



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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FROM THE



PASTOR

With a whiff of fall weather and the sudden increase in the population of Moscow, we enter the fall season. While I am not ready for summer to be over, I find the new school year and change of seasons is happening. With this change comes our changes in events and programming at church. We return to our school year meeting times for Sundays on September 9. Worship will return to 10:30, and will be preceded by Sunday School offerings at 9:15 a.m. We have our welcome back BBQ on Sept 9 at 5 p.m. on the church lawn. We are marking this change and celebrating new folks, a new season, and our new activities.

Benjamin Franklin once said that the only thing that doesn't change is death and taxes. While I think life has more continuity than just those two realities, I suspect that change is more real than I sometimes think. I am coming to see how God created a world that is in constant motion. I have always thought of this as a kaleidoscope, and as such the beauty is ever new. And while I realize that not all changes beautify or increase goodness, the fact that we have a possibility of change suggests that shaping a world in good and beautiful ways is a real possibility. Of course, this suggests the opposite is true as well.

I believe we are real change agents. Our actions, how we live and who we become, influences the kind of world in which we live. So much of scripture seems to suggest that humans' decisions influence the kind of future they will experience. Much of this is described as coming closer and paying attention to God, or not.

Paying attention to God becomes an interesting issue, I think. For in our times, I believe folks take various approaches to this idea. The atheist approach is to deny there is a God to pay attention to, and thus we are on our own. Some, I think, see this as necessary since humans will know it all one day and see how it all works, and this does not require a God. It is a position that elevates the human to know it all, and it is a prevalent story we tell ourselves in the world today. While some think about this as the route to finding our way together in peace and prosperity, I wonder

Continued on Page 2...

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ
(see page 3)



Welcome Friends
and Neighbors!

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

if others just find this a great idea because then they can basically do whatever they think is best, often for their own benefit. It is interesting to think about the consequences of this narrative—how it requires us to determine what is ethical as a group or as individuals, and how the ethics or morality of the past comes into question.

This is not the only story we tell ourselves about the nature of the world we live in today. We have multiple stories that define the way we see the world. A few aphorisms suggest the story behind them, such as: everyone should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, let the best person win, educational level determines merit, fame brings happiness, etc. We can think about the story behind each of these images. Yet, I think there are inconsistencies or cracks in the stories the world gives us. What happens when one cannot achieve the goal of a story? How does this effect one's life? What happens when one achieves the goal and becomes disillusioned because the happiness and meaning promised are just not there? How do these stories give us hope and meaning in our lives?

I believe there is story that can become our story, a story that shapes our lives through a real relationship with the love of a good, good father. The story that invites us to become part of this on-going story, that leads us to a story that never ends. The story of creation, grace and redemption that would show us a story line that can rescue us from the misleading and dangerous stories we are told about how to live our lives and find fulfillment. I believe the New Testament story of a God that so loved the world that God sent his Son to heal the world and offers to continue to lead us. This give us story that leads us in a way that means we need not always be in need of healing, but can begin to really live. It is a story that invites us to look forward with hope, instead of side ways wondering if we are good enough, if someone else is better, etc.

So, this fall we will be asking what our story is and what is the story God is inviting us to participate in to enable our story to be full and alive? We will do this through looking at what we discerned as our way forward together on the journey of faith. We will look for the story that shows us the way. We will do this through the sermon series this fall and in our studies together, particularly in *The Bible Project* group discussions. I hope we can together reexamine our story in relation to the story of God's grace and where it leads.

May the grace of God and the peace of Christ be yours,
Norman



Schedule Changes on September 9

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all

10:30 a.m. Worship

September 9th is our fall kick-off day. Sunday School will begin, worship moves back an hour, and don't forget our annual Fall Welcome Back Barbecue (see next page for details). In addition, September communion will be served on September 9, rescheduled from the first Sunday of the month.

First Presbyterian Church

ANNUAL FALL BBQ

Sunday, Sept. 9

5:00-6:30 p.m. on the church lawn
(inside in case of rain)



Everyone invited!

Bring family, friends, and neighbors!

Good food Good company Live music

Menu: Vandal Burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, appetizers, salads, desserts, beverages

Wednesday Supper Fellowship Returns on September 19

Please join your church family for Wednesday Supper Fellowship beginning September 19. We have great menus planned and a wonderful team for cooks and crew helping this fall. Dinner is served at 6:00. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are appreciated. Visitors are welcome — bring family and friends, neighbors and co-workers. Everyone needs a break from cooking, and our home-style meals are delicious.



Menus

September 19—Potato Bar

September 26—Enchiladas

We look forward to sharing a meal and fellowship with our church family and others!

Volunteers Needed to Help Host Family Promise



Our next host week for Family Promise is September 9-16! We still need volunteers, so please take a look at needed time slots online www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAAD22AAF94-family11 or in the paper version in the narthex. All ages and stages can contribute to this church and community-wide effort. We need volunteers to support families working toward housing stability. Please contact Mary Read at idahoreader@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

News Briefs

FOOD NEEDED FOR THE "WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS" BARBECUE TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, FROM 5:00 TO 6:30 ON FPC FRONT LAWN. Please sign up and plan on attending our annual community event. See the bulletin board outside the sanctuary and let us know what you plan to bring to the potluck to go with the barbecue Vandal Burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. The community looks forward to this every year and we want to welcome everyone with our hospitality and good food. Please contact the church office (208-882-4122) office@fpcmoscow.org or Mary Jo Van Gerpen (208-883-3768) maryjovg@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH GROUNDS A grounds committee is forming to assist in sprucing up the church landscape and grounds. There are many odd jobs, like weeding, fertilizing, planting, trimming, etc. that can be done when you have time to stop by and spend 30-60 minutes, either by yourself or with others on the committee. We will have a fall clean up day in September or October and will ask volunteers to sign up to help. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining the grounds committee and have an hour or so to help, please call, text, or email Sally Amador, 208-874-8111 or amador.sally@yahoo.com. We'd love to have you join us!

COME SING WITH THE LAB CHOIR AT U IDAHO Lab choir is a non-audition choir run by graduate and undergraduate music education students. The choir meets from 6-7:15 p.m. every Tuesday in Lionel Hampton School of Music Room, 102. The choir is open to anyone and everyone (students, faculty, staff and community members). No prior choral experience is required. Those interested can email uicomminitychoir@gmail.com with any questions.

CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will meet Thursday, Sept 27, at 1:30 in the Chapel room. So find your lesson books, ladies! *Cloud of Witnesses, the Community of Christ in Hebrews*. The book is tan with orange-gold illustration. We will resume with Lesson 4, *In Community with God's Messengers*. Readings are from *Genesis 28:10-22; Daniel 3:8-30; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:5-17, 1:26-38, 2:8-14; Hebrews 1:3-14, 13:1-2*. Martha Hunt has volunteered to lead the lesson. All women are welcome for Bible study and fellowship.

CONGRATULATIONS! Carol and Dan Crimmins just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

CARING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Donations would be appreciated for the Deacons' Emergency Fund and Mercy Fund, which are used to help people in our community and our church, respectively, with urgent needs such as food, rent, medical, gas, and utilities. The need this winter has been great, and both funds are depleted. These funds operate outside the church budget, so contributions would be welcomed at any time. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR PAINTING CREW Fellowship Hall has a fresh coat of paint, thanks to the work of many volunteers. Dan Crimmins, Geoff Billin, Jon Van Gerpen, and Pat Carey did the prep work. Painting was done by Sally Amador, Anna and Steve Daley Laursen, Sarah Dossey, Linda Fleener, Norman Fowler, Nadine Morton, Amy and Kathy Pendegraft, and Mary Read. A second coat was applied by Steve Daley Laursen, Mark Ulliman, Norman Fowler and Kathy Pendegraft. Many, many thanks to all who gave their time and energy to this project. The new flooring should be installed the first week of September, just in time for our fall kick-off.

THANK YOU TO OUR VBS VOLUNTEERS for giving their time, talents, and energy to make our Vacation Bible School last week a success: Nadine, Norman, Sally, Ellen, Harper, Jasper, Caitlin, Barb O., Donan, Jim, Mary Jo, Jon, Linda, Barbara A., Jeremiah, Adelia, Rowan, Anais, and Bryson. It was great hosting kids from our church and community as they learned about the faith of early Christians at "Paul and the Underground Church."

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest Invites You!

Last spring our quarterly Presbytery Gatherings merged with our missional Learning Communities, and we are continuing forward with this format. The Great Merger 2.0 will be held on September 22nd at Gonzaga University from 9:30-3:30 (doors open at 9:15).

We will spend a portion of the day sharing stories about where we have noticed God in our neighborhoods and through various experiments congregations have tried. The theme we will explore together is "Call" – come and be inspired, remembering that you are called! We'll also be examining several inquirers as they seek to move to candidate process. We will spend time worshipping together and the day will include a short meeting.



Anyone in a congregation is welcome and encouraged to attend to hear what God is up to throughout our region and how we are being called to partner with God. The Presbytery will provide coffee and light snacks in the morning, but lunch will be on your own at a nearby restaurant of your choice. Please register on the Presbytery website (www.presbyinw.org) so we can best prepare for our day together. See you there!

Let's Get Digital!

Save the date for Saturday, October 13, 10am-12noon! Just like the rest of the world, more and more of our communications and information at FPC are digital. On Digital Day, we will bring together people who want to know more about social media, web sites, blogs, etc. with people who can show you how and share their tips for success. We will have hands on, real time demonstrations on how to:

- access the church web site
- post a prayer request to the FPC prayer chain
- read the church newsletter online
- access the e-edition of the church directory
- view photos and other postings on our Facebook page
- join the Facebook Group



Campus Christian Center News

The Center had a busy first week providing welcoming activities for the University of Idaho students starting with a lunchtime hot dog barbecue on the first day of classes. Our church provided the beverages for that event. On the Friday of the first week, Jasper Wallen, the FPC campus ministry intern, hosted a get together for students at 5:00 with barbecue meat and other side dishes provided by FPC Board Members.



In the past our church has provided cookies to "The Center" for the months of November and April. This year we are emphasizing more healthy snacks for our students. So, this year we are being asked to provide about 40 pieces of fruit each week during our months. Our board of deacons traditionally spearheads this effort.

Stay tuned for future news during the school year on how the Campus Christian Center is ministering to University of Idaho students and how our church can also be involved.

Introducing Our New Music Director

We welcome Madeline Smith to the leadership of the music ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Having arrived recently in Moscow, Madeline will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Idaho. She is a native of Colorado, and had the pleasure of frequent visits to her grandparents' cattle ranch nearby. Madeline's family loved music. Her earliest formal musical training came as a member of the school band, where she played tuba and clarinet. Choral singing came a bit later in high school. Her confidence as a director grew thanks to her teacher training in college which prepared her to work with people of different ages, gave her skills to lead them well, with caring and compassion, and a shared vision for their work together.

She earned a baccalaureate degree with honors in music education from C. U. Boulder. Madeline brings to us an abundance of experience and skills gained from her work with folks of all ages. She has been a classroom music teacher, ensemble singer, and has worked in multiple roles of church worship music: as choir director for children and adult choirs, as soprano soloist and as a choir member.

Madeline professes to have a passion for many contrasting styles of music. She enjoys the diversity of jazz classics and pop melodies from the golden era; the historical styles of Christian choral music and praise songs. She has loved performing as a member of a small a cappella vocal ensemble, and has directed musical theatre productions. Her experience performing in these genres came as both as vocalist and as an instrumentalist.

Madeline's calling to serve in church music is evident in the following statement (quoted with permission) from her application: *"My three years with First Pres in Boulder and the myriad of other musical experiences in church settings have given me a beautiful model to understand the function of the church choir—It is a place for singing members to deepen their spiritual commitment by giving their voices, to find community with others doing the same, and to offer these gifts to the congregation to help enhance their experience of worship. I really enjoy working with the gifts of different people and creating something beautiful and worshipful together. I think that this can happen in a worship team and in a more formal and focused way in a choir. Both are beautiful and serving to the musicians and the congregation."*

Take time to come up front following worship and introduce yourself to Madeline. Let her know if you are interested in sharing your talents.

~ by Susan Billin, Deacon



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Sunday School begins September 9th, and we are looking forward to another great year of Christian Education for pre-K through adults. We have an urgent need for someone who is willing to be trained to help lead our younger children in Godly Play, and another person to work with our middle and high school students. Find out more from Jeremiah.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering

Presbyterians help transform lives through our work for peace, with the tools God has given us. Together, in the Spirit of God, we work to break the power of hate, and heal wounds of violence and division. We invite you to actively engage in peacemaking by contributing to the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering which will be given on Sunday, October 7th.



Please give generously to support peacemaking initiatives that are coordinated by the Presbyterian (USA) Mission leadership and local peacemaking programs. Half of your contribution will be used by our local Mission Committee for peacemaking and reconciliation projects.

Together, in the Spirit of God, we work to break the power of hate, heal wounds of violence and division. The Peace and Global Witness Offering gives us the opportunity to join with other Presbyterians to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond community and across boundaries.

"Blessed are the peacemakers".

In the Mailbox

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for providing drinks and ice for our welcome back barbecue at The Center. Despite our smoky day we were delighted to increase our outreach to students substantially in comparison to last year.

Thanks, too, to Pastor Norman Fowler, who provided the grill and was present as the grill master!

We appreciate all you do to support our common goal to reach students for Christ. Thank you for supporting the Campus Christian Center.

Dawn Beamish,
Director



Dear Friends,

I have settled in here, at the lodge, as have the other residents. We are getting to be quite good friends. Again thank you for all the assistance with the move.

We have a beautiful courtyard, which we are only looking at because we can't go outside (due to smoke).

Our chef is also the gardener and is responsible for the beautiful flowers. including the giant sunflowers in the picture. We are eating delicious tomatoes, peppers, and squash, along with other great food.

I miss all of you, and I have been attending the Methodist Church with Alice, Jim and one of our residents, Leslie.

Blessings to you all.

Love, Joann

What's New at Lael?

LAEL la'el (Hebrew) 'belonging to God'

First Presbyterian hosted two very pleasant events at Lael Retreat Center this summer. The first, which took place in July, was a pulled pork barbecue expertly prepared by Bill Ward (a man of many talents). A variety of delicious side dishes were provided by attendees. The program featured music by The Free-Range Children" and reflections on the recently completed youth mission trip to Portland, shared by some of the youth who went on the trip.

Our second event in early August offered an encore of the pulled pork, this time prepared by Pastor Norman, and a totally different variety of side dishes from those who attended. The Praise Team led a sing-along and provided music for the vesper service following supper.

Lael is a peaceful, quiet, and beautiful place and it's fun to be able to spend time there with church friends and family. In addition to summer picnics/vespers, we also have our Easter Sunrise Service out there, as well as occasional retreats. It's also a great place to go for a walk, fun in the snow, a personal retreat, or wildlife viewing. If you haven't been to Lael, we hope you can visit soon. To learn more, visit the Lael webpage: <http://fpcmoscow.org/lael-retreat.aspx> or Facebook page: [laelinc](https://www.facebook.com/laelinc).



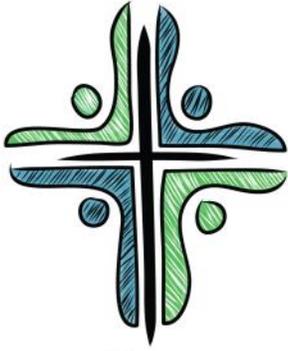
Lael is managed by a Board of Directors made up mainly of members of our congregation. They have been working hard to improve the facility. Recent additions include beds upstairs in the Barn, new siding on the Barn, new cabinets in the kitchen, and a cistern to enhance the water system. Upcoming projects such as completing an outdoor stairway/fire exit from the upper floor of the Barn and re-siding the Chapel will be completed as time and money become available. Lael operates solely on donations from friends and users of Lael, and contributions are gratefully accepted at any time.

Eagle Scout candidates from our church's Troop 344 have also done a lot of work to make Lael a more welcoming place. From practical projects like trail-building, benches, a fence, and a storage shed to projects that enhance the use of Lael, such as the amphitheater and covered deck, our scouts have made a big impact. The latest project, completed this summer by Jed Wallen, is the gazebo pictured below. This impressive structure sits on the shore of the pond, offering a peaceful get-away. It is accessible from the north loop of the nature trail.



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			29 6p Youth Group 7p Choir 7p Troop 344 Committee	30 6:30a Men's Group @ Shari's 12:30p FOON	31 5p Wedding rehearsal	1 3p Wedding
2 9:30 Worship (communion)	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	4 Regular office hours resume 6:30p Stephen Ministry	5 6p Youth Group 7p Choir	6 6:30a Men's Group @ Shari's 12:30p FOON 5:30p Praise Team	7	8
Fellowship Hall floor installation						
9 9:15 Sunday School—all ages 10:30 Worship 5p Fall BBQ	10 7p Boy Scouts	11	12 6p Youth Group 7p Choir	13 6:30a Men's Group @ Shari's 12:30p FOON 5:30p Praise Team	14	15
Family Promise Host Week —>						
16 9:15 Sunday School—all ages 10:30 Worship	17 7p Boy Scout COH 7p Deacons	18 3:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30p Stephen Ministry	19 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	20 6:30a Men's Group @ Shari's 12:30p FOON 5:30p Praise Team 5:30p Lael Board	21	22 Presbytery Meeting at Gonzaga
23 9:15 Sunday School—all ages 10:30 Worship	24 7p Boy Scouts 7p Session	25	26 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir 7p Troop 344 Committee	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30a Men's Group @ Shari's 12:30p FOON 1:30p Circle 5:30p Praise Team	28	29
Women's Retreat at Camp Spalding thru Sunday						
30 9:15 Sunday School—all ages 10:30 Worship 2p Nursing Homes	The Bible Project bible study groups will start in mid-September					



First
Presbyterian
Church

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First Presbyterian Church
"Growing in Christ"

Fall schedule begins September 9

Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Followed by coffee fellowship

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