

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Winter, with its dark days and cold that seeps in, is often a time where one has a bit harder time seeing the more joyful side of life. This winter of course, has had the added weight of a pandemic. Furthermore, we experience the continued divides of race, ideology, politics, and status. I continue to have conversations with folks about how over this time period they are overwhelmed, particularly by the restrictions of the pandemic. I sense a longing to be with friends and colleagues without being on a screen, or only being able to see their eyes. The pandemic has seemed to enhance the stress over our differences, as well as the isolation it has caused.

I wonder what has brought us to this point, where we can have alternative facts and how we fundamentally see the world in different lights. I wonder if this is part of the process that has been on-going. Over the last 100 years the speed of change has increased by a phenomenal amount. I suspect that in some ways this in itself is traumatic. And when we add the trauma of social unrest and disagreement during a traumatic pandemic, perhaps it is no wonder so many feel stressed, anxious, and uncertain about our future.

Though it is hard to nail down a definition of trauma, the following definition comes out of the work of researchers working with trauma in various ways: "Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being." (SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance of Trauma-Informed Approach, July 2014) This is a broad definition, and it invites us to think about what has threatened individuals physical or emotional well-being, and has led to effects on one's ability to function, as well as, mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. Further when we are dealing with traumatic circumstances and experiences, one's anxiety and fear rise. Researchers suggest that this rise in anxiety and fear reduce our ability to make good decisions.

One element of our lives that research doesn't often include is the role of trusting in God, especially in the midst of traumatic events. I suspect we can more easily see trauma in our lives as causing us to question our trust. Yet, for those who hold on to this trust, I suspect, they



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

have a bit of a different experience. I have seen trust in God in the face of the greatest mystery of human experience, death, as being a great comfort and even allowing folks to embrace their eminent death with hope. I believe our faith comforts and enables us to deal with the traumas of our age in a healthier way as well.

I know that in situations of anxiety, as I have been able to remember the trust and confidence I have in God, I have found a reduction in anxieties debilitating nature. While we may not hear exactly what we want to hear from God, we are invited to the way of God in Christ Jesus. And, that way, is the still more excellent way that Paul talks about at the very end of 1 Corinthians 12, and from which he launches into 1 Corinthians 13, the chapter about the nature and importance of love. While anxiety tends to heighten our problems with one another, Jesus invites us to a way of caring for one another that helps us support each other through our struggles. The pandemic's isolation created a barrier to some of the very personal support we give one another in fellowship. And, while I am hopeful that we will soon be able to have fewer restrictions on our gatherings, and the fellowship these gatherings offer, until then, I am reminded of the importance of our personal relationships with God.

In our busy, demanding lives, and in a general social milieu that does not see any effective influence beyond the material world in which we live, I wonder how we hold on to, and develop this personal relationship. I feel the strains of the world continuing to offer more questions about hope in this relationship. Yet, I believe it is in this relationship we find the real assurance we need, the realization of community, and the draw for us to go beyond ourselves, that we might care for our world and its people.

These have not been easy times. In these times of unease, we are challenged to assess what we really trust. I believe that our trust in God enables us to handle the uncertainties, the losses, and the conflicts with a greater grace than any other way I know. For it is from the source of grace, that we might find the ability to live graciously. And goodness knows, our world needs gracious ways of relating to one another. As we enter lent at the beginning of March, we will be invited to go deeper into this, our reflection on the grace given to us, and what it means for our lives in our times.

May the peace of Christ, the love of God, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, be yours,

Norman

Taizé will start back on Wednesday, March 2nd!

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

 Finance Report As of January, 2022		
	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 55,280	\$55,280
Disbursements	\$ 25,885	\$25,885
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$29,395
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$96,291

Deacon's Spotlight

For the February Deacon's Spotlight, I would like to present to you, Arturo Bieghler. Arturo was born and raised in Moscow and is one of the proud products of the Moscow School District. He is a recent graduate of Moscow High School. Arturo is currently, attending the University of Idaho and is a sophomore, in pursuit of a degree in Civil Engineering, which takes up the majority of his time. According to him, the Civil Engineering degree takes a tremendous amount of studying and labor. To supplement his income, he does work in one of the local McDonalds. So, when you go to McDonalds, ask for him and give him a big tip. He needs all the help he can get. However, he will take time out to play a few bars on his guitar. Otherwise, he does not have much time for any extra curriculum activities.



Arturo started to attend the First Presbyterian Church's Youth Group when he was in 6th grade. He remembers having lots of fun with Sydney Rozen and Jeremiah Nealon after he took over. Arturo says the most fun he had was when he was selected to be part of the mission group to Puerto Rico. He remembers sleeping in the Baseball Stadium and a Jr. high school.

His job title is "Videographer" in FPC's staff list, which he started in 2020. Essentially, he is in charge of making sure all the slides are in the correct order and running. He, also, in charge of making sure the camera is on the correct angle and on the correct person (when they are speaking, singing, playing instruments). The utmost crucially, making sure the sound is at an appropriate level for the online streaming of our Sunday Services.

He is one-half of the invisible duo in our staff member on Sunday mornings. We are extremely glad to have such an expert in our staff.

Thank you Arturo for all of your hard work.

Manny Sheibany, Deacon

Deacons Benevolence

January'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 app or the "Give" button on our website at fpcmoscow.org.

News Briefs



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 bcb-phone@gmail.com.



Bible Project Bible Study Groups

The men's Bible Project group is meeting again via zoom on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, you can contact Lee Rozen for more information. The women's Bible Project group meets on Thursday's at 10:00 AM in the church library, and will reconvene on February 24th. Contact Kathy Pitman for more information.

FOON Gratitude Tree

I am thankful for you.

Our goal is for you to eat yummy pizza.

And for you to know that we want good things for you.

FOON

There are various leaves that can be attached to our Gratitude Tree.

Please write what you like and are thankful for about FOON. Choose pens, pencils or markers to write out your thanks.

Sign your first name, too, if you want.

We would love to put this gratitude tree in the church to show our thanks to the people who bring treats, buy soda and pay for all this delicious pizza. We want to show how much we are thankful for them.

I want you to know that I am thankful for you. Our goal is for you to eat yummy pizza. And for you to know that we want good things for you.

Gratitude Responses

- I'm thxful for foon.
- Free pizza (multiple)
- Free pizza and soda
- I'm thankful that every week I can have

something to be excited for on Wednesday.

- I'm thankful for my friends at foon.
- The pizza is good.
- I'm thankful for the people that provide the pizza.
- Thanks for the free food so I'm not hungry.
- I am thankful for the tasty food.
- As an adult that helps, I enjoy seeing all the cheerful kids.
- I am thankful for being able to hang out with friends here.
- I am thankful for cheese. It's good
- Thank you for the pizza. It's yummy! :)
- Thank you whoever funded this. The food was good.
- I am thankful for friends and food to take home.
- I'm thankful for the kindness of people in Moscow. Ryan
- I am thankful for Julie. :)
- Jokes and comedy
- I'm thankful for pepperoni cuz it's great.
- I'm thankful that I can make high school students happy with food and drink.
- I'm thankful for the team of people that makes FOON possible: setting up, serving, cleaning up. And the team bringing treats, donating drinks, funding pizza.

Give a Meal a Month

As we begin our 6th year taking part in the Give a Meal a Month (GAMAM) ministry, I would like to once again share its beginning. The GAMAM ministry began in 1988 as part of the Mission Outreach of Ministry of Webster Groves Presbyterian Church in Webster Groves, Missouri. Their local food bank needed a balanced meal of canned food that could be easily delivered in a bag. The Webster Groves congregants “passed the hat” to pay for bright yellow bags and a logo was designed. On the first Sunday in June of 1988, the GAMAM program was introduced to the congregation. Soon, churches of all denominations throughout Missouri and many states beyond adopted the GAMAM ministry.

The general concept is to provide a nutritionally complete meal of canned and other non-perishable foods in on convenient bright yellow bag. A different menu card for each month is placed along with the bright orange bags on a small rack in the Narthex. Parishioners may pick up a bag or two—do their usual grocery shopping a fill a GAMAM bag too. The bags are returned to FPC and placed in the Food Bank box by the pastor’s office. Bags are available to be given to those in need, distributed to our Pastors Pantry, Home Start clients, as well as the local Food Banks. We have also given bags to the Campus Christian Center and a few other sites in Moscow. So, let’s all grab a bag and help our neighbors in need.

If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon. -Isaiah 58:1

-Ellen Johansen

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began at FPC in the summer of 2018. There are 10-12 individuals who faithfully take part in this ministry outreach. Although we haven’t been meeting in person since Covid restrictions, the ministry continues. Shawls are knitted or crocheted, prayed over and presented to those in need of encouragement, healing or those dealing with grief. The shawls are intended to be symbolic of God’s loving embrace, bringing comfort and peace to those who receive them. In addition to shawls, one of our members has contributed many chemo caps, to be given to individuals who are going through chemotherapy treatment. 2021 was a year of sharing this outreach ministry by giving out 16 shawls and 2 chemo caps. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Ellen Johansen at 208-301-1931.



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

How can it already be February!?! My January raced by, fueled by snow days and work-at-home days with a sick child. That gave me the opportunity to have online Sunday School one week. At this point, this was fun and nostalgic, but I'm glad we're not doing it every week! We also had four weeks of FOON in January, and my fabulous crew of volunteers did a great job running the whole show the week I was stuck at home. January has also included a large number of Covid cases in our community, which we hope will decline significantly as we move through the month of February.

In Family Ministry, we seem to be at an in-between time. Christmas is over, Lent is looming, and Easter will be here before we know it. But for now, we are just keeping going on the basic activities. Children's church continues, and the kids are learning about things Jesus did from the book of Luke. We're still waiting for a safe and effective vaccine for our youngest congregation members.

FOON is going strong, and we alternate between serving the kids indoors or outside, depending on the weather. Thank you everyone who supports this ministry. There are a lot of you! Almost 20 people have signed up to help provide treats between January and the end of the school year. There are four to five of us every week to set up, fetch pizza, serve and clean up. The entire congregation is part of the general FOON budget, yet, on its own, this would not be enough to keep us going. Thank you to all who donate extra funds to cover the cost of pizza, and thank you to everyone who has dropped drinks by my office.

It's hard to describe what is so great about FOON. Feeding these high school kids is fun. They are happy and appreciative. We have this chance to have contact with them and get to know them just a bit over the weeks. It's not quite as personal as being their barista, but we start to anticipate their pizza orders. For example, our pineapple pizza boy was missing last Wednesday, and we noticed his absence. I'm always tired afterwards, but whether we are in the basement or on the front lawn, it's a fun experience. I wish everyone in our FPC community could have the chance to participate. Of course, even if you can't be there with us to hand out pizza, you can pray for these high schoolers. You can pray for me and the others who help serve. You can give to our pizza fund or drop off drinks at my office. This outreach is from our whole church family.

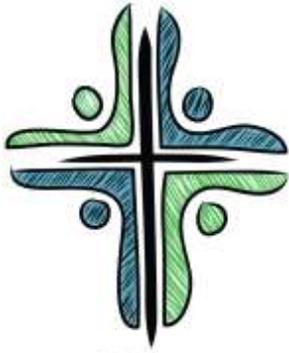
Because of the current high Covid rate in the community, I'm working with Harper to plan an online youth meeting. We're planning an online youth event where we can do something "together" via Zoom. We're also working on an in person meeting for when the Covid rate is lower. The fluctuating realities of the Covid pandemic are giving us opportunities to experiment with various options.

The good news is that Covid is not preventing us from caring for one another. We can continue to express gratitude, encourage one another and pray for the people in our church and community. And we can also look forward to warmer spring weather and the chance to gather outdoors for fun and fellowship.

~ Julie

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7: 30-4- Cl as- si cal Con- ver- sati ons 8-11: 30- Organ use 2-4: 30 Organ Use 6: 30- Scouts	2 10-12- Organ use 10: 30- Men's Bi bl e Project on Zoom 2-5: 30- Organ Use	3 11: 30-5- Organ Use	4 8-1- Organ Use	5 8-12- Organ Use 3- FNB
6 10: 30- Worshi p and Children's Church 1- FNB	7	8 7: 30-4- Cl as- si cal Con- ver- sati ons 8-11: 30- Organ use 2-4: 30 Organ Use 6: 30- Scouts	9 10-12- Organ use 10: 30- Men's Bi bl e Project on Zoom 2-5: 30- Organ Use	10 11: 30-5- Organ Use	11 8-1- Organ Use	12 8-12- Organ Use 3- FNB
13 10: 30- Worshi p and Children's Church 1- FNB	14 Weddi ng  Valentine's Day	15 7: 30-4- Cl as- si cal Con- ver- sati ons 8-11: 30- Organ use 2-4: 30 Organ Use 6: 30- Scouts	16 10-12- Organ use 10: 30- Men's Bi bl e Project on Zoom 2-5: 30- Organ Use	17 11: 30-5- Organ Use	18 8-1- Organ Use	19 8-12- Organ Use 3- FNB
20 10: 30- Worshi p and Children's Church 1- FNB	21 President's Day- Church Cl o sed 7PM-Deacons	22 7: 30-4- Cl as- si cal Con- ver- sati ons 8-11: 30- Organ use 2-4: 30 Organ Use 6: 30- Scouts	23 10-12- Organ use 10: 30- Men's Bi bl e Project on Zoom 2-5: 30- Organ Use	24 10- Women's Bi bl e Project 11: 30-5- Organ Use	25 8-1- Organ Use	26 8-12- Organ Use 3- FNB
27 10: 30- Worshi p and Children's Church 1- FNB	28 7PM- Sessi on					



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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: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCCzTiJBUB4fHAgVPGn5rgag](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzTiJBUB4fHAgVPGn5rgag)

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