



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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"True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness."

~ Brown, Brené. "Braving the Wilderness" (p. 40). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

This quote from a popular social science author is one many people resonate with since it has been underlined 5,243 times by folks in their kindle editions of this book. We live in a time when the opposite of the feeling of belonging, loneliness, is rampant, with 25 to 40 or so percent of folks feeling lonely according to Brené Brown and others. Our Stephen Ministers have recently been discussing work by John Cacioppo, who suggests that loneliness has deleterious effects on our health and well-being.

So, is the answer the "spiritual practice of believing in yourself?" Another prolific thinker, René Girard, suggests the problem is that we don't really know what we want on our own. Our desires are imitative, and we copy or borrow the desires of others. If he is on to something, then we may notice that it's hard to determine what it means to be authentically ourselves. We are so busy comparing ourselves with others and defining who we think we should be in terms of other's projections of themselves, that we can get lost in a spiral of self-creation and projection. More and more is being written about the idea that human beings are intrinsically social beings and this sociability is in our very biology and brain neurology.

While Brené Brown and others have done much good research, and I agree that our society struggles with belonging and feelings of loneliness, I doubt whether "believing in and belonging to yourself" is the answer. We do need something we can believe in and trust in, and we do need to belong. My assessment is that what we believe in and belong to must be beyond ourselves. Theologians have suggested we have a God-shaped void in our lives that can really be filled in only one way: with a relationship with God. If we listen to Jesus, I believe we begin to discover how to satisfy our need for



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

someone to imitate and our need to be in a meaningful relationship with others. Notice John 13:34-35:

"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

And Paul in Romans 8:9:

But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to—if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you."

As we look to Jesus as the one to imitate and as the one in whom we can believe and to whom we belong, we are inducted into the body of Christ, the community of believers, as disciples of Christ. I believe we find the key to unlocking our isolation and hence our loneliness, for we enter the fellowship of faith and begin to understand who we are as children of God. From this life-changing encounter with the grace of God in Jesus, we can live into the life God gives us. If we follow Jesus, we aren't trapped in covetousness. We begin to become the individuals God enables us to be. God's word to us, in Jesus and through scripture, becomes invaluable in showing us the way.

While we do not enter our relationship with God through Jesus solely to find fellowship, we do, I believe, find fellowship is a consequence of the relationship. We recognize that we are members of God's family and as such are invited into a community of faith. Participating in worship, in study, in service, and other activities of our family of faith are not just duties to be done. They are ways we can live into the life God gives, steps on the journey into the new life that God enables. Through our attentiveness to our relationship to God, we may find that God gives us a fellowship that addresses our loneliness and is a tangible component of belonging in God's family.

Grace and peace,
Norman

Interested in Exploring Membership in First Presbyterian?

Are you interested in meeting with Pastor Norman to learn more about becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church? He would like to get a group together in April to explore what it means to be a member of Presbyterian Church (USA) and Moscow First Presbyterian Church in particular. A time and date will be decided depending on participant's schedules. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Pastor Norman today at fpcpastornorman@gmail.com or call the church office at 208-882-4122.



Wednesday Supper Fellowship



There are only three opportunities left this Spring to enjoy Wednesday Suppers with your church family. We have enjoyed the company of many new faces as well as many familiar faces. Please consider joining us for the following evening meals:

April 18—Taco and Salad Bar

April 25—Stews and Salads

May 2—Boy Scout Fundraiser BBQ with hamburgers, hotdogs and picnic side dishes

Let's show our support for the Boy Scouts as they raise money to help with summer activities including travel expenses to Fire Mountain Scout Camp on the Oregon coast, several hiking trips, and team-building events.

Camp Spalding Mission Trip — June 1-3, 2018

Experience the joy of service and fellowship during the weekend of June 1-3, 2018. Join members of our church family for a weekend mission trip to beautiful Camp Spalding. Camp Spalding is our Presbytery's camp and retreat center, located near Newport, Washington. This will be a fun, fulfilling, and inspiring weekend.

There will be a variety of work projects, of various levels of intensity, to prepare the cabins and grounds for the summer season at Camp Spalding. We will devote much of Saturday to these projects, and will enjoy a campfire and board games each evening. On Sunday, we will begin with worship and then take time to enjoy the beauty of this special place.

The cost of the trip is \$30 per person/\$100 per family for Friday-Sunday, or \$20 per person/\$65 per family for Saturday-Sunday only. The registration fee includes meals, lodging, and a T-shirt.



Please talk with Bruce Pitman (208-596-2721) if you would like more information. Trip registration forms are available in the church office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



A group of individuals has expressed interest in starting a prayer shawl ministry at First Presbyterian. Prayer shawl ministries are a loving part of many congregations. Shawls are knitted or crocheted by volunteers, prayed over, and then presented to those in need of 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.

An organizational meeting is planned for May. If you are interested in this new ministry please contact:

Ellen Johansen, 208-301-1931, ellenjo52@gmail.com or
Sally Amador, 208-874-8111, amador.sally@yahoo.com.

News Briefs

CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will meet Thursday, April 26, at 1:30 in the Chapel room. Our Bible study will be Lesson Two in *Cloud of Witnesses—In Community with the Living God*. Linda Fleener will lead the lesson; Sally Amador will be hostess. Passages to read ahead are from *Hebrews 1:1-4; 12:18-24; 8:10; Exodus 3:1-7; 19:16-25; Jeremiah 31:31-34*. All women are welcome to come for Bible study and fellowship.

CAMPUS CHRISTIAN CENTER OFFERS COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY All church members are invited to a Bible Study on sexual exploitation based on the text *Escaping the Devil's Bedroom*, by Dawn Herzog Jewell. Jewell examines sex trafficking, global prostitution, and the gospel's transforming power. This study is designed for persons aged 25 to 110 and meets at The Center on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. through May 6. All college aged students (17-24) are invited to attend the college version of the study on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00, concluding on May 1st.

PALOUSE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "A TRIBUTE TO NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE," a concert of music connected to the traditions of several Native American tribal nations. Performances will be Friday, April 13, at 7:30 pm, at Simpson United Methodist Church in Pullman, and Sunday, April 15, at 4 pm, at Clarkston High School Auditorium. This is the choral society's final concert with Sarah Graham as conductor and artistic director. Tickets for the performances are \$20 for adults and \$8 for students. Children 6-12 are free. Blocks of four tickets are \$60. Advance tickets may be purchased at www.palousechoralsociety.org and at the door.

FREE ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP It's important to plan regardless of age or net worth. Learn about the basic tools of estate planning and get answers to questions that you may have about wills, trusts, probate, various types of retirement accounts and how they work, and long-term care for you or your spouse as well as care for your minor dependents. Find out how to recognize early signs of dementia, and how to make sure your loved ones know your final wishes. Speakers will include Aaron Roepke and Anna Lim-Mikkelsen (attorneys), Judy Cornish (author and founder of the DAWN method of dementia care), Rusty Schatz (DA Davidson Financial Advisor), and Dave Hutton (Short's Funeral Chapel). The workshop will be at the 1912 Center on Monday, April 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Appetizers and beverages will be provided. Contact Anna Lim-Mikkelsen with questions at 208-874-2986 or email annalimmik@gmail.com. This workshop is a public service offered by St. Mary's Foundation.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Thanks to your generosity, we collected over \$1800.00 for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering this spring. This money will be used to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development Program. Our donations will be added to those from Presbyterians from across the country to help make our world a better place. Thank you!

Support Palouse Habitat for Humanity

Attend Beans 'n' Jeans 2018 and help build habitat homes for families in need on the Palouse. The event features a casual BBQ benefit dinner, plus live, silent and dessert auctions.

WHEN: Saturday, April 21, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

WHERE: SEL Event Center,
1827 Schweitzer Drive, Pullman WA

TICKETS: To purchase tickets (\$40/ticket) visit the [Palouse Habitat website](http://PalouseHabitat.org), call 208-883-9502 or email habitat@palousehabitat.org.

Finance Report



As of February 28, 2018

	February	YTD
Receipts	\$ 25,473	\$ 60,808
Disbursements	\$ 27,069	\$ 51,967
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 8,841
Cash Balance (checking/savings)	\$70,697*	

* Includes capital campaign funds and prepaid pledges for 2018 @ \$19,890.

Deacons' Spotlight

Jon Van Gerpen is an elder currently serving on FPC's Session. Jon lived most of his life in Iowa before moving to Moscow with Mary Jo and their two sons, Steven and Jay, in 2004. He was a professor in the College of Engineering until retiring 2 years ago.



Jon comes from a large Midwest family, with an even larger extended family. He has sisters in Iowa, Illinois, and Washington State and a brother in Iowa. Although they are spread across the country, they are still close. He and his siblings have a tradition that when one of them retires, they plan a trip for the others and their families. Jon arranged rafting and jet boat trips on the Salmon and Snake rivers. His oldest sister planned a cruise to Alaska. Another sister arranged a week-long bike trip across Iowa; they covered 420 miles in 7 days.

Growing up, Jon's family would visit his father's family in South Dakota and attend the Baptist Church in which his father grew up. At least half the congregation were relatives, some were known as Aunt so-and-so or Uncle so-and-so, although it was never clear to Jon whose Aunt or Uncle they were. Aunt Rose always taught the high school Sunday school class, Uncle Ed was the Sunday school superintendent, and Uncle Mack lived next door to the church and hosted frequent get-togethers after services. The family went to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. Jon remembers the preacher shouting so loudly during his sermons that he would put his hands over his ears. It seemed that they sang "The Old Rugged Cross" almost every Sunday. This last summer, he visited the church for a family wedding. They have a new building and his cousin is now the pastor. He assures Jon that while they have a contemporary music group, they still sing "The Old Rugged Cross" a lot.



Zareen Dossey is one of our new deacons this year. She was born in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Zareen is the youngest of seven children, and her sisters and brother live all over the world. One of her favorite church memories is getting new custom-sewn dresses for Easter and the Good Friday service at the Presbyterian Church in Rawalpindi. The service had a break halfway through the service to receive a special treat: hot tea and hot cross buns.

Zareen remembers the wars between India and Pakistan, and even remembers the Pakistani Army training her and her classmates in her high school to use British G-303 rifles so that they could protect their community in case of invasion. After training and forming a full regimented parade, they had a tea party. The training was intense but the pastries were delicious!

Zareen holds an MS in Botany and Plant Pathology. Currently, she works as a Lab Manager for the City of Pullman Waste Water Treatment Plant laboratory. Sadly, her husband, Tim, passed away last year. She has two daughters, Nicole and Sarah. Her inspiration and hero is her father, who was a pillar of his community, and affectionately called "Haaji" (revered pilgrim) by his Muslim neighbors due to his wisdom and patience. Zareen loves to sew and loves being around animals, especially dogs. Her favorite Bible passages are Matthew 19:13-15 and Luke 18:16. She enjoys church because people come together to become a family of Christ.

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Deacons' Corner ...continued from Page 5

Sally Amador, another new Deacon, was born and raised in Three Rivers, Michigan. She went all through school there, spent one year at University of Michigan, then transferred to a school of nursing in Kalamazoo.

Sally is a retired registered nurse. Her favorite areas of nursing are ER and labor and delivery. She is now a volunteer for the Red Cross Blood Drive and Red Cross disaster assistance. She recently has been taking a ham radio class in conjunction with her Red Cross volunteer work. Sally enjoys quilting, gardening, and winter sports.

After school, Sally went to Hawaii where she met her husband. They were married in San Francisco and moved back stateside. Bill worked for the government and the family moved many times. Sally and Bill have twin daughters and four grandchildren.

Visiting about church, Sally said she was raised Presbyterian and what she enjoys most about our church are the friendly people and getting to know the members.



Meet another of our newest Deacons, Susan Billin.

Susan was born in Tennessee and attended school in St Louis. In college she majored in music at Denison University in Ohio, and earned her Masters degree in organ at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

She and her husband, Geoff, have lived in Moscow for 42 years. Their family consists of two children: Dave, who lives in Palouse and works as an engineer for SEL, and Margaret, who is a middle school band director in Palo Alto, California. They have two granddaughters in Palouse.

Susan's passions include music of many kinds. She has been a choral singer and accompanist for many years. Initially she studied the piano, and first played the organ for church (self-taught) at 14. Formal organ lessons began at age 16 with the church organist and that was when she felt called to pursue becoming an organist (performer and teacher) as a life career.

Susan has enjoyed being a part of music ministry in many churches. Recently retired after 26 years as our church organist, she hopes to spend more time volunteering in the church and community, and playing with their grandchildren. Her other hobbies include cooking, traveling, and enjoying the great outdoors.

She has been inspired by many people who are gifted in music and art. What she enjoys most about our church is her dear friends in the church family.



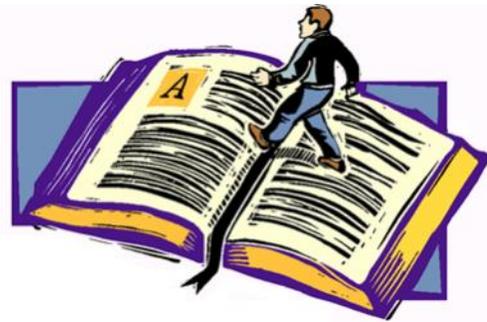
Exploring the Bible Together

As we began 2018, I noted that paying attention to the Bible and its message in times of change, struggle and uncertainty is extremely important. I believe we, as a congregation, should invest some time together in Bible study. I have wondered what the best approach might be. We each come with a certain experience and knowledge of the Bible. While no approach is without some merit, an approach that would be useful for a group with a breadth of knowledge and experience is hard to find. However, a recent attempt to do this, called [The Bible Project](#), has much to offer us.

We will soon begin forming groups that will explore this approach to opening ourselves again to the scriptures. We will begin with some introductory sessions and assess the value this series has for our congregation. If you would like to participate or lead a small group in this exploration of how to read the Bible, please let me know soon.

The first four sessions are

1. What is the Bible?,
2. The Story of the Bible,
3. Literary Styles in the Bible, and
4. The Bible as Jewish Meditation Literature.



We will offer from 4 to 7 sessions, each an hour to an hour-and-a-half long, to walk through this series. Each group will decide if they want to continue beyond the initial four sessions.

I plan to offer one group on **Mondays at noon beginning April 16**, and will be helping other sessions form at other times as well. Please think about how this conversation might fit into your life this Spring, and watch for further information.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Norman

THE 6TH ANNUAL FAMILY PROMISE COMFORT FOOD COOK-OFF WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Congratulations to lead chef John Farbo, Susan Billin, Verna Bergmann, and Nadine Morton for representing our congregation with their wonderful smoked salmon chowder and winning the People's Choice Award for our church once again. Their efforts earned 665 votes, or \$655, for the benefit of Family Promise of the Palouse. Thanks also to all of our FPC cookie bakers—your delicious cookies were enjoyed by many. Most of all, thank you to all who attended and voted with their dollars to support their favorite chef teams, enabling Family Promise of the Palouse to continue its important and vital work of ending homelessness on the Palouse one family at a time.



Our next host week is June 17-23. Plan now to volunteer your time to help host our Family Promise guests. Watch for details next month.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Entering a liturgical tradition has provided me with many gifts. Nothing has been more significant than an Easter *season*. Rather than one celebratory day, we are gifted with 50 days to remember the resurrection and celebrate a living savior. It is challenging to impart this resurrection season to kids and youth. We have all been influenced by an increasingly instant culture. Kids have been incubated in high speed internet and cell phones. What a gift it is to be invited to stop. Rest. Chill. Stay at the table with the resurrected Jesus. He will ascend soon enough. Now is the time to enjoy his risen presence.

March was a very busy month for many of us. The busyness, coupled with gloomy weather, leaves most of us in desperate need of resurrection. Thank God He is risen!

Youth:

The 30 Hour Famine was Awesome! Thank you so much for all your support. We raised a little over \$500, which will feed a food-insecure child for 1 year! The kids learned about the systems associated with global poverty and tasted some of God's heart for transformation. They also learned some good hiding places in the church. Big thanks to Delaney for chaperoning with me. If you pledged for the Famine, we will be contacting you in the next couple weeks with information on how to make your gifts.

Family:

Camp Spalding Registration is OPEN: Camp Spalding has been influencing the lives of First Presbyterian students for years. Registration for this summer is open now. If you need financial assistance, PLEASE CONTACT ME. We have camperships available, but I need to ask the Spalding registrar for codes PRIOR to your registering.

Parents Night Out April 21: 5-8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church this month.

Young Adults:

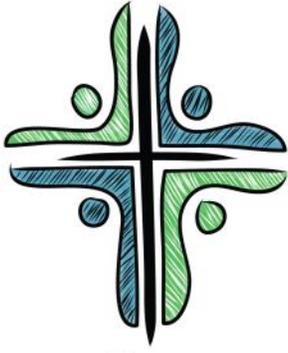
Jasper's Dinner: Did you know that our very own Jasper Wallen has been feeding 5-7 college students at The Center this year? Every Friday evening, he has been providing a meal, conversation and prayer. Ask him how it is going and what he is excited about. Jasper has done a great job with a steep learning curve (and a fall of construction at the Center).

Upper Room: Our Saturday evening worship geared for young adults derives its name and inspiration from the deep community that Jesus' followers experienced in the Upper Room during the night of Jesus betrayal, his resurrected appearances, and at Pentecost with impartation of the Holy Spirit. Our April Upper Room gathering will be April 28, 6-8 p.m. Contact me for more information.

Are You Graduating from College this Spring? Whether you have earned an Associate, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate, we would like to recognize your accomplishment in worship in May. Please contact the [church office](#) by April 25 to let us know your school, your degree, and your major.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Easter !	2 7p Scouts	3 6:30p Stephen Ministers	4 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Grp 7p Choir	5 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON	6	7	
8	9	Family Promise Host Site				13	14
9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship Noon—Going Deeper Discussion	7p Scouts		5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth Grp 7p Choir	6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team			
15 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship Noon—Going Deeper Discussion	16 12p Bible Project Bible Study 7p Scouts 7p Deacons	17 6:30p Stephen Ministers	18 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Grp 7p Choir	19 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team	20	21 5:30p Habitat for Humanity Beans 'n' Jeans dinner/auction at SEL 5p Parents' Night Out	
22 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship Noon—Going Deeper Discussion	23 12p Bible Project Bible Study 7p Scouts JLC 7p Session	24	25 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Grp 7p Choir	26 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON 1:30p Carol Renfrew Circle 5:30p Praise Team	27	28 10a Presbytery Meeting at Spokane Library 6p Upper Room gathering	
29 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship Noon—Going Deeper Discussion	30 12p Bible Project Bible Study 7p Scouts	May 2018		3 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team	4 <i>News & Views Deadline</i>	5	
6 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (communion)	7 12p Bible Project Bible Study 7p Scouts	1 6:30p Stephen Ministers	2 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Grp 7p Choir	10 6:30a Men's Group at Shari's 11a Theology Grp at CCC Noon—FOON	11	12	



First
Presbyterian
Church

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Phone: 208-882-4122
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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.

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