebration of Christmas.

You can contact me at familyministryjulie@gmail.com or you could call or text me at 208-882-0700.

Taizé Services

Come and join us for a peaceful, prayerful Wednesday evening service at 5:30 PM in the Sactuary Taizé is a time for music, contemplation, and prayer, and is a time to bring calm and refreshment to your week.



**Daylight Savings Time
ends Sunday, November 7**

Finance Report

As of September, 2021

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 28,045	\$ 234,329
Disbursements	\$24,882	\$219,520
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$14,809
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$38,176*



Support Our Youth Campership Fund!

Our Youth Group is taking orders for fresh and fragrant wreaths, pictured here, to raise money for the Youth Summer Camp Fund. Complete and return the order form below along with your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "wreath" in the memo line) to the church office by November 10. Wreaths will be available for pick-up at the church the first week of December. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Wreath Order Form (Orders Due November 10)

Customer Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
24" Classic Wreath	_____ @ \$25 each	\$ _____
24" Mixed Wreath	_____ @ \$30 each	\$ _____
15 ft. Cedar Garland	_____ @ \$20 each	\$ _____
	TOTAL DUE	\$ _____



Poinsettias

Would you like to help decorate the church and honor loved ones with beautiful poinsettias during Advent? The plants will cost \$12 each, and will brighten the sanctuary for those attending services in person as well as those watching online. Please return this order form along with your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "poinsettia") to the church office or put it in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary no later than November 16.



Name _____

How Many _____ Amount Paid (\$12 each) _____

Dedicated to / In Memory of (circle) _____

News Briefs

Scouts Charter Representative NEEDED

The scout troops affiliated with our church are looking for a Charter Organization Representative from our congregation so they can continue to offer their programs in our community. *"The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) is the direct contact between the unit and the Chartered Organization. This individual is also the organization's contact with the District Committee and the Local Council. The chartered organization representative may become a member of the district committee and is a voting member of the council. If the chartered organization has more than one unit, one representative serves them all. The Chartered Organization Representative appoints the Unit Committee Chairman."*

Below is a brief description of the tasks associated with the position:

- Act as a liaison between the Church and the Scout troops, report to the Session on troop activities, and pass along requests made of the church from the troops, such as event scheduling at the church.
- Review and sign applications for new adult leaders.
- Review and sign the annual charter agreements (along with Pastor Fowler and the troops' Committee Chair).
- Attend monthly committee meetings (these are now done remotely), and provide comments, concerns, or questions about troop business.

Rechartering takes place this month, so the need is urgent. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Troop Committee Chair Ben Bailey at bcbphone@gmail.com.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Advent begins November 28, and it is the tradition in our church to include the lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday in worship. If you and your spouse, family, or a group of friends would like to light candles on one of the four Sundays of Advent or on Christmas Eve (tentative), **please sign up** on the sheet on the office window as soon as possible or contact Kathy Pendegrift at kathyp8623@twc.com. Readings will be provided in advance.



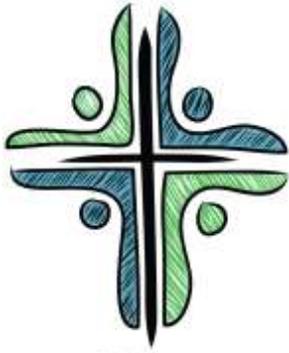
HANGING OF THE GREENS NOVEMBER 28 During 10:30 a.m. worship on the First Sunday of Advent, the congregation will participate in the "hanging of the greens" by hanging wreaths, adding Chrismons to the tree in the sanctuary, and hearing scriptures and singing hymns of the season. We will remember the meaning behind the Chrismons, lights, evergreens, Advent wreath, and poinsettias, and begin to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

HELP NEEDED SETTING UP FOR ADVENT AND THE HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE Would you like to help? Five or six volunteers are needed to set up and begin decorating the tree in the sanctuary Sunday afternoon, November 21, at 1:00 p.m. These volunteers should be able to lift a moderate amount of weight and be comfortable on a ladder. The remainder of the preparations (wreaths, advent candles, sconces, etc.) will take place sometime during the week of November 21, depending on the availability of willing helpers. Call or email Kathy Pendegrift at 208-883-3015 or kathyp8623@twc.com if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

November 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

31	1	2 <i>8-4- Classical Conversations</i> <i>6 PM- Scouts</i>	3 <i>10:30- Men's Bible Project</i> <i>5:30- Taizé</i>	4 <i>10- Women's Bible Project</i>	5	6
FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK						
7 <i>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</i> <i>10:30- Worship (communion, stewardship dedication)</i>	8	9 <i>8-4- Classical Conversations</i> <i>6 PM-Scouts</i>	10 <i>10:30- Men's Bible Project</i> <i>5:30- Taizé</i> <i>Wreath Orders Due</i>	11 <i>10- Women's Bible Project</i> <i>VETERANS DAY</i>	12	13
14 <i>10:30- Worship</i> <i>1- FNB</i>	15 <i>Advent devotions due.</i> <i>7p Deacons</i>	16 <i>8-4- Classical Conversations</i> <i>6 PM-Scouts</i> <i>Poinsettia orders due</i>	17 <i>10:30- Men's Bible Project</i> <i>5:30- Taizé</i>	18 <i>10- Women's Bible Project</i>	19	20
21 <i>10:30- Worship</i> <i>1- FNB</i>	22 <i>7p Session</i>	23 <i>8-4- Classical Conversations</i> <i>6 PM-Scouts</i>	24 <i>10:30- Men's Bible Project</i> <i>5:30- Taizé</i>	25 <i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!</i>	26	27
28 <i>10:30- Hanging of The Greens Service</i> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	29	30 <i>8-4- Classical Conversations</i> <i>6 PM-Scouts</i>		CHURCH CLOSED		



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Church

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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

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com