

First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
MOSCOW, IDAHO

# News & Views

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Beginning a new year is a bit more difficult for me this year. The change of time from one year to the next is generally a time for me to reflect on the past year and to make plans and enter with hope into a new year. I find the struggles of the past two years especially with the pandemic, weather and fire disasters likely acerbated by climate change, continued gun violence, the reality of racism, deep political divides, that alternative 'truths' that cause intense conflict and threaten our democracy, and the incredible resource and economic disparities all continue to weigh on me. I also personally dealt with a painful physical experience called sciatica for about the first half of 2020. The experience of strife and pain have, I think, led me to be a little more reticent than optimistic about the prospects for the New Year.

I find myself questioning my own assumptions and sense of stability. I wonder where things seem to have gone wrong and if we can together change our trajectory. Our presently seems to much toward conflict, disasters, and dissolution. I have to say that at times all I feel all I can do is turn to God and ask for help. I turn to God and ask for forgiveness for the ways I might be involved in the way it feels we have missed the path of goodness, missed what seems to me to be the way of Christ. I lament the suffering, misery, and pain we cause one another through racism, fear, and demonization and through the weather/climate disasters experienced already by too many. I wonder how to move from lament into hope.

As we have celebrated the again the birth of Christ, I do feel the ray of hope this birth brings. Like the first ray of light in a sunrise shining down on a landscape, as that light brings new definition and vision, so I hope again in the way God can do this through the work of God's Son and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Yet, Jesus came in a time that was filled with violence, oppression, and hardships, and it did not all change overnight. In the story, we hear of how his birth led to grief as the ruler of that region reacted in fear over his birth. I feel like there remains a fear of a rival to human power, control, and status even in the idea that we have a Creator that would come among

Continued on Page 2...



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

us to heal us. This fear impedes seeing how this Creator might show us how to live in a way that is good and enables us to become what we were created to be.

I hope to renew my efforts to turn to this Creator. I feel I need to notice again what it means for our Creator, our God, to come among us. I need to attend again to Jesus' teaching. I need to notice how Jesus demonstrates God's love offered us. I need to see how Jesus reveals a way into a different kingdom, one in which humans do not rule, and where serving is a blessing. I am reminded that not only celebrating Jesus' birth but listening, noticing, and attending to what God is up to is central to our faith. I hope to do more of this listening.

Sometimes as I sit in my living room with the fire in the fireplace warming the room, all these fears and thus the need and effort needed to turn and listen can seem far away, or far in the future. Then another event happens, another day dawns in which the need for change is evident, and I recognize that my need to listen and notice God's will, way and work is real. I invite you to renew your listening, noticing, and engaging with God as well as we enter this New Year.

Grace and peace,

Norman

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## Family Promise Update

Family Promise of the Palouse is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower families experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence for a more promising future. Along with providing temporary housing 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. Families also are guided with the support of our case-manager to employment, health care and housing.

First Presbyterian Church is hosting Family Promise guests January 23-30. Currently, our service to our guests only includes delivering dinner to the Day Center in the evening and acting as overnight hosts, and there are many tasks in preparation for those two services. We will again be working with our friends from the Quail Run Ward to fulfill these tasks during the week.

An online training module for Family Promise volunteers is available, and we are asking that all volunteers renew their training. It's been several years! Those who have volunteered in the past should have received the information about how to access the training. If you are interested in volunteering for the first time, please contact Celeste Brown at [bioinfo-mom@roadrunner.com](mailto:bioinfo-mom@roadrunner.com).



# Annual Meeting

**January 30, 2022**  
**11:45 a.m. In-Person and via Zoom**

## Zoom Meeting Information

Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83617453512?pwd=blJsZC9XSGFpVGdXQXVlOVFtSEhqQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 1745 3512  
Passcode: 528197

## AGENDA

Annual Congregational Meeting – Pastor Norman Fowler, Moderator

Call to Order

Prayer

Quorum

Motion: accept agenda

Election of Church Officers & Nominating Committee Members

Review and vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2021

Presentation of Annual Reports

Review of Committee and Other Reports

Review of Budget

Annual Corporation Meeting – Jon Van Gerpen, President

Annual Meeting of Lael, Inc. – Neal Wallen, President

Election of Board Members

Review of the Year

Other Business

Adjournment

Prayer

First Presbyterian Church  
405 S. Van Buren Moscow, ID 83843



## Finance Report

As of November 30, 2021

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 17,272	\$ 256,275
Disbursements	\$21,308	\$ 259,474
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$3,199)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$44,090



## Finance Report

As of December 31, 2021

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 29,443	\$ 285,718
Disbursements	\$26,563	\$ 286,037
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$319)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$69,377

## Deacons Benevolence for January

This month's Benevolence offering will be going to Avista Utilities', Project Share. Project Share is a community fund that helps keep homes warm through crisis situations like a sudden loss of income, expensive medical costs, malfunctioning heating equipment and other unforeseen circumstances that deplete available funds and make it difficult to pay household energy costs. The program is a partnership between utilities, fuel vendors and community action agencies that provide emergency energy assistance to qualified households that have exhausted all other energy assistance resources.



Offerings may be put in the offering plate or mailed to First Presbyterian Church (marked January Benevolence), or you give online using the [Tithe.ly](https://www.giveprojectshare.org/) app or the "Give" button on our website at [fpcmoscow.org](https://www.fpcmoscow.org).



## Men's and Women's Bible Project Groups

The men's Bible Project group will start meeting again via zoom on January 12th at 10:30 AM. The women's Bible Project group will begin meeting again on January 27th at 10:00 AM in the church library.

## Thank You from the Office

I have to say I have never had a job like this one. The kindness, help, and advice I have received has been overwhelming and inspiring. I am stepping into some very big shoes, but Kathy has been the best predecessor a girl could ask for, between the training she gave me and her continuing help I feel incredibly blessed. Every aspect of this job fills me with a sense of joy (even the parts that could be considered less than awesome), needless to say I love this position and this church, I am so excited to work with everyone through the coming years. I am here to help, so please let me know if there is ever something you may need!

I feel it is important for me to address the times we are experiencing; our world, country, and communities are experiencing difficulties as a direct result of the pandemic. I hope to be helpful as First Presbyterian Church continues to navigate these times and offer comfort and support to the community and our congregation.

So, with all of that said, I want to add a huge thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to help. Thank you for your love and guidance. Thank you for being my family since I made the move to Moscow in 2014 and for the support as I started my family with Michael! James is one lucky kiddo to have you all as church family! You guys' rock!

- Lauren Nancarrow,  
Administrative Assistant

# FAMILY MINISTRY

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

As we move into the New Year of 2022, it seems like a great time to say, "Thank You!" There are so many of you to thank for helping in my role as Family Ministry Director. Even though it seemed like we were just feeling our way along to find ways to connect with one another despite Covid, we reconnected through a big variety of activities: park play days, cookie outreach to the high school, outdoor VBS, outdoor Sunday morning worship for kids, outdoor FOON (even in some crazy weather), youth group parties and more. If we added up all the people who helped and all the time spent on these activities, we would be surprised at how much they come to. Thank you to all those who have offered up front help. And to the many who have helped in ways that are very much in the background but are vital to having a workable system.

We've dealt with ongoing uncertainty throughout 2021, but we took opportunities to reach out to one another and to reach out into our community. Now, it looks like 2022 will bring more of the same. Omicron is spreading speedily around the world, and we're not sure if or how we will be adjusting our activities in response. However, this need not fetter our love and care for one another. Family Ministry, as well as the church at large, will continue to adapt to worship and serve together.

As 2021 wanes and we open the door on 2022, it's a perfect time to contemplate God's goodness to us and express our gratitude for his work in our lives. At Christmas, we have just been reminded that Jesus came, in humility and love, to live as our example, die as our sacrifice and rise again as our Savior. Every day we can experience his presence, and one excellent way is through the beauty in the world. Noticing and soaking beauty into our souls is an extravagant gift from God to encourage and help us. I'm also grateful for his patience with my failures and his comfort in any difficult circumstance in my life. Hooray for God, who is always faithful! I'm so glad I can safely trust in him.

~Julie



## **WE URGENTLY NEED A SCOUT CHARTERD ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE-**

The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) is the direct contact between the troops and First Presbyterian Church, and signs off on all adult leader applications. This individual will also be a member of the district committee and a voting member of the local council. For further information contact Lauren in the office, or Troop Committee Chair Ben Bailey at [bcphone@gmail.com](mailto:bcphone@gmail.com).

# Music Ministry

This year at FPC music saw many of the same challenges as last year, yet glimmers of new life still find their way to emerge.

In addition to our regular Sunday in-person worship services, we have been able to resume our in-person Taizé services on Wednesday evenings. During the summer, we were able to have a couple services out at the Lael retreat center. These were made possible with extra effort and time by members of the Praise Team transporting equipment to and from the church sanctuary, as well as the organization of Pastor Norman in helping put the services together.

The month of May saw the departure of our previous worship accompanist in the wake of their busy school-life and impending performance scheduling. Our biggest thanks and best of luck to Abigail Silverberg. With the organization of our personnel committee and Mary Bosch Read leading the search, we were able to find our new and current worship accompanist in Ian Wendt who has blessed our worship with the music he provides and his talented skill in accompanying both ensemble and vocal leadership.

Perhaps one of the more significant activities this past year was putting together 9 singers together for an anthem and hymn which was video recorded and featured in our online Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve service. This also featured the talents of our former worship accompanist Megan Blood and her husband Darrick, as well as from David Roon. My biggest thanks to them for their contribution and talent.

My biggest thanks to Kathy Pendegraft for setting up the microphone for recording and Pastor Norman for operating the video camera for the choir's pieces. Special thanks also to our singers Gary Peterson, Tom Richards, Kathy & Bruce Pitman, Keith & Mary Stormo, Julie Hopper, Kathy Pendegraft, and Susan Billin for singing and to the folks who volunteered to take the robes home for cleaning and organize them for that recording.

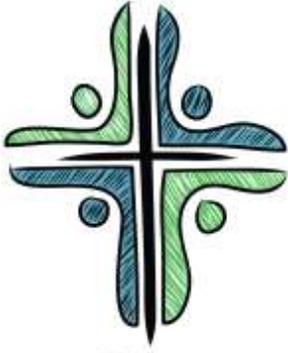
I also extend my biggest thanks to Kathy Pendegraft, Mary Robinson, Mary Bosch Read, and Jacob Wells for their musical talents and knowledge they bring to the Praise Team and the worship services throughout the year. And of course, nothing beats getting to sing all four verses of "Silent Night" together in the snow on Christmas Eve. We shall see what 2022 brings in light of the Omicron Covid-19 variant, but am thankful for memories like these and for getting to look back at this past year with great pride as we enter the new one.

- Thomas Pearson

**PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT** At the beginning of each calendar year, we as a church are required to pay a per capita assessment to Presbyterian Church (USA) based on the number of people on our membership roll. The per capita assessment helps cover the overhead expenses and supports the administrative and operational costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. The per capita amount for 2022 is \$37.00 for each enrolled member. If you are able to contribute toward this expense, please mail your check to the church. Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church with the notation "per capita" in the memo line. You may also contribute online at [tith.ly.com](https://tith.ly.com). Questions about your membership status may be directed to the church office.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10:30 – Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30 – Worship 1–3: FNB	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 3-7: FNB meal prep
<b>16</b> 10:30 – Worship 1–3: FNB	<b>17</b> MLK JR. DAY CHURCH CLOSED	<b>18</b> 8-4: Classi- cal Conver- sations	<b>19</b> 10:30– Men’s Bible Project on zoom	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3-7: FNB meal prep
<b>23</b> 10:30 am– Worship 1–3: FNB	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8-4: Classi- cal Conver- sations	<b>26</b> 10:30– Men’s Bible Project on zoom	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 3-7: FNB meal prep
<b>30</b> 10:30 – Worship 11:45– An- nual Meet- ing	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 8-4: Classi- cal Conver- sations	<b>2</b> 10:30– Men’s Bible Project on zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3-7: FNB meal prep



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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](mailto:fpcpastornorman@gmail.com)