

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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I am glad to be back and entering the fall and our time of increased activity and programs. Before I write more about our fall, I want to again thank all of you that were praying with us as we awaited the outcome of our grandson's life-threatening brain bleed. We are incredibly thankful that after 6 days in ICU and 2 more in the hospital with a lower standard of care, the hospital released Corbin to go home. And, he has been doing well ever since. So far it looks like he is progressing like a normal 2 and ½ month old baby. We hope and pray that there are no long-term consequences to this event. Again, we are incredibly thankful for your prayers.

Now, as I reenter the ministry of our church after the summer sabbatical, I do feel more refreshed from the summer than I expected. We did have our ups and downs yet and in the midst of it was able to do some study, prayer, and worship that also was renewing in my spiritual life. Out of this time of contemplation, study, and worship, the idea arose about revisiting our origin story, the in the beginning story. We are after all trying, it seems to me, to begin again to shape a new normal after the worst of the Covid pandemic. Then, I also wonder if the divisiveness of our present time is in part due to changing ways of seeing the world and how we assume it works.

So there are several reasons I think I was drawn to look at the foundational passages at the beginning of Genesis during Sunday worship this fall. Noticing these stories of our origins and the trajectory starting Genesis, I felt it was a way to remember where we come from so we can think about where we are going. Sometimes I wonder if it is so easy to imbibe a societal or a cultural way of seeing things that we lose sight of the beginnings God has given us, and thus, the way to life God offers us. I feel looking at the origin story again in our present context is valuable. So, we will look at topics like what does God give humans to do, how it is not good to be alone, our broken relationship with God, and others that we find mainly in the pages of Genesis. I will conclude the fall series of Sunday sermons with an overview of the Old Testament prophets.

During the fall we will also have other opportunities to gather and attend to God's message to us. We will have several groups looking at the Bible Project. The Bible Project offers a short, animated video describing generally a portion of, or topic in, scripture. The groups use these videos as starting point for further



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

discussion about the Biblical message and its relevance for our lives. If you interested in being part of a Bible Project group let me know or let the office know and we will help you connect to a group.

Several years ago, we did a church wide study on our spiritual gifts and how each of us have God given skills and interests that we might develop and use to the God's glory and that help and encourage our family of faith. Celeste Brown will be offering another look for those who have done this study before or a first time look at this study for those who have not participated in it before. She will offer this as a Sunday School class on Sundays at 9 a.m. starting September 11. If there is more interest and Sunday morning does not work for everyone, she will consider offering another group at another time. This reflection on our spiritual gifts is a gift itself. With it we are invited to remember and notice how God has given us a variety of gifts for the good of God's people and that enhance our experience of faith. I hope you'll consider participating in this study.

Again, I am glad to be with our church family again and I look forward to all the opportunities we have this to live out our faith this fall. I have focused on studies and discussions, however, we also will have opportunities to put our faith in action in our community through our mission team's monthly initiatives. We will have opportunities to help Habitat build an affordable home or help our neighboring church in Bovill repaint the interior of their church. Watch for other opportunities as they arise and/or are initiated through our mission team this year.

May the Peace of Christ and the grace of God be with you,

Norman

DEACONS BENEVOLENCE

For the month of September the Deacon's have chosen the Moscow Food Bank to be the recipient of the Benevolence Offering. The Moscow Food Bank has been open to all in need since 1981. It is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, 100% volunteer-operated, and receives the entirety of its support from the generosity of the private citizens of the Moscow-Pullman community.

The public entrance is in the rear of the food bank, leading up a wooden ramp from the St. Mary's Catholic Church parking lot, which is accessible by North Howard Street and the alley off East First Street. Please park in the lot, and not in the alley (we want to be considerate to our residential neighbors).

After-hour donations are accepted in a plastic bin to the left of the door on the front (North Polk Street) porch. All unexpired canned foods, boxed foods, and fresh fruit and vegetables are welcome. Please contact the Moscow Food Bank directly to arrange for larger donations, as well as to contribute financially. All donations (100%) are returned to the community.

Gifts to the Deacons' September Benevolence may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or given online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Designate on the memo part of the check September Benevolence or "Moscow Food Bank".



Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides exposure to active peacemakers as well as education and resources to empower congregations and individuals to become peacemakers, themselves. These collective efforts support resources in dealing with conflict, provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global siblings, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School for kids at 9:00 starting September 11th. While parents and other adults attend the Spiritual Gifts class with Celeste, kids can head upstairs for their own class. We'll be exploring the same texts Norman is using in his fall sermon series.

Many hands make light work. We're looking for teachers to teach one Sunday a month or one every other month. If you are willing to give it a try or are just curious about what it would entail, contact Julie at 208-882-0700 or familyministryjulie@gmail.com. It can be really fun to teach and learn about God's truth with kids.



Finance Report

As of August, 2022

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 13,884	\$203,560
Disbursements	\$21,273	\$194,895
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$8,666
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$54,735

Family Promise

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 five 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.

First Presbyterian Church and our friends from Quail Run Ward are hosting Family Promise guests Oct 2-9. 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. We also supply WinCo gift cards for the families to purchase breakfast and lunch supplies, and we are requesting donations toward the gift cards. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be sign up sheets in the narthex, or please contact Celeste Brown at bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

School has started and Fall programming is here! We're inching toward pre-pandemic levels of activities in the church, and that goes for Family Ministry as well. Sunday School starts September 11 at 9:00. We will have lessons following the sermon themes of Pastor Norman's fall preaching schedule. I'm looking for volunteers to share the teaching and nurturing opportunities we have at Sunday School each week. I don't want to hog all the fun kid interactions to myself. Please reach out to me if you want to be involved.

Youth Group is off to a slimy start. We made magnetic slime at our first meeting, took turns chucking various school supplies, conducted lightsaber battles with pool noodles and talked about what kind of group we want to be. Fall youth group meetings for middle and high school students will be held the first and third Wednesdays each month, with each second meeting corresponding with Wednesday Supper Fellowship.

FOON is starting soon! This is our fun, wildly successful outreach to the high school kids in our community. I can't help feeling excited about this ministry. Let me pause again to thank you all for your support and involvement in FOON. It is such a joy to work together on the FOON team. There are also so many avenues of service involved:

- Making snacks
- Providing drinks
- Setting up
- Picking up pizza
- Serving food
- Talking to hungry kids
- Cleaning up
- Financing pizza purchases
- Praying for everyone involved, kids and adults

The cool thing about that list is that we can all find ourselves on it. There are ample up front and behind the scenes ways to be involved. Last year, dozens of congregation members were involved, which does not count the prayer and financial support from people I didn't know about. We are demonstrating that we care for students across just about every category imaginable. Who knows the ways God can use this to encourage young people and contribute to the growth of the Kingdom of God?

The fall pizza season begins on September 21, and we will begin serving our local high schoolers at 12:23 that day. Please get in touch with me about ways that you can help. I'm looking forward to seeing the kids again, and I'm working on new ways to show them we care.

There is a lot happening in Family Ministry. I hope many people in our church can have a part in our work with children and families. That means you! Don't forget that God can use you in the lives of kids. And he can use them in your life as well.

~Julie

In the Beginning ...

Pastor Norman's sermon series is exploring God's role in creation and our roles as part of His creation. Have you ever thought about YOUR role in God's creation?

The Holy Spirit has given each of us unique gifts to carry out God's work in the world. It is not easy, however, to discover our gifts or to develop and use them effectively. That's why our congregation is offering the course *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*.

Where do you fit into Christ's plan for the world? The answer lies in the unique gifts God has given you. This course will provide a renewed understanding of who God created you to be and God's design for Christian community. You'll find clues to your spiritual gifts in the *Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory* and other gifts discovery activities. Then you'll explore opportunities to further develop and use your gifts.

Celeste Brown will facilitate this course. Sessions will cover such topics as:

- Why you are unique
- Finding real joy
- Where your spiritual gifts come from
- Love is at the heart of spiritual gifts
- Exploring and applying your gifts

Beginning on Sunday, Sept. 11, the one-hour class will meet every Sunday at 9:00 am for 7 weeks in Fellowship Hall.

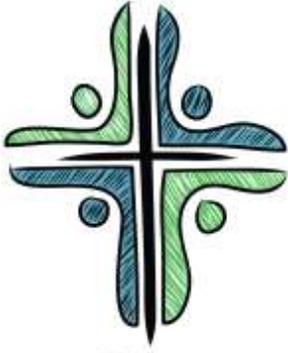
To learn more about the course, email or call Celeste Brown at bioinfo-mom@roadrunner.com or 208-892-3356 or talk with Pastor Norman.

Discovering God's Vision for your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts can help you live your faith more effectively and completely. Be part of this opportunity for personal and spiritual growth!

In the Beginning, God called us to be part of His creation. Where's your part?

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30 am– Sunday Worship	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 9:30 am– Sunday Worship	5	6 6:30– 9:00 pm – Scouts in Fellowship Hall	7	8 10:00 am– Women’s Bi- ble Project	9	10
11 9:00 am– Discovering God’s Vision 10:30 am– Sun- day Worship	12	13 6:30– 9:00 pm – Scouts in Fellowship Hall	14	15 10:00 am– Women’s Bi- ble Project	16	17
18 9:00 am– Discovering God’s Vision 10:30 am– Sun- day Worship	19 7:00 pm– Deacon’s	20 3:30 pm– Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30– 9:00 pm – Scouts in Fellowship Hall	21	22 10:00 am– Women’s Bi- ble Project	23	24
25 9:00 am– Discovering God’s Vision 10:30 am– Sun- day Worship	26 7:00 pm– Session	27 6:30– 9:00 pm – Scouts in Fellowship Hall	28	29 10:00 am– Women’s Bi- ble Project	30	



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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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