

First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
MOSCOW, IDAHO

# News & Views

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The church office will be closed from December 23 until January 3. We will be checking phone messages and email, so please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Merry Christmas!

### FROM THE



### PASTOR

We have decorations up and they anticipate the coming of Christmas. Yet most of the month is Advent. And Advent is well represented as Zechariah speaks of his son, John, who would become John the Baptist. In Luke 1:76-79 Zechariah states:

- <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

I wonder if these words don't speak more clearly to us with greater impact this year. As we deal with the reality of natural disasters, human violence in our own country and violence around the world, and as we struggle with intense and disheartening political, religious, and ethnic divisions, I feel the sins of God's people have created a real and present darkness.

With religion seen as losing its influence in society and a trend toward fewer folks considering themselves religious, the context within which we come to Christmas is changing. I feel the need for this message from John and the birth of Jesus in our own times with new urgency. God has not gone away, yet it feels like our world is slowly turning its back on its creator and, through human hubris, is developing a society that reduces mutual caring between the children of God. We see bigotry, misogyny, and economic inequality laid bare in ways that shock what I take to be Christian sensibilities. I can only wonder at the darkness that seems to have overshadowed our life together. Not that some of this darkness was not always with us, yet we had a façade, at least, of progress. We had hope that everyone mattered, that no group could or should be dismissed due to ethnicity, or political perspective, or economic status. I believe, we must look to the tender mercy of God for the tender mercy our society seems to be discarding.

*Continued on Page 2...*

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

As we turn again to the light, to the dawn from on high that breaks upon us, we turn again in hope that, through Christ coming among us, we might receive the knowledge of salvation God gives to all of us. In light of this salvation, I believe the key to a livable society and a world that exists in peace includes accepting the values Jesus teaches. Humans adapt the power of religion for personal or group gain and this adaptation disguises the real message of Jesus and what it means to be a disciple of Christ. For example, the marginal gain for a few (or even the majority) at the expense of not caring for the most vulnerable among us is not a Christian perspective. I hope we can turn again to God's message of peace on earth to all people. This is God's good will, as the angels announced to the shepherds.

Our events and worship this Advent season are ways of turning to the tender mercy of a God that sends the Prince of Peace to be among us. We remember God's grace given to all people—a grace that moves us out of our self-destructive ways and invites us to love one another even as He has loved us. This is a joyous yet hard message. For it is an invitation to love despite differences, to learn to talk to those whose views seem to oppose one's own, and to find ways to work for the common good. As we celebrate the tender mercy of God that enters in to our world to lead us into life and life abundant, we can't help but notice that God does this through transforming us through grace. May we recognize the joy of God's tender mercy toward us and remain open to the transforming grace God gives us.

May the grace and peace of God be with you,  
Norman

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season?

In recognition of the challenges you may be facing, you are invited to attend an inter-denominational

### *Service of Remembrance* *Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*

*First Presbyterian Church, 405 South Van Buren in Moscow*

Hope and comfort will be offered through special music, scripture, prayer, remembering, and a time for fellowship and refreshments. Stephen Ministers will be available for those who would like someone to talk to or pray with.

For more information, call 208-882-4122

Offered by First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, United Church of Moscow, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and Short's Funeral Chapel

## Sundays of the Season

Dec. 3—Hanging of the Greens, Deacons' Benevolence: Community Action Agency

Dec. 10—Communion. Caroling Party at 4pm

Dec. 17—Worship will include the Children's Christmas Play, "The Cookie-Cutter Angels"

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

10:30 morning worship (Praise Team)

2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Nursing Home Services

9:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols (choir)

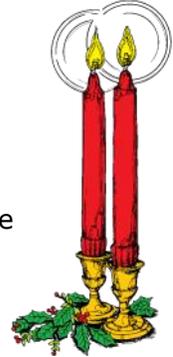
Dec. 31—10:30 worship; carol singing

## Christmas Eve at FPC

All are invited to celebrate Christ's birth at one or both of our Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:

10:30 a.m. The birth of Christ is proclaimed through scripture, sermon, and carols. Music led by Praise Team.

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will include scripture, carols, and special music by our Chancel Choir.



## January 7 is "Gifts Sunday"

Our Epiphany Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. will include the offering of "gifts" from congregation members in the form of music, poetry, story, or other art forms. If you would like to share your gifts and talents in worship, contact the church office at 208-882-4122 or [office@fpcmoscow.org](mailto:office@fpcmoscow.org) before January 3. Adult classes, Sunday School, and nursery care resume Jan. 7. (January communion will be January 14.)



## *Poinsettias*



*The beautiful poinsettias that will grace our sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season were given by:*

Helen Brown & Norman Fowler (1)—Dedicated to the saints of Moscow 1st Presbyterian Church

The Dossey Family (3)—In memory of Tim Dossey, Thomas & Juanita Dossey (Tim's parents), and Peter John & Jane (Zareen's parents)

Dale Everson (1)—In memory of Darlene Everson

Linda Fleener (2)—In memory of George & Juanita Harris, and Sam & Fran Fleener

Barbara Hipple (1)—In memory of Tom Hipple

Nadine Morton (2)—Dedicated to Norman Fowler and Helen Brown, and in memory of Ron Morton

Tom and Janet Richards (10)—Dedicated to/in memory of loved ones

Susan Roberts (1)—In memory of Geraldine and Roland Roberts

Jon and Mary Jo Van Gerpen (2)—In memory of Leona Whitty (Mary Jo's mom)

Kathy Warren (2)—In memory of Jon Warren, and Carol & Malcolm Renfrew

David and Lauren Wenny (2)—in memory of our parents, Sedrik & Linda Thompson and Daniel & Beverly Wenny

## News Briefs

**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING MARKET OF THE PALOUSE** will be held on Thursday December 7th 4-8 pm at the 1912 Center. Join us for stress free one stop shopping for everyone on your list. We offer over 150 gifts starting at \$5 that support 32 local non-profits serving a spectrum of needs across the Palouse. Shoppers receive a gift card, great for stocking stuffers, to connect a meaningful gift with an impactful message to your loved ones. You can also shop with us at the Winter Markets at the 1912 Center on December 2nd and 9th and at the Palouse Mall on December 9th. Online shopping is available through December 15th at [agmpalouse.org](http://agmpalouse.org).

**CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.** All women are invited to join us for our next meeting in the church library on January 25 at 1:30 p.m.

**MOSCOW FOOD BANK**, on Polk Street next to St. Mary's Church, gave out nearly 150 Thanksgiving baskets the Monday before Thanksgiving and served another 41 households on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. Whew! They could use some volunteers on December 18, from noon to 4 p.m., when they will do it again with Christmas baskets. To find out how you can help, contact Susan Roberts.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Family Promise of the Palouse honored Mary Read with the "MIKE BOWMAN" Volunteer of the month award for November. Mary has been the Volunteer Coordinator with Moscow's First Presbyterian Church for about 2 years now. Mary does an amazing job at coordinating FPC's host week. When ever there is a challenge Mary jumps in feet first. Mary is hardworking, compassionate and flexible with our volunteers, staff and guests. Mary, THANKS for all that you do for Family Promise of the Palouse.

**NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** Julie Hopper will facilitate the discussion for a new video series called "When God Doesn't Fix It" with Laura Story, a Bible teacher, worship leader and singer/songwriter. The class meets at 9:15 in Room 35. (Wired Word continues to meet in library.)

## Stewardship 2018

If you haven't had a chance to submit a pledge for 2018, the Stewardship Team would love to hear from you!

Currently, pledges received for 2018 amount to 82% of our goal. Salaries for staff, funding for our ministries, upkeep of our facility, and the activities we can offer all depend on the financial and Time and Talent pledges received. Your pledge will make a difference.

Please prayerfully consider how you will give of your time and resources in the coming year. Pledge cards and Time and Talent forms are available on the welcome table in the lower chapel room.

Thank you for your commitment to serve God and help make our life together as a family of faith possible.



## Is Your Pledged Giving Up to Date?

The Finance Team encourages you to ensure you have fulfilled your pledge for 2017. For tax purposes, in order for your gifts to be counted for 2017, they MUST be received in the church office or put in the offering plate no later than the end of worship on December 31. Contributions received after this deadline will be counted for 2018. If you have questions about the status of your pledge, please contact John Farbo at 208-882-4122.

## Finance Report

As of October 31, 2017



	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$ 17,951	\$ 236,761
Disbursements	\$ 23,708	\$ 246,732
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$ 9,971)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$ 46,321*

\* Includes Capital Campaign Funds

## Family Promise of the Palouse Takes the Challenge

We at Family Promise of the Palouse (FPP) are humbled by and grateful for your partnership with us in our mission to end family homelessness on the Palouse.

FPP is looking for 800 people to partner with us through the Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge by donating \$25.00 or more between December 12-31. Every dollar donated through the Avenue for Hope Housing Challenge, receives a 25% match from corporate sponsors. FPP will also be in the running for challenge prizes awarded for different milestones throughout the campaign, so your donation could also help us win additional funds.



Set a calendar reminder now for Tuesday, December 12, for the start of the 7th annual Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge! Follow this link to donate: [http://bit.ly/AfH\\_FPP](http://bit.ly/AfH_FPP). There are several Family Promise affiliates participating in the challenge, so be sure you are giving to Family Promise *of the Palouse*.

You will receive a tax deductible donation receipt via email. Watch our progress on FACEBOOK and our website: [www.familypromisepalouse.org](http://www.familypromisepalouse.org)

## Deacons' Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on Steve Bergmann. Steve is currently serving as an elder at First Presbyterian, and is also on the Lael Board of Directors where he recently took on the job of treasurer.

Steve was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the younger of two sons. They were the progeny of blue collar parents who provided for them well. He grew to know Christ through St. Anthony Park Methodist Church. Steve attended public schools including 8 years at the University of Minnesota. During medical school he had the good fortune to have met Verna. They married in 1972 at Church of the Good Shepherd in New Zealand while participating in study abroad. They returned to the States where Steve finished training in pediatrics and they then settled in the Pacific Northwest. Steve drifted into emergency medicine and practiced that specialty from 1992 until August of this year, when he retired from Pullman Regional Hospital.

Steve and Verna have two lovely daughters who both attended WSU. After receiving a job offer from Pullman Regional Hospital they moved to the Palouse in 1999. First residing in Pullman, they later located some wonderful property outside of Moscow where their home now stands. Although Steve may accept an occasional emergency room assignment at small hospitals from time to time, he and Verna plan to spend more time visiting children and grandchildren in Portland and Seattle. They would like to travel and explore the Northwest and Canada as well. Swimming, hiking, tennis, biking and golf are a few of the activities Steve enjoys.



Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor strengthened the Bergmanns' relationship with Christ and interest in the Presbyterian community. It was a natural transition to transfer membership from Chapel Hill to First Presbyterian Church. They love the congregation, staff, and ministry of FPC.

# FAMILY MINISTRY

Jeremiah Nealon, Director of Family Ministry [aslanscountry@gmail.com](mailto:aslanscountry@gmail.com)

Hello friends! I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Thank you for the work that you do for our community.

November was a very busy month. The youth had our first overnighter of the year, I travelled to Memphis for the National Youth Workers Convention, and families kicked off the Advent Season with a night of crafts.

## **Youth Overnighter:**

On November 2 and 3, I took the Youth to Lael for an overnighter focused on being made in the Image of God (*Imago Dei*). Four youth attended, while Jasper Wallen and Helen Brown helped chaperone the trip.

Simply put, the trip was a blast and very helpful in the development of a stronger community among the youth. Cooking and cleaning together, games, s'mores, and prayer were central to establishing deeper friendships. The kids have begun asking when the next trip will occur and at the very least want regular movie nights at Lael (to be fair, the white wall on the second floor of the barn is basically a small theater screen).

I probably over-programmed for the event. I wanted to really impart that the kids were created by a God who loves them and wants to develop their gifts and talents. I tried various passes at that message. Probably one or two simpler messages would have sufficed.

## **National Youth Workers: Memphis**

November 17-19, I attended Youth Specialties' National Youth Worker Convention. Honestly, I didn't know how badly I needed that time until I went. While I have been intentional to read and study about Family Ministry, both within and in preparation for this position, being with other workers and attending workshops with experienced voices was really good for me. Additionally, worshiping with others in my world had a profound and healing impact on my soul. Overall, I was able to attend 5 seminars. Below I will provide overviews from 3 of them:

- **Sticky Faith:** Kara Powell is the author of the Sticky Faith concept that I have been using to guide my first year as Family Ministry Director. She taught an incredibly helpful seminar about what research is communicating about the home life of families where kids are living out a sustaining faith into their 20's and 30's. The seminar was both practical and had a compelling vision of how churches can support entire families. I will also be taking a seminary course from Kara Powell in Spring 2018.
- **Understanding the Teenage Brain:** The most helpful seminar I attended. Coming from a college ministry background, I have so much to learn about the developmental realities of working with teenagers (can't say I know a ton about puberty). It was a firehose of research, but painted a compelling vision for how the developmental realities of the teenage years is an amazing opportunity for the Gospel. Quote from Mark Oestreicher that will stick with me: "Do we see teenagers as a problem to be solved or a wonder to behold?"
- **Inside the Mind of the Modern Parent:** The seminar helped me see that both parents and kids are facing tremendous pressure to be perfect (I am in no way immune to this pressure). Parents are being pulled a million directions. Additionally, the statistics about how much more afraid parents are today about bullying, their child's mental health, and

future job prospects were chilling. In short, parents seem to be very afraid for their teens' present and future. Not yet having teenagers, this seminar helped grow my empathy and gave me a deeper understanding of where parents are coming from.

This is a small sampling of my experience. I am very grateful for the space to learn and refresh.

### **Brief Seminary Note:**

I will be resuming my Masters program at Fuller in January. My next three quarters will all be focused on family ministry classes. I am very excited for input on my current position.

### **Advent Craft Party:**

On November 29, Family Ministry hosted a party with Wednesday Supper Fellowship for families to construct Advent crafts for the home. That same night Scouts were making dinner. The result was a VERY well-attended Supper and event. The main hope for the event was that families could construct their own Advent wreath for the home, complete with candles and liturgy. Much like the Thankfulness Project from earlier in the month, I hope to provide fun and practical tools for families to enrich our seasons with spiritual meaning. Thank you so much to Helen Brown, Adelia Hopper, David Howard, Ellen Johansen, Donan Nealon, and many other impromptu helpers for a fun (yet somewhat overwhelming) evening!

### **FOON:**

Foon has been growing steadily this year. The good news is that well over 30 kids are being served and interacting with our church community. The reality is that I have recently needed to up our pizza order. If you have any interest in "sponsoring" a Foon, please contact me. Pizza for Foon is about \$80 a week. 4 sponsored Foon's would make up the cost difference for more pizza for 1 school year.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### December 3—4pm. Contemporary Evening Worship

Everyone is invited to come as you are at **4:00 p.m.** for a time to participate in worship together in a way that is different from Sunday morning, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread.



#### December 10—4 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Come spread some Christmas cheer! A great intergenerational activity! Meet at the church at 3:45 to carpool. Afterwards, back to church for hot soup.



#### December 15—Youth attending *Star Wars The Last Jedi*

#### December 16—Parents' Night Out at Unitarian Church

Wouldn't it be great to go Christmas shopping without kids? Drop your children off at the UU church from 5-8 p.m. for an evening of fun with their friends while you shop, go out on a date, or just enjoy some quiet time. Contact Jeremiah to reserve a spot—space is limited.



#### December 17—Children's Christmas Play

Children and teenagers from our Sunday School classes, youth group and the community are rehearsing for their upcoming roles in this year's Christmas play, "The Cookie-Cutter Angels." Their performance will be presented as part of the worship service Sunday morning, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary.



#### December 20—Youth Christmas Party (location TBA)

## Celebrating God's Indescribable Gift

Every year during this time, we turn our eyes toward Bethlehem and anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ. Through him we receive the indescribable gift of God's grace. This year, we take time during the Advent and Christmas season to consider the gratitude we feel. It's out of this gratitude that we turn to support church leaders who dedicate their lives in service to Christ and the church. It's out of youthful wonder that students at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges look forward to a life of faith, worship, and Christian leadership.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

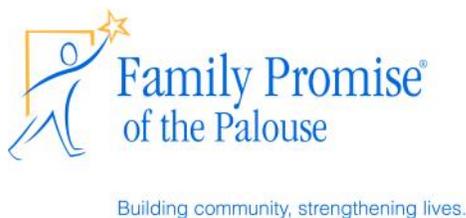
Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.



The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families. Please give generously. Look for special offering envelopes in the pew racks. Make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, and note "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line. The offering will be dedicated on December 24.

## Family Promise Host Week Coming Up December 31

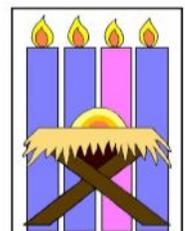


Our next Family Promise Host Week is coming up December 31 through January 6. As always, help will be needed with set-up, preparing dinner evening hosting, overnight hosting, and clean-up/laundry at the end of the week. Please consider how you can help with this vital ministry to homeless families. Watch for more information and volunteer sign-up opportunities coming soon.

## Advent Devotional Booklets

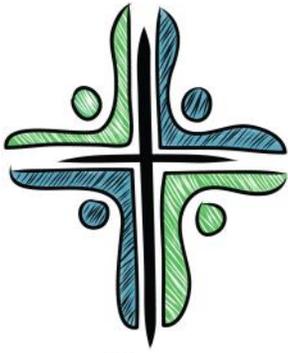
FPC Advent devotional booklets are available in the narthex. The devotions were prepared by elders, deacons, and others for our use during Advent. Be sure to pick one up next time you are at church.

The winter issue of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotions is also available on the table in front of the window in the lower chapel room. Feel free to take one for yourself and another for a friend.



# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 ADVENT 1 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (Hanging the Greens) 2p Nursing Home services 4p Contemporary/participatory worship & soup supper	4 7p Scouts	5 6:30p Stephen Ministry Training 7p Service of Remembrance	6 Noon—Bible study at Campus Christian Center 1:30p Theology Group at Campus Christian Center 5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	7 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team	8	9
10 ADVENT 2 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (communion) 4p Christmas caroling & soup supper	11 5:15p Troop 344 Committee 6p Joint Session/Deacons meeting 7p Scouts	12 6:30p Stephen Ministry training & supervision	13 Noon—Bible study at CCC 1:30p Theology Group at CCC 5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	14 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team	15	16 10:00-noon Pageant dress rehearsal 5-8p Parents' night out at Unitarian Church
17 ADVENT 3 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (includes Christmas Pageant)	18 6p Scout party	19	20 Noon—Bible study at CCC 1:30p Theology Group at CCC 5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	21 6:30a Men's Group 5:30p Praise Team	22	23
24 ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS EVE 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship 2p Nursing Home services 9p Lessons & Carols	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30
<b>OFFICE CLOSED THROUGH JAN 2</b>						
31 10:30a Worship	1 NEW YEARS DAY					
<b>FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK</b>						



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Shop Local, Buy Local, Give Local.

◆ 9th Annual ◆  
**Alternative Giving  
Market  
of the Palouse**

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**  
◆ 4-8 pm ◆ 1912 Center ◆  
412 E 3rd Street, Moscow  
Family Friendly Event 5:30-6:30pm

Shop with your kids before the Light Up the Night Parade  
Hot drinks, treats, and glow sticks for first 100 kids, and more!

The **Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse** is a meaningful alternative  
to holiday gift giving and an opportunity to support 32 local non-profits.

**MORE GIVING  
OPPORTUNITIES:**

- ◆ Nov. 24 to Dec. 15  
online at:  
[www.agmpalouse.org](http://www.agmpalouse.org)
- ◆ at the **1912 Center  
Winter Market**, Dec. 2  
& 9 from 10am to 2pm
- ◆ at the **Palouse Mall**,  
Dec. 9 from 2:30 to  
6pm

**GIVE!**  
Alternative Giving  
Market of the Palouse

For more information: [www.agmpalouse.org](http://www.agmpalouse.org), [agmpalouse@gmail.com](mailto:agmpalouse@gmail.com), 208-310-1231

*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.**

**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](mailto:fpcpastornorman@gmail.com)