

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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I hope your summer is going well. I am so thankful for the sabbatical time though the events were not always what I planned. Many of you know that we had two grandchildren born this summer. Jessa had a son they named Corbin and Micah a girl they named Gioia (pronounced Joy-a). They both experienced some medical concerns. Corbin's experience was quite serious and we had some question whether he would make it. Yet, after many days in ICU he seems to have come through it well and should be healthy baby boy. This did impact our plans as we stayed close to communications and lifted many prayers. Helen then flew back early to be there to support Jessa and family while Corbin was in the hospital 4 hours or so from home. Our church family prayed with us and sent notes of support via Facebook and email. Nancy and Bill Payne who now live in Richmond, Virginia, where Corbin was in the hospital, helped Helen with rides and a meal. We are very grateful for the help.

I remained in London and waited to see if I was also needed in Virginia. Corbin began doing much better, and it seemed abruptly, he was sent home. We had hoped that this would be time for rest and recuperation for the whole family. However, Helen had contracted Covid somewhere along her travels and so another medical concern infected the hopes for a more normal life. We are so glad for the prayers and concerns of our church family. We think the Covid outbreak has almost run its course in Virginia and I will be joining the family there on August 9.

I reminded once again that despite our best laid plans, life takes its own twists and turns. We are thankful we have church family that prays with us and from whom we know support. We are grateful for a faith that enables us to pray for help, guidance, and fortitude. We have much to be thankful in the face of our difficulties this summer. I am also particularly thankful all those who helped enable our church life to thrive this summer. I feel blest by the leadership and work of staff and volunteers that made this possible.

Even though it seems like time stands still in the midst of our concern, we wake up again to the flow of time and continued activities. Even as we sat wondering at the trauma around our grandson's medical condition, we saw a world that went on, people living their lives, and activities continuing. So too, I realize that when I return on August 15, we will be closing in on the beginning of school and college classes. These are a harbinger of fall coming and our church family resuming our fall activities. We will probably start up Sunday School and perhaps some of our other activities as well. If you would like to be involved and to help ensure these activities occur this fall, do contact me.

On Sunday, August 21 at our gather at Lael that evening, I will talk more about my sabbatical. We will have time of fellowship and worship so plan on attending and enjoying Lael as well. I hope the weather and smoke will not interfere with this important time of fellowship.

I am wishing you all the best and hope you are experiencing the grace and peace of God in Christ,

-Norman



With Gratitude for a Fruitful Summer

In the coming weeks, as we look forward to welcoming Pastor Norman home from sabbatical, the Personnel Committee would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to our gracious and generous community of faith here at Moscow FPC. Through your gifts of prayer, leadership, encouragement, and financial gifts, we have collectively provided Norman the opportunity to attend to his personal renewal, study, and valuable time with family. A special thank you goes out to our wonderful staff who have faithfully stood in the gap, ensuring that church activities continued to run smoothly, and also to our Deacons, Elders, and Stephen Ministers for their ongoing leadership. On Sunday mornings, we enjoyed hearing sermons from our own Julie Hopper, Lauren Nancarrow, and Bruce Pitman, as well as from guest preachers Elle Grover-Fricks, George Fricks, and Ann Hartman.

We are particularly thankful for the ministry of Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch as our Interim Pastor. We are grateful for his pastoral leadership, inspiring sermons, guidance of staff, and remarkable ability to "get to know us" quickly and deeply. We will miss his generosity of spirit and personal interest in the life and people of the MFPC community. Thank you Fritz!

With joy, we look forward to Pastor Norman's return later this month and his presence once again in the pulpit on August 21. He plans to share highlights from his sabbatical later that day at Lael Vespers, so we will have a couple of opportunities to welcome both Norman and Helen back into the circle of faith here at MFPC.

Mary Read,
Personnel Committee

Final Lael Evening Service of 2022

Join us on August 21st at **5:30 PM** at the beautiful Lael retreat located near Troy, for a time of Fellowship, as we welcome Pastor Norman back from his sabbatical. Pastor Norman will tell us about his sabbatical, with a potluck to follow. For a map and directions to get to the Lael Retreat Center, Look on our website www.fpcmoscow.org. We hope to see you there!

Deacons Spotlight

Rick and Ceil Brigham have been attending our church for the last 4-5 years, travelling from Clarkston, WA. They have been married ten years, but have known each other since they were teenagers. Rick's uncle owned a ranch near Beaumont in southern California and raised nuts, peaches, and two types of cherries. The ranch was originally a stage station. The uncle was very close friends with Ceil's dad, as both had moved to the United States from Norway in the early 1930's. Ceil was very good friends with one of the uncle's daughters. Rick and Ceil met and visited at this ranch when they were teenagers. They did not see each other for 42 years after high school,, but met at the funeral for the uncle's daughter, who was also Rick's cousin.



Ceil's dad built and flew airplanes and gliders, but died in an accident when he was only 36. Ceil's mother worked as a nurse, and raised their five children. The kids each developed a sense of self-reliance. Ceil grew up in Sacramento, California and worked on a newspaper after graduating. Rick grew up in Los Angeles and was raised in the Presbyterian Church. He worked as a wildlife biologist for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management for 38 years, 34 of which were in Nevada. He, with help- funds and labor- from area sportsmen, developed 33 large water catchments for desert bighorn sheep. This greatly improved habitat for not only bighorns, but many other wildlife species as well.

Rick knew his grandfather had been born and raised in Moscow in the late 1880's but he did not discover the Overacker Cemetery in Latah County until he moved to Clarkston. There are 45 graves; 17 (4 generations) are Brigham's- 5 of whom Rick knew growing up. He and Ceil will be buried in the Overacker Cemetery when time comes.

Deacon's August Benevolence

The August benevolence offering is going to the Kiwanis "Stuff the Bus" project. School supplies are purchased by the Kiwanis Club of Moscow and the Kiwanis Club of Pullman and go to Moscow School District, Pullman (including Albion), Colfax, and Colton/ Uniontown. The students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch are the recipients of the needed school supplies. The potential is of helping 2,000 students in the Palouse region and about 700 in the Moscow School District alone. The last three years have seen an uptick in needed supplies. Gifts to the Deacons' August Benevolence may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or given online through Tithe.ly. Designate on the memo part of the check August Benevolence or "Stuff the Bus."



News Briefs

Church Archives- I (Lauren) would like to start to organize and Accession the historical artifacts and documents of our church. I have been amazed by the history of First Presbyterian Church and would love to make that history more accessible to the congregation and our community. If you have anything that you would like to add to the collection, please contact Lauren in the office at 208-882-4122 or by e-mail- office@fpcmoscow.org. - Lauren Nancarrow



Finance Report

As of July , 2022

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 16,026	\$189,676
Disbursements	\$ 25,644	\$173,703
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$15,973
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$67,232

Women's Bible Project

The Women's Bible Project will resume its weekly gatherings in the church library on Thursday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend this study, which is based on the "Bible Project" video series covering all the books of the Bible and many biblical themes, as well. We will be discussing the first video based on the Book of Acts (chap. 1-7) on Sept. 8. This video can be viewed ahead of time at:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-acts-1/>

This gathering is a "drop-in-when-you-can" group in which each lesson stands on its own, so if you miss one week, you can easily join in with the next study. The videos are interesting, only about eight minutes long, and after viewing the video together, the group discusses the video and the Bible selection on which the video is based using a study guide faithfully put together by Pastor Norman each week. Kathy Pitman is the facilitator and would love to see new members join us for these lively discussions. Please call her at (208) 882-8847 or e-mail her at : kbpitman@roadrunner.com with questions you might have about the Women's Bible Project.



Mission Updates

GALATIANS 6:2

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Fellow servants of Christ,

We are building a yearly mission calendar for FPC. We are looking to do something in the community at least every other month. Please share your ideas! Stay tuned for ways and dates to volunteer as a church with Palouse Habitat for Humanity next month, either on a build site or providing lunches.

Palouse Habitat is organizing a local ecumenical team for a March 2023 spring break trip to Habitat Guatemala (it's not just home building. Dianne will be a co-leader, and members of FPC are welcome. Stay tuned for informational meetings.

Please remember our food bank box at church. Here is the current wish list for Sojourner's Alliance:

Food: peanut butter, cereal, instant oatmeal, canned items (tuna, soup, stew, chili, etc.)

New socks & underwear for men, women, and children

Toilet paper

Paper Towels

Kleenex

Large garbage bags (30+ gallon)

Kitchen garbage bags (13 gallon)

Dish soap

Sanitizing/disinfecting wipes

Cleaning supplies

Twin size bed sheet sets

New bed pillows

For more information contact Dianne Daley Laursen, 208-310-1231

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Here we are at the end of summer. Soon, Norman will be returning and kids will be back in school. Before we get that far, we do want to look back at some of our activities over summer vacation.

Vacation Bible School was really fun and a great team effort. Our theme of Passport to Peace offered peacemaking strategies for all ages of people interested in following Jesus. The VBS section of the newsletter lists out a number of those ways to promote peace.

We also supported church kids with camperships. More of our kids would have attended, but with camps filling up fast, some were left on wait lists. Camp Spalding addressed this issue creatively for some high school wait listers who were able to go to camp as youth helpers. The Nealon family spent a week at camp together when Jeremiah spoke at Jr. High camp.

I was also blessed by the opportunity to preach for the Sunday morning worship twice this summer. Thank you all for your gracious responses. I appreciate the spiritual growth available to me through this experience, and I trust that the Holy Spirit was able to work through me to communicate spiritual truth to our church congregation.

Some of our fall planning will be delayed until Norman's return, but summer and the influence of Rev. Dr. Ritsch provided the opportunity to examine options for youth group. I have been doing research and studying about ways to include young people with various disabilities in youth group programming. This a great potential way to practice being a Matthew 25 Church. The research process also led me to great conversations with various congregation members.

I'm grateful today for being made in God's image, stamped by his creativity. I'm thankful for the Holy Spirit, working in my life. I'm excited to see God work in the lives of kids and families through our church in the upcoming school year.

~Julie

Peace Making Strategies From VBS 2022

At VBS the kids learned about various peacemaking strategies. These are **helpful for everyone, so here's a list to help all of us be more peaceable:**



- ◆ Walk away and cool off
 - ◆ Say "STOP"
 - ◆ Say "I'm Sorry"
- ◆ Take action when someone is hurt
- ◆ Surprise someone with kindness
- ◆ Express your feelings and needs
- ◆ Consider the feelings and needs of others
 - ◆ Refuse to fight
 - ◆ Ask for help
 - ◆ Talk and listen
 - ◆ Respect everyone
 - ◆ Speak up for what is right
 - ◆ Make new friends
 - ◆ Offer to help
 - ◆ Eat together
- ◆ Find a win-win solution



Thomas' Farewell

Dear FPC,

As many of you already know, I will be making a move to a new position in Lewiston after this month, and my official last Sunday will be September 4th. The position is as organist and part time office worker in the church I grew up in from the age of 6, Episcopal Church of the Nativity. I have previously mentioned to some people in conversation that this offer arose very quickly out of changes in staff there, however, in seeing the opportunity to be closer to my home and to be serving the congregation I grew up and learned how to make music in, I immediately felt the exact same feeling as when I found the position at FPC in 2019: that God was somehow calling me down this road.

I now know that God was certainly with me in deciding to come to Moscow to work in your incredible, amazing parish (more on that later!), because I was blessed not only with so many incredible opportunities to make music but learned far more and gleaned so much more experience and knowledge than I would ever imagine. I certainly don't think God sent me the memo regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic that would take hold only three months after starting out in my first music ministry position. And yet, the music, as well as the learning, continued. I want to personally thank everyone who helped in keeping the services and the life of the church going while the pandemic surged and all of us were stuck inside quarantining, and even into the past two years of re-integrating towards what the normal services looked like before.

Which is where I also give thanks for the greater church. After graduating college, I was not sure what path I would take and felt certainly lost. This is further why I feel God was with me, because I was blessed with this position, some sort of path. Not only was I enriched by what I got to do and what I learned, but by the sheer kindness and spirit of community that is imbued throughout the First Presbyterian family. This church community should be considered a shining example to parishes everywhere. Home will always be a word I associate with this church, because even though I may not be there, it is the place where I felt like I was truly grounded, where I stopped worrying about what I would do after college, about what I would do with my life...that love and God and grace are what home means, and are in the heart. I truly feel that serving you at FPC made me not only a better musician, but by far a much truer Christian.

One point I do wish to clarify is the notion that I made this decision to move on because of money prospects. This is not true, and I believe FPC to be more than fair in its consideration of employee compensation. FPC is fair, loving and wonderful towards its staff and I have always felt very supported in all the ways possible by all points of staff and leadership in the church.

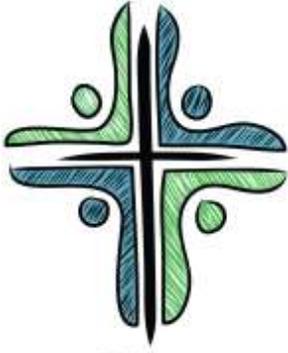
But, in bringing it all on home, I just really want to say thank you to everyone and especially thank you to Pastor Norman and all the staff I worked with both now and during the pandemic and to the wonderful musicians in the Praise Team and Chancel Choir, as well as the accompanists I was blessed to work with: Megan Blood, Abigail Silverberg, and now Ian Wendt.

Blessings to you, First Presbyterian Church of Moscow, Idaho. I promise you I will be visiting all the chances I get. <3

- Thomas

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 a.m.– Staff Meeting	2 12:00 p.m.– Tuesday Sisters Group	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship and Children’s Church	8 9:30 a.m.– Staff Meeting	9 12:00 p.m.– Tuesday Sisters Group	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship and Children’s Church	15 9:30 a.m.– Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m.– Deacons	16 12:00 p.m.– Tuesday Sisters Group	17 7:00 p.m.– Scouts in Fellowship Hall	18	19	20
21 9:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship and Children’s Church 6:30 p.m.– Lael Vespers	22 9:30 a.m.– Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m.– Session	23 12:00 p.m.– Tuesday Sisters Group	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 a.m.– Sunday Worship and Children’s Church	29 9:30 a.m.– Staff Meeting	30 12:00 p.m.– Tuesday Sisters Group	31			



First
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Church

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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
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com