

First
Presbyterian
Church

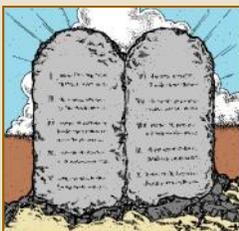
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Winter Sermon Series



The Ten
Commandments

FROM THE



PASTOR

As I have been reflecting on Jesus fulfilling the law instead of abolishing it, I've noticed that one perspective on the Ten Commandments is that they are moral imperatives recommended for a good society. While we often think of them as more than this, sometimes I wonder if in thinking they are more we miss this basic idea. In the present social milieu, I often feel as if talking about morals, let alone moral imperatives, is off limits .

I once had a discussion in which I was told that morals are simply agreed upon standards of behavior, or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable human behavior. Morals of a group reflect a common understanding as to how life should be lived. The question is, where do morals arise from? Are they purely a social construct, or an individual's feelings, or something else? What if morals restrict behaviors that some want to engage in? Is this restricting individual freedom? Where does the community become involved in the behavior and actions of individuals? Is there any mutual responsibility between the community and the individual? When an analysis of the Ten Commandments talks about them as moral imperatives, how does this intersect with our concerns for individual freedom and the right of self-determination? These are not easy questions to answer.

In Deuteronomy 5:1, the Ten Commandments are introduced as the "statutes and ordinances" God gives the Israelites. These words suggest boundaries and the reality of right and wrong within the covenant God is making with God's people. So, the question is whether they only apply within the covenant with God, or is God showing the Israelites something about the nature of creation? Since the Israelites are to be a light to the nations, I would go with the latter. Which leaves us thinking about the nature of the moral universe and whether there is an underlying influence that shapes how human relationships work out.

We expect the physical world to act according to the laws of physics. Social scientists look for consistencies in human interactions, societies, and cultures. We might expect there are

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

some consistent ways of interaction that are more life-giving than others. If that is the case, God is not arbitrary in offering these statutes and ordinances, these boundaries and descriptions of right relationship.

In Greek the word used for law is *nomos*. The interesting thing about this word is its historic roots. In early Greek culture, *nomos* meant *music*, particularly the traditional types used by singers for the recitation of the epics. I feel this suggests that law, or *nomos*, is about living in harmony. More recently, in Peter L Berger's work in the sociology of religion, he uses *nomos* to mean meaningful orders or world views of individuals. This use picks up on the traditional aspect, that the tunes we become accustomed to shape our appreciation of particular types of music and how we think music should be used.

This all may seem a bit abstract, yet daily we decide what we will do based on the way we see the world, or what "tune" we feel is being played in our lives. We see the world according to our traditions and our sense of what is right behavior and what is not. I suspect that what I have learned as appropriate is based in tradition, self-interest, and social conventions that may or may not be congruent with the underlying moral universe. And, perhaps the creator of all that is—the moral universe included—may just know how best we might live in accord with it and how to lead us into the good life. This may also help us assess whether the trends of our society and culture help us traverse the topography of life in a way that enables us to avoid the pitfalls and find the sustenance we need. Perhaps God can be considered the good shepherd that leads us beside the still waters, brings us to the green pastures, and leads us in paths of righteousness.

Can we see the Ten Commandments and Jesus fulfilling them as God leading us in this way? This is very different from seeing them as rules constricting our lives and removing our freedom. Yet, it requires a bit of humility and trust. I have tried herding animals enough to know that when they decide they want to go in a different direction than I want to take them, it can cause problems. If I let them go, they may even be in danger from predators. I wonder if my rebelliousness sometimes interferes with God's desire to herd me into a better life. I hope as we walk through the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus this spring, we will find that God is leading us to a place that is life-giving, and helping us shape a community of faith that expresses the grace and goodness of God.

Grace and peace,
Norman

Photo Day!

It has been almost two years since we installed our popular photo board in the narthex. These photos were also used in our church directory. We have had some new folks join us and some of our families have new (or bigger) children since photos were last taken. If you have a recent picture to add to the photo board and include in our 2019 directory, please email it to the church office soon. If you would like to have us take the picture, Jeremiah will be ready with his camera on Sunday, February 24. Look for him after church.



We're On a Mission to Puerto Rico! Help Us Make the Journey!

Please join us for this fun, family-friendly evening of dinner and entertainment to raise funds for our spring break trip. Please RSVP as indicated below so that we can prepare. If you can't join us February 9, but would like to support this effort, mail your donation to First Presbyterian Church, 405 S. Van Buren St., Moscow, ID, 83843. Or deliver it in person M-Th, 9am-4pm. Note P.R. Mission Trip on your check. Thanks for your support!

Community-Wide

Benefit Dinner

Saturday, February 9



On the
Doorstep
with **Peace**

Please RSVP:

moscowpresby
@gmail.com
or 208.405.0015

Dinner 6:00-7:30 p.m.

*Serving Lamadrid Restaurant recipes:
tacos, burritos, and sopapillas*

Entertainment 6:00-8:30

Jodi Marie Fisher

The Cherry Sisters Revival

Moscow First Presbyterian Church
405 South Van Buren



Admission by donation

*Proceeds will go toward an
ecumenical, intergenerational
mission trip to Puerto Rico in March to meet
survivors of Hurricane Maria, share the peace
of Christ, and help with recovery efforts.*

News Briefs

ABUNDANT GRATITUDE Many thanks to John Farbo (chef extraordinaire), church family members who contributed delicious side dishes and desserts, and more than twenty volunteers who helped on Saturday and Sunday with the set-up, decorating, receiving food, and the many aspects of clean-up for the Church Luncheon on Jan 27th following the annual meeting. All tasks were accomplished swiftly and with good humor. Your gifts of time and energy were such a blessing. Thanks to each and every one of you! With gratitude for the many good people who made things happen so successfully, Susan Billin, coordinator

CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, February 28, at 1:30 p.m., in the Chapel room. Lesson 8 in our *Cloud of Witnesses* study is titled *In Community with the Household of Faith*. Scripture passages for the lesson lead us through Hebrews 3:1-6; Numbers 12:7; Hebrews 13:1-6; James 2:1-4; and Psalm 127:1-2. Kathryn Chase will lead the lesson. Nadine Morton is our hostess. All women are invited to come for Bible study and fellowship.

OUR GIVE A MEAL A MONTH PROJECT NEEDS YOU! The Give-a-Meal-a-Month project supplies a bag of the basic foods needed for one meal. Please take a moment to find the grocery cart in the narthex. The bright yellow bags, and cards with a list of foods to be purchased, are located next to the cart. Please take a bag and card, fill the bag and return it to the cart. It is as easy as that to help those in our community who are in need. These bags are distributed to various locations in our area, including our own Pastor's Pantry, the Campus Christian Center, and the Food Bank. With appreciation, Ellen Johansen, Deacon

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED Elite Home Health and Hospice is looking for volunteers who want to help make a difference in the lives of patients with terminal illness and their families. There are many ways to help: listen to patients' life stories; play games, scrapbook, music, etc.; help with yard work or household projects; use your skills, such as pet therapy, cosmetology, music therapy, etc. Work out a role and schedule that suits you. For more information, contact Megan at 509-758-2568.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER WISH LIST Our volunteer Wednesday Supper cooks have a couple of requests for equipment that would make things easier in the kitchen: a salad spinner and an electric can opener. If you would like to donate either of these items, new or gently used, please drop them by the church office. Thank you!

WE WILL HOST FAMILY PROMISE LATER THIS MONTH Our next host week is coming up in just three weeks, February 24 through March 2. Help is needed to provide meals, serve as evening or overnight hosts, and set up or clean up. If you would like to volunteer, you may sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4daaad22aaf94-family13> or look for the sign up board in the narthex. Questions? Contact Mary Read at idahoreader@gmail.com.

GRIEF RECOVERY SEMINAR AND SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS FEBRUARY 4, and will offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend in a warm, caring environment. GriefShare is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video each week. Each session is self-contained, so you can begin this 13-week series at any point. Beginning February 4, the GriefShare seminar will meet weekly on Mondays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Pullman Presbyterian Church, 1630 NE Stadium Way. Workbooks are available for \$15. Please feel free to email Donna Scott at donnascott@pullman.com or Mandy Fowler at mandfo@gmail.com if you have questions or would like more information. A brochure is posted on the office window.

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 is planning to get a group together on Saturday, February 23, from 9 a.m. to noon to explore what it means to be a member of Presbyterian Church (USA) and Moscow First Presbyterian Church in particular. If you are interested in attending, 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 — February Menus

All are welcome to come to our popular Wednesday Suppers. Supper is served in Fellowship Hall starting at 6 p.m. Wednesday Suppers are a good opportunity to enjoy a hot home-style meal and have some interesting conversations with friends, new and old. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Dinner is free, but donations are always welcome. Here's what's cooking this month:

February 6 — pizza, salads and dessert, hosted by the Deacons

February 13 — in honor of Presidents' Day, the theme is Yankee Doodle Dandy: Beef stroganoff with buttered noodles, Williamsburg cabbage slaw, biscuits and honey, and George Washington Cherry Cobbler, prepared by John Farbo and crew.

February 20 — perfect for a cold winter night, Soups and Stews with Salads and Cherry Crisp prepared by Mary Jo, Carol, Linda, and Valerie

February 27 — NO Wednesday Supper; we will be back with a pancake supper served up by the youth group on Ash Wednesday, March 6



Library Volunteers Needed

We have had a large number of books donated to our church library and are in serious need of two or three volunteers to help sort through the books, give away duplicates, and catalog the keepers so that we can add them to our book catalog and put them on our shelves. Our books are cataloged according to the Library of Congress system, which we can reference online in order to assign the correct designation to each book. Training provided.—it's really not very complicated; it just takes time and willing hands. We have all the materials we need to label the books and get them ready to be checked out. If you might be interested, talk with Kathy in the office for more information.



Introducing our New Officers

At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 27, one important item of business was the election/reelection of officers. Congratulations to our new elders and deacons, and thank you for responding to this call. Ordination/installation will take place in worship on February 10.

Elders

Steve Bergmann
Ed Schaper
Celeste Brown
Warren Case
Bruce Pitman

Deacons

Kathy Pitman
Ames Elliandi
Ellen Johansen
Jim Robinson
Sharon Scott



We also thank outgoing Elders Pat Carey, David Roon, Andy Johansen, and Steve Daley Laursen, and Deacons Sharon Royce, Ed Schaper, and Harper Wallen, with much appreciation for their faithful and diligent service.

Meeting as Lael, Inc., we also elected Lael Board members for the Class of 2021: Ames Elliandi, Dennis Ferguson, and Warren Case.

Deacons' Spotlight

Jeremiah Nealon is from Bremerton, Washington, where most of his extended family lives today. He is the Director of Family Ministries for our church, and loves the holistic nature of his job as he gets to interact with all stages of life within a family: from children's Sunday school, to youth group, to adult ministries. His family includes his wife, Donan, his two children, Moira and Isaac, and his brother, Sean. Jeremiah's passions include running, photography and following most major sports.

His favorite bible story is when Jesus is going to heal the daughter of Jairus, a synagogue leader, and a woman that had been sick for twelve years touches his cloak. Jeremiah feels this story shows the heart of Jesus as he takes time to hear her story and restore her to health, both physically and spiritually, giving her no less importance than the synagogue leader.

Jeremiah struggled to feel like he belonged for much of his younger life, but he finally felt like his life had orientation and purpose when he became a Christian at 18. Involvement in a church community made his life click into place, giving him fidelity, responsibility and love in the Kingdom, and a place to set his feet on firm ground. His favorite church memory is when he and Donan announced their engagement and the pastor at the time yelled "Yipee!" and the whole church clapped, illustrating the sense of belonging that the church gives.

Jeremiah loves that our church is a place that he can receive both wisdom on deep spiritual matters, and advice on practical things like cooking, roasting coffee, and finding the dump. He feels a deep appreciation for the ability of the church to be together in hard times; to worship, cry, and spend time together through thick and thin.



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

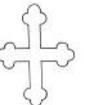
I love "Ordinary Time." I love being done with bustle of the Christmas Season and having time to settle down prior to the self-reflection of Lent. I sometimes imagine Ordinary Time as traveling with Jesus between towns. It feels like a time for the private moments and the simple conversations that the Gospels give us only small glimpses of.

Right now, much of Family Ministry feels ordinary. After the disruption of the Christmas and school breaks, we are settling in, telling the good story of God's love for the world that he has made.

GODLY PLAY LOOKING FOR SOME CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

Some of you have seen the interactive storytelling curriculum that teaches our preschoolers and kindergarteners about God, stories in the Bible, and the nature of worship. Our classroom has been blessed over the past ten years by many talented carpenters in the congregation who built us materials. We are now looking for some talented garage "salers" or collectors who might have or find the following materials and be willing to donate them to our Godly Play room:

- 3 baskets, 3 inch round
- 10 baskets, 4 inch round
- 10 wood or bamboo trays, 12 inches x 18 inches or 12 inches x 16 inches
- Match container with cover
- Metal or wooden Greek cross, 3-4 inches tall (all four members have the same shape and form, often appearing like a plus sign)
- Metal or wooden Latin cross, 3-4 inches tall (a plain cross in which the vertical part below the horizontal is longer than the other three parts)
- Metal or wooden Celtic cross, 3-4 inches tall (a Latin cross with a circle around the center)
- Metal or wooden budded cross, 3-4 inches tall (common decorative form of the Christian cross. Its trefoils represent the Trinity.)
- Metal or wooden St. Andrew cross, 3-4 inches tall (a saltire or X-shaped cross)
- Metal or wooden Egyptian or Coptic cross, 3-4 inches tall (often shown with arms dividing into three points each)
- Metal or wooden anchor cross, 3-4 inches tall (a stylized cross in the shape of an anchor. It is a symbol which is shaped like a plus sign with anchor-like protrusions at the end of each arm, hence the name)
- 3 Ukrainian Easter eggs in translucent boxes with lids
- Doll sized plate, chalice and loaf of bread
- White rectangular tablecloth, about 4 feet by 3 feet



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Family Ministry *...continued from Page 7*

Youth Group Update:

Youth Group has been very fun all year. One highlight, this fall I instituted a rhythm of Fun (games, BBQ's, etc.) and Soul (Bible studies, prayer rooms, spiritual practices) weeks. Last week a member of the group said, "I really like our soul weeks. We could do those more!" Praise God for increased spiritual hunger.

College Ministry:

Did you know that Jasper serves dinner for a group of 7 college students every Friday night at the Center? You should! He does! I am very grateful for how that community has formed over the past year.

Additionally, some recent graduates and I will start to read "After College" together in the next couple of weeks. I am very excited to walk through that transitions with member of our community.

Jeremiah

Scout Sunday and Bake Sale February 10

We are pleased to have Scouts from both of our Troops — Troop 344 (boys) and our brand new Troop 333 (girls) — assisting in worship on Scout Sunday, February 10.

Troop 344 will be hosting a fundraising **Bake Sale** in the chapel room on Scout Sunday from 9:15 until 11 am. A variety of goods will be available by donation. Funds raised will be used to support scout outings, merit badge and rank insignia purchases, and scholarships.

First Presbyterian has chartered scout troops since 1923, and we are the first in our area to offer this same scouting program to girls through the newly chartered Troop 333. As of February 1, 2019, Scouts BSA is open to



boys and girls ages 11-17. It offers youth the opportunity to learn and practice leadership, gain confidence, acquire valuable skills, spend time outdoors, develop life-long interests, and have fun in a safe and encouraging environment.

The boys' troop, T344, meets Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. and the girls' troop, T333, meets Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m., both in Fellowship Hall (church basement). For more information, contact T344 Scoutmaster Alex Greig at alex.greig.1@gmail.com or T333 Scoutmaster Shelly Hanks at shellyhanks@msn.com.



FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	4 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	5 8-3:30 MCC 6:30p Stephen Ministers 7p Scouts BSA T333(girls)	6 10:30a Wo's Bible Study 11a Men's Bible Study 5:30p Taizé worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	7 6:30a Men's Group 11a Bible Study at Campus Christian Center Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team	8	9 9a Oasis Day Retreat 6p Mission Trip Benefit Dinner
10 SCOUT SUN. 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (officer ordination & installation) 12:30p Mission Team	11 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	12 8-3:30 MCC 6:30p MCC parent meeting 7p Scouts BSA T333(girls)	13 10:30a Wo's Bible Study 11a Men's Bible Study 5:30p Taizé worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	14 6:30a Men's Group 11a Bible Study at CCC Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team 	15	16
17 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:30p Mission Team	18 PRESIDENTS' DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7p Deacons	19 8-3:30 MCC 3:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30p Stephen Ministers 7p Scouts BSA T333(girls)	20 10:30a Wo's Bible Study 11a Men's Bible Study 5:30p Taizé worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	21 6:30a Men's Group 11a Bible Study at CCC Noon – FOON 5:30p Lael Board 5:30p Praise Team	22	23 9a New Members Class
24 PICTURE DAY 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 12:30p Mission Team 5p Family Promise guests arrive	25 6p Strategic Team 7p Session 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7p Scouts BSA T333(girls)	27 10:30a Wo's Bible Study 11a Men's Bible Study 5:30p Taizé worship 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir 7p T344 Committee	28 6:30a Men's Group 11a Bible Study at CCC Noon – FOON 1:30p Circle 5:30p Praise Team	Cashmere High here for Jazz Festival	
FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK						

An Oasis Day

February 9, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 405 S. Van Buren, Moscow

Come for a spiritual oasis — Come feed your soul

Take a break from your busy life to refresh your soul at our next Oasis Day mini-retreat. The flexible schedule for this mini-retreat includes guided prayer and meditation as well as plenty of opportunity for individually chosen activities such as praying, reading and study, and quiet reflection. Child care can be arranged upon request. Contact the church office by Feb. 6 with the names and ages of children needing care.



Please reserve your place at the FPC Oasis Day by calling 208-882-4122 or emailing the FPC office at office@fpcmoscow.org



First
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Church

405 South Van Buren Street
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Phone: 208-882-4122
E-mail: office@fpcmoscow.org
Facebook: Moscow FPC
Web: fpcmoscow.org

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