



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

Inside this issue:

Fall Barbecue	2
Stephen Ministry	3
News Briefs	4
Outreach Gathering	4
Peace Offering	5
Disaster Relief	5
Family Promise Training Sept. 9	6
Wednesday Supper	6
Christian Education	7
Women's Retreat	7
Family Ministry	8-9
Photo Day	9
Calendar	10

FALL Schedule

REGULAR WORSHIP TIME
RETURNS

**SEPTEMBER 10 –
WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.**

Sunday School for all ages
resumes on
September 17th.

FROM THE



PASTOR

“Even the most skeptical historian would agree that if Jesus spoke about anything, he spoke about the kingdom of God.” So writes Bruce Malina, who looks at the gospel through the lens of the social sciences. His point is that Jesus talked a lot about the kingdom of God in what he said. Yet, it feels to me it is not a phrase that makes ready sense to us today. I suspect we feel like we have done away with kingdoms and moved to democratic societies. Kingdoms seem to be about despotic political systems. So how do we understand the kingdom of God that Jesus talked about?

This may be hard for us, but scholars suggest that it was simply part of the context of people of Jesus day. They were well-steeped in kingdom of God language, imagery and expectations. N. T. Wright, another well respected biblical scholar, suggests this language “evokes the story of Israel and her destiny.” Wright suggests that Jesus brings this destiny into the present and showed those who would listen that to follow Jesus in his new way of being was to be the true people of God. Thus, in talking about the kingdom of God, Jesus is talking about being the true people of God.

This fall we will delve into this idea of the kingdom of God and how it may speak to us about being the true people of God. We will explore the ways Jesus’ talk about the kingdom speaks to us in our lives. We will notice the invitation to be part of God’s story, God’s way of doing things, in our lifetime. So starting September 17, we will begin to think about this central concept in Jesus’ teaching. I believe Jesus’ approach to the kingdom of God has many ways to teach, inspire and guide us today.

I believe this series in our Sunday worship will fit well with the other activities of our church. So as we start up Taizé worship and Wednesday Supper Fellowship we can ask how these activities are kingdom activities. We can notice the role they play in the kingdom of God and in our lives as the children of God. I believe to think about the kingdom is to think about how we are the people of God together. We can look at each of our activities as kingdom activities and wonder how they build or reveal the kingdom of God. We will have other

Continued on Page 2...

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

opportunities for service and study which are certainly kingdom activities. Some of these plans are still in the works and if you are interested in a particular approach to growing our faith or living it out, please do bring your ideas forward to one of our session members or to myself.

I am looking forward to this fall in our church as we worship, learn, and serve together. For I know that our life together and the ways we engage in fellowship and service do matter in the kingdom of God and in our discipleship, our way of following Jesus in our lives. Hurray for fall and the time to return to the non-summer rhythms of our lives. As opportunities arise, let's look for ways to engage in the work of the kingdom, ways to be disciples of Jesus and children of God.

Grace and peace,
Norman

FALL "WELCOME BACK" BARBECUE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on the church lawn

This barbecue has been a tradition for our church and of our community since 2005. Don't miss this great event for getting back into the swing of things, catching up with church friends, and welcoming our friends and neighbors from the community.



Pulled pork and pulled chicken, veggie burgers, hotdogs, beverages, and tableware will be provided. We plan to serve a lot of guests so the congregation is asked to supply a double-size potluck dish according to the first letter of your last name.

A-G desserts

H-Z - appetizers, salads, side dishes



Welcome Friends
and Neighbors!

We will need volunteers to grill the hot dogs, warm the pulled meat, watch the buffet table for replenishing buns and tableware, serve the meat, greet at the "welcome table," transport the sandwich boards and sawhorses for publicity, and help with set up/clean up. Look for the volunteer sign-up board in the church narthex, or call Mary Jo Van Gerpen (208-883-3768, or email maryjovg@yahoo.com), or call the church office (208-882-4122, office@fpcmoscow.org) by September 7.

“Tell Me More” About Stephen Ministry Training



Next month we will begin a new Stephen Ministry training class. We speak often of the benefits that Stephen Ministers receive, not only in serving as a Christian caregiver, but how the training classes help them immeasurably in their personal and work relationships. Jesus showed us how we should love and care for our neighbors, and caring is at the heart of Stephen Ministry! Particularly when someone is facing difficult times in life, it is hard to know how we can be a good care giver. Stephen Ministry teaches us skills that God will help us use to “be there” and provide distinctively Christian care.

Stephen Ministry training has been called “the best 50 hours of training you will ever experience”. Here are some reasons why:

- Stephen Minister training teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others.
- You gain insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of people who are hurting.
- You develop relational and caring skills you can apply to all aspects of your life.
- You deepen your faith as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver.
- You feel a special bond with those in your class—experiencing real Christian community.
- Stephen Minister training is a lot of fun!

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the upcoming class, which will begin in early October and run through the end of January, with a four-week break around the holidays. The class schedule will be finalized with as much flexibility as possible once we have our full class roster. **We have a real need in our church family for more Stephen Ministers – perhaps God is calling you!**

Information packets with more details are available in the church office. We also encourage you to take a look at the powerful Stephen Ministry videos from care givers and care receivers at <http://www.stephenministries.org/>. You will be encouraged and inspired by their stories!

Feel free to contact Pastor Norman or a Stephen Leader with questions or for more information:

FPC Stephen Ministry Leadership Team

Bruce Pitman: 208-882-8847; kbpitman@roadrunner.com

Kathy Pitman: 208-882-8847; kbpitman@roadrunner.com

Mary Read: 208-301-0146; idahoreader@gmail.com

Mary Stormo: 208-883-3484; kstormo@moscow.com



News Briefs

CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will meet Thursday, September 28, at 1:30 in the Chapel room. Time to hunt up your Bible study lesson books! Extra copies available. We will start with Lesson 5 — *Who is Jesus? According to Paul*. Background Scripture is *1st Corinthians 2:1-2; 2nd Corinthians 5:17-20; Philippians 2:1-4; and Acts 18*. The Key Scripture is *1st Corinthians 1:18-25*.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTION BOOKLETS for September through November are available on the table in front of the window in the lower chapel room. Please feel free to take one for yourself and another for a friend.

USHERS NEEDED Our pool of usher volunteers has been reduced as a result of faithful ushers moving away over the past few months. If you would be interested in serving as an usher, either occasionally or on a certain Sunday of each month, please contact the [church office](#) to be added to the list. Ushers get to greet and hand out bulletins to everyone, as well as take up the offering. It's an easy and essential way for youth and adults to help with worship.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? If so, our Music Minister, Erika Whittington, would like to talk with you about singing with the choir, joining the Praise Team, or providing special music on occasion. Erika is willing to work with your schedule so that you can be a part of our music ministry as often as you like, as your schedule allows. All abilities and skill levels are welcome. You can reach Erika at eswhittington7@gmail.com or 715-418-4454.

Scout News

Ron Richard, BSA Troop 344 Scoutmaster and FPC member, is stepping down as Scoutmaster. Our new Scoutmaster is Alex Greig. The troop committee is very excited about Alex's leadership and energy. Alex can be reached at scoutmaster@moscowtroop344.org.

We are also excited about the Troop's new website: www.moscowtroop344.org. Check it out!



Finance Report

As of July 31, 2017



	July	YTD
Receipts	\$ 38,282	\$ 179,941
Disbursements	\$ 22,166	\$ 176,003
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 3,938
Cash Balance (checking/savings)	\$	63,663*

* Includes Capital Campaign Funds

What Compels You to Be Part of a Church?

Earlier this summer, some folks gathered to discuss this question and a few others. The conversations were rich and helpful in thinking about what draws us to the Moscow FPC community, and also to our individual journeys with Jesus. A second conversation is set for Sunday, September 24, following the worship service.

We will gather in the Library after coffee fellowship (roughly 12:15) and talk further about our personal experiences as a part of the FPC church family, as well as other ways we are in community together in Moscow. Everyone is welcome to participate in this Outreach Team conversation. Please contact Mary Read, idahoreader@gmail.com, or Jacob Wells, jacobwells882@gmail.com with questions or for additional information. Food and drink will be available. Please contact the church office by Thursday, September 14, if you need childcare. We hope to see you there!



~ THE FPC OUTREACH TEAM

Peace Making Offering October 1, 2017

*"So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near."
Ephesians 2: 14-17*

Our world is torn by war, famine and the ravages of severe weather events. Sometimes the suffering seems to be overwhelming to the point that we feel helpless to make a difference. By comparison to others, we are privileged and have the capacity to address these issues. Jesus challenges us to show love, to be instruments of peace and to show compassion to our immediate neighbors and to people in other parts of the world who are in need.

You can be an instrument of peace by contributing to the Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness Offering that will be taken on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Gifts will be directed to crucial needs across the world including supporting refugee aid, disaster relief and healing of violent divisions in South Sudan.

Twenty five percent (25%) of this offering will also be directed to the local peace-making efforts of the Latah Human Rights Task Force. The Latah Human Rights Task Force promotes local social justice programs and is an advocate for those who are victims of discrimination.



Please give generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering on October 1st.

Hurricane Relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast, bringing lashing rain and sustained winds of 130 miles per hour. Even as its force waned, Harvey has brought historic flooding, forcing rivers and streams from their banks, submerging homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. Support is needed for communities devastated by this historic storm and those throughout the Gulf region who were in the path of Harvey's torrential rains. If you would like to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey, there are two ways to give: Designate gifts to [DR000169-Harvey](#) or give with a credit card by visiting presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-HARVEY or by phone at 800-872-3283.

Family Promise Volunteer Training September 9th

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend Family Promise training this Saturday, September 9, 9am-11am, in the Chapel Room at church. Family Promise is a national interfaith hospitality network that strives to end homelessness for children and their families. Our church serves as one of the local host congregations providing temporary housing for homeless families. Having secure interim housing, the families are better able to work toward a more stable life through assistance they receive from the central office in procuring employment, completing helpful training and classes, and eventually moving into their own housing.



The training provides important information about the ministry, some details about what happens during a host week and how you can volunteer. We will also have the opportunity to hear from a prior guest who received assistance from Family Promise.

This session is helpful to those who are seasoned volunteers, those who are interested in becoming part of this important local mission, and others who would simply like to learn more about Family Promise. RSVP by email to Mary Read, idahoreader@gmail.com, 208.301.0146, or you can just show up on Saturday. Feel free to bring a friend. You do not have to be a member of FPC to be part of this ministry!

Wednesday Supper Fellowship

Wednesday Supper Fellowship will be back starting September 20!

All our church family and guests are invited to come for a hearty meal and good fellowship. It's the perfect time to catch up with old friends and make some new friends. Supper starts at 6 p.m. and is served until 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are welcome to help offset the cost of the groceries.

Looking for a way to bring a friend to church other than on a Sunday morning? Wednesday Supper is a great avenue for that. Know someone whose teen-agers might like youth group but are too intimidated to come on their own? Invite the whole family for supper, which is immediately followed by youth group, to ease the way. Have neighbors who are working hard and could use a home-cooked meal without having to cook it themselves at the end of a long day? Wednesday Supper could be a lifesaver for them. And what better way to welcome people to our church than sharing a meal together? Try it!



Taizé Worship

Wednesdays
5:30 p.m.
Chapel Room
Starting Sept. 20
All are welcome!

MENUS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 20 — Tacos and taco salads will be featured at our first WSF.

September 27 — **"Happy Trails to You"**!

OK pardners, gather up your boots and hats, and mosey on down for an old fashion "Cowboy Breakfast". John Farbo, chuck wagon chef, and his hard working crew promise a rib-sticking meal of flap jacks and all the fix'ens: Pancakes (wheat flour base), Link Sausages, Scrambled Eggs, Syrup(s), Brownies and/or Lemon Bars, Coffee/Tea/ Milk/ Orange Juice. See ya'll there!

Sunday School for All Ages Begins September 17

Children and Youth will meet all together in Room 33 upstairs to begin Sunday School hour with a 15-minute time of worship. They will then be dismissed to age-appropriate Sunday School classes. Preschool through grade 2 will meet with Donan for Godly Play in Room 30. Grades 3-5 will meet with Helen in Room 3 in the basement. Grades 6-12 will meet with Jeremiah in Room 7, also in the basement.

Adults will have two options:

The Wired Word is designed for all those who wish to grow in their faith by applying Scripture to the current events in our world. Each Thursday, a new lesson, drawn from that week's headlines, is sent via e-mail to class members. In class, we discuss how God's Word can inform and help us see with new eyes what is going on in our world each week and how faith matters. The class meets Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the church library and is facilitated by Kathy Pitman.

A Video/Discussion group meets Sunday at 9:15 in Room 35, facilitated by Julie Hopper. The topic has not been finalized quite yet, but is sure to provide a relevant, interesting, and thought-provoking discussion.

Clearwater Lodge Women's Conference September 29—October 1, 2017

What does it look like to more fully experience the grace of Jesus in our lives? Join speaker **Laura Harbert** and women from around the area as we look at Jesus' grace-filled encounters with different people – the grace of imperfection, the grace of getting caught and the grace of our unanswered questions. Hear Jesus' words of grace as he speaks to you through these passages in the Gospel of John.

Laura is Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, where she also serves as an Assistant Professor at Fuller's School of Psychology. She has a private counseling practice in Pasadena, and volunteers one day a week at Homeboy Industries, providing therapy for formerly incarcerated men and women and former gang members. She graduated from Wheaton College (1981), has an M.Div. (1986) from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. (1988) from Fuller's Graduate School of Psychology, and is an ordained Presbyterian minister. Laura's passion is integrating her experience as a clinical psychologist with spiritual growth and discipleship. She has also enjoyed the opportunity to preach, teach, and lead retreats on subjects that integrate psychology and faith.



Laura and her husband Mike have five children between the ages of 23 and 30. She loves reading, exploring on her tandem bike with her husband, cooking, hiking, and trying to become a gardener.

Located on 500 wooded, lakeside acres at the foot of the Selkirk Mountain Range near Newport, Washington, Clearwater Lodge and Camp Spalding offer an outstanding natural environment, comfortable rooms, and satisfying meals for Christian summer camps, weekend conferences, and mid-week retreats. For more information about Clearwater Lodge and conference registration, visit clearwaterlodge.org



Retreat 🌲 Relax 🌲 Renew

FAMILY MINISTRY

Jeremiah Nealon, Director of Family Ministry aslanscountry@gmail.com

An August beginning to school robs us of starting the school year with the general trappings of Fall. We don't take our children to school with a chill in the air, or with leaves crunching under our feet. "Fall" brings us different sights: longer lines at coffee shops, U-Haul trucks, and road construction.

For me, though, there is a smell that signals a new school year. It is the lingering smell of pizza that clings to my car for days after an event. We had our first FOON (pizza lunch for Moscow High students) on Thursday, August 31. That smell lingered in our van for days. For me, that is the smell of fall.

Wrapping Up Summer:

- Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School was a great success! 15 children joined us in our visit to "Galilee by the Sea". I love the curriculum's focus on placing students in the Gospel narrative and the way that children are rooted in a literal history. I cannot thank our volunteers enough. To those who donated tents: thank you. To those who made food: thank you. To those who helped with shops and games: thank you. To those who dealt with a very new, and very scattered VBS Director: THANK YOU.



Fall:

- Youth Worship: We will begin our Youth Worship Service Sunday September 17th at 9:15. This service will include kids from birth to senior high. Please drop your kids off in room 33.
- Youth Group: Open for all junior and senior high students. We will meet at 6 for dinner, and youth group will be from 6:30-7:45. I will provide dinner until Wednesday Supper Fellowship resumes.
- FOON: Thursday pizza lunches have resumed for Moscow High students. We are always in need of soda (2 liters or cans) and sweets.
- College Ministry: Jasper Wallen is leading a Small Group Bible Study for college-aged folk at the Center (formally known as the "Campus Christian Center") at 6pm on Fridays.
- Parents Night Out: We will continue to partner with the Unitarian Universalist Church to offer Parents Night Out events this fall. We will offer once a month, given the increased family events at both churches. All PNO events are from 5-8pm, with dinner provided.
 - ◇ September 22: First Presbyterian
 - ◇ October 20: UU Church
 - ◇ November 17: First Presbyterian
 - ◇ December 15: UU Church
- Spalding Youth Camps: Camp Spalding offers weekend retreats for junior and senior high students. I would love to see our church send kids to each. The Jr. High retreat is October 20-22 and Sr. High is November 17-19. **Would you consider chaperoning along with me?** Please contact me if you are interested.

Continued on Page 9...

Family Ministry *...continued from Page 8*

What is "Sticky Faith"?

Through my studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, I have been introduced to the concept of "Sticky Faith". Sticky Faith has emerged from a significant problem: 40-50 percent of students from youth groups and churches will abandon their faith after high school. In response, Fuller conducted research with over 500 youth group graduates. They wanted to see what were common threads among faith that "sticks". From their research, they suggested three shifts:



Shift from a behavior-based gospel to a grace-based gospel. Kids need to see that faith isn't a set of correct behaviors. A belief in behaviors is easily discarded after mistakes. An abiding faith in Jesus can help kids see that Jesus is bigger than any mistake.



Shift from a two-table church to welcoming young people around one family table. The Sticky Faith researchers found that intergenerational worship and relationships were key to faith that sticks. Too many students only knew their youth group or Sunday School. They recommend that while youth and children's ministry is important and should never be discarded, the church should strive for events that gather around one table, and help bring about intergenerational relationships.



Shift from "dry-cleaner" parenting to ministry partnership. Kids cannot be dropped off for 90-minutes and then picked up "cleaned" by children's and youth ministry. When church and parents work together on faith development, faith more often sticks and becomes personally owned by kids.

While I am not yet an expert on Sticky Faith, I am struck, though, that grace and collaboration are deeply held beliefs of our church and the Presbyterian tradition. As we work together to offer the best of ourselves to our kids, these principles will guide our decisions. If you have any questions, please contact me, or swing by the office.



Church Photo Day

Is your photo missing from our church photo board? Does your picture need refreshing since it was taken last year?

We will have a church picture day on Sunday, September 17. Jeremiah Nealon has volunteered to be available after church to take photos to add to the board or to replace outdated pictures. He hopes to be able to set his camera up outside. No appointment needed—just look for Jeremiah out on the front lawn (or in the narthex in case of rain or excessive smoke).

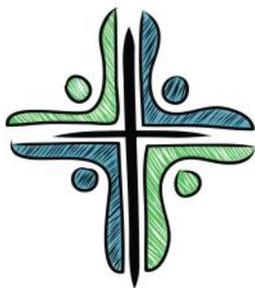
Why is this important? The photo board is invaluable in helping us get to know each other. There have been many times when someone will say, "I met the nicest woman after church on Sunday, but I can't remember her name." In most cases, the photo board provides the answer.



If you need to arrange an alternate photo date, please contact the church office. To supply your own photo for the board, drop off your 4x6 print at the church office.

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30a Worship	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed	5 6:30p Stephen Ministry	6 5p T344 Committee 6p Youth Group	7 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team 7p Choir	8 6p College Group at Campus Christian Center	9 9a Family Promise Volunteer Training
10 10:30a Worship 5p Fall Barbecue	11 7p Boy Scouts Troop 344	12	13 6p Youth Group	14 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team 7p Choir	15 6p College Group at Campus Christian Center	16
17 9:15a Sunday School for all ages 10:30a Worship PICTURE DAY	18 7p Boy Scouts Troop 344 7p Deacons	19 6:30p Stephen Ministry	20 5:30p Taizé Worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth Group 7p Pastor's Book Study	21 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team 5:30 Lael Board 7p Choir	22 5p Parents' Night Out at FPC 6p College Group at Campus Christian Center	23
24 9:15a Sunday School for all ages 10:30a Worship 12:15p Outreach Discussion 2p Nursing Home Services	25 6p Boy Scouts Troop 344 Court of Honor 7p Session	26	27 5:30p Taizé Worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth Group 7p Pastor's Book Study	28 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's Noon—FOON 1:30p C Renfrew Circle 5:30p Praise Team 7p Choir	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #FFD700; text-align: center;">Clearwater Lodge (Camp Spalding) Women's Conference thru Sunday</div> 6p College Group at Campus Christian Center	30



First
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Church

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First Presbyterian Church

"Growing in Christ"

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Followed by coffee fellowship

**Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m.
beginning September 17**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com