



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Moscow First Presbyterian
Church is a



MATTHEW 25
congregation

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www.presbyterianmission.org/
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FROM THE



PASTOR

Recently I began a sermon series about finding ourselves in human form and looking to what Jesus did according to Philippians 2 (*...being found in human form he humbled himself...*) when he found himself in human form. As I have worked through this series, I am finding it touches on some of the more difficult aspects of being human and gives hope in the realization that

God seems to address these issues and invite us to new life in Christ. We have noticed the difficulty we have with using our ability to speak for good and not ill. We have paid attention to the invitation to tell and hear the truth rather than what we want to say and hear. We are called into the very compassion of Christ for all and have considered how hard that can be.

This last week we tackled the difficult issue of forgiveness. I feel like we have a hard time with forgiveness, both in receiving and in offering it. Though I may want to be forgiven, I can feel I don't deserve it and often feel uncertain any would offer it. Even God's forgiveness can be hard to accept – indeed we begin to feel we can't be forgiven until a sacrifice is made; until someone pays the price for what we have done. Though we are not as into this guilt in more recent generations, we can still begin to feel unworthy. Feeling unworthy today seems to have a double whammy since you're supposed to be ok and so am I. To feel unworthy is out of sync with the perspective that everyone is ok, we just are different. Feelings of unworthiness are less acceptable and thus harder to deal with. This is, at least, my perspective. In the end, I think we all know we do not live up to all of our ideals, but changing our ideals doesn't feel quite right either.

The Bible doesn't have a problem saying there are things we do that just aren't quite right. My sense of the Biblical narrative is that most of these things have to do with broken relationships—what today we might say are unhealthy relationships to ourselves, others, God, and by extension, God's creation. We miss the mark that human life is designed to hit, that is, we miss the path humans are created to follow. I believe the Bible calls this breaking of our relationships sin. Sins are the evidence one is on the wrong path. They are the ways we break our relationship with God, others, and even ourselves through denying the importance of the relationship

Continued on Page 2...

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

and breaking the trust that is basic to those relationships. That is, we sin, and we need help mending the wrongs we have done and that have been done to us.

Forgiveness is the doorway to the help we need. I generally think in pretty simple ways about forgiveness – that somehow God disregards my sin because of Christ. I found in researching the Hebrew word used for forgiveness that the root word gives us a number of metaphors or descriptions of what is involved in forgiveness. The root word itself has a sense of reacting swiftly to danger and pain – like pulling your hand back quickly when it gets too close to the fire. In general, the word (*Salach*) means “pulling away from.” So forgiveness is pulling our sins away from us and separating us from our sins, our wrongs – like pulling the hand back – so we won’t get burned by them.

Other forms of this same word suggest things like:

- Being taken from a bad place to a good place - the rescue image
- Paying off a debt
- Shaking or throwing off the blanket of evil that otherwise one is trapped within
- Taking out the garbage to get rid of it
- A ladder to enable one to climb out of a pit
- Crushing a stone or splintering wood – so the boulder in the way is now a pile of rubble
- Bring something to naught, so the problem loses all importance and influence
- To purify and make good, right, delectable

I found this an interesting list of images/descriptions/metaphors with which to think about God’s forgiveness. What seems true about God’s forgiveness is that it is not about making the wrong ok, but rather it is the thing that removes barriers to new possibilities, to a future. Indeed, God in Christ is enabling us to be forgiven that we might move into the life God has for us, which is built around a healthy relationship with God and with one another.

In Greek, as well, the word forgiveness has the connotation of separating from. Forgiveness of sin is separating one from one’s sin. Doing this completely is God’s bailiwick. We can begin to see the sin separate from the sinner and move toward a forgiveness that entails letting go of retribution and embracing hope for a transformation that only God can truly complete. Our forgiveness is letting go of the bitterness, resentfulness, desire to punish and/or force the other to change, and to cordon off the wrongs and wrongdoer, giving them over to God. For we need not be defined by the wrongs done to us nor the mistakes we have made, but are invited to accept God’s forgiveness as a door to new life.

So, we are invited to live in healthy relationship to one another and to God. We are given both the gift of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith to guide and enable us to do this. I am thankful for our church family as a place we may all practice and attempt to live into healthy relationships with God and with others. Our study, worship, fellowship and mission opportunities are ways we hope the Spirit will be at work, and we can grow the relationship we have to God and others. And, we hope to offer these relationships of forgiveness and grace to our community. May God indeed, bless our participation and growth in this process, the growth into Christ, the growth toward living as God would have us live.

Grace and peace,
Norman

Stewardship Season, Fall 2019

Soon you will be receiving the stewardship information for this fall. We have a church family that cares for one another and for the ministry we do as a family of faith. Through your generous contributions of time, talents and treasure, you enable this ministry of our church. In Hebrews 6, we hear how the author recognizes the stewardship of the recipients of the letter, writing about "the love that you showed for his [Jesus] sake in serving the saints, as you still do."



Stewardship is reminding us to think about how we will continue to show love for God's people and the ministry done among and through them (us), thus serving the saints. Soon you will be asked to assess how you will pledge to show your love in the tangible giving of time, talents, and treasure for 2020. Look for more information coming in the next few weeks.

Also, put Sunday, November 3rd, on your calendar as the day we will dedicate our pledges and have a stewardship celebration lunch/potluck after worship. Together we will celebrate the opportunity we have to support, enable and engage in the ministry of our church, showing our love in serving the people of God in our time and place.

John Farbo will be preparing his delicious Tri-tip and Pork Loin Roasts. We ask the congregation to please bring potluck side dishes as follows:

Last name beginning with A-P: Vegetables, Salads, or Appetizers
Last name beginning with S-Y: Fruit or Desserts

Beverages and tableware will be provided. We hope to see you there!

FPC Oasis Day – Come for a Spiritual Oasis

Saturday, October 12, 2019

9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Moscow First Presbyterian Church, 405 S. Van Buren

Step away from the daily grind and find a moment to think, to mediate, to feel, to read, to pray, and to be still before God.

For a few hours, we offer space and a break from the rush of work, the tightly scheduled day. You will be invited to a different rhythm. The flexible schedule for the day includes group offerings such as guided meditation, praying scripture, and other contemplative reflections as well as plenty of opportunity for individually chosen activities like prayer, meditation, reading, thinking, sitting in quiet reflection, etc.

The purpose is to feed your soul. Anyone who wants time of contemplative silence is welcome. Lunch will be provided.

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



News Briefs

CAROL RENFREW WOMEN'S CIRCLE Our next Circle Bible study will meet Thursday, October 24, at 1:30 pm, in the Library. Lesson 2, *God with Us in Our Uncertainty* has as its focus "God accompanies the called; it is God's presence in our weakness that equips us for our calling." Please read ahead Exodus 3:1-12, Judges 6:11-27. Bible study books are available in the church office for \$10. De Bush will serve as hostess. Linda Fleener will lead the lesson. All women are welcome to come for Bible study and fellowship.

SMALL TELEVISION NEEDED One of the televisions we use for a couple of our Bible Project study groups has stopped working, so we are in need of another small (approx. 32" so as to be easily portable) flat screen television with HDMI input. If you have a spare TV that you would like to donate to our adult education groups, please call the church office at 208-882-4122.

THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the entire church to collaborate in our proclamation of Christ's peace. 75% of the offering will be used by our Presbytery and the national Presbyterian Mission Agency to engage in peacemaking and build ministries of reconciliation with those who have experienced violence in the USA and around the world. The remaining 25% of the offering will be retained by our congregation to be used locally. If we all do a little, it can add up to a lot. Make check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "peace offering" in the memo line. Offering dedicated on World Communion Sunday, October 6.

News from Lael

It was fairly quiet at Lael during the warm dog-days of summer, but fall is bringing a flurry of activity. The end of September brought St. Mary's Youth group for a retreat. First United Methodist Youth group and Evangelical Free Church have signed up to use our facilities in October. We still have two weekends free if you need a place to hold a large gathering. Our estimated closing date for the season will be early November.

If you have been out to Lael lately, you will have seen a few improvements. We had a large area by the barn leveled to make a parking lot. Ed Schaper is hard at work lining up two truck loads of gravel to cover the area. We purchased an air conditioning unit for the chapel that will be installed in the back corner. Steve Bergmann and Ed Schaper installed blinds in the front chapel windows. These two additions should make the chapel more comfortable in the warm months. Bill Ward has almost completed a donation box to be placed in the barn. We hope groups using the facility might make a donation after enjoying their experience at Lael.

Our second tree project is in full swing but may take a few years to make any impact. We will plant 32 Ponderosa Pine seedlings along the road leading to the chapel. Dennis Ferguson has been planning this project, and will purchase the seedlings from the University of Idaho nursery.

All of our projects, large or small, are only possible through the generous donations we receive from the congregation. Just a reminder, if you wish to make a donation, please make the check payable to Lael, Inc. and put it in our box located in the church office. This makes it easier for our bookkeeping and the money will definitely get to our account. We have lots of plans, dreams, and projects we would like to complete, and we can only carry them out with your support. Thank you all.



Vital Community Conversations

We have so much division in our nation and community, yet we have many important issues to understand and address. Recognizing this need, First Presbyterian Church is partnering with First United Methodist Church and the United Church to lead our community in a series of gatherings. The purpose of these gatherings, which we've named 'Vital Community Conversations,' is to provide community members with the opportunity to understand and discuss issues that are of immediate relevance to society. By stimulating these roundtable conversations, we hope to address our community's divisions.



Initially, these conversations will follow up on presentations and activities the University of Idaho offers to the general public. The first Vital Community Conversation will reflect on the Borah Symposium topic and presentations for this year – Climate and Conflict. The presentations at the University are October 7 - 9 (www.uidaho.edu/class/borah/2019), and the follow up Vital Community Conversation will be October 17 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Center.

The second in the series will reflect on the University of Idaho Common Read, the book *There, There* by Tommy Orange. This book is about the Native American experience in Oakland, California. Tommy Orange will be offering an address on November 5 at 7 pm - 8:30 pm at the Pitman Center, and the Vital Community Conversation will take place on November 7 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Center.

There will be a short presentation at each Conversation, but the majority of the time will be in guided conversations around the tables. You are invited to put these events on your calendar and join these conversations this fall. If you would like to become more involved in planning, leading, and/or logistics please talk with your pastor or email Celeste Brown at bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.

Adult Christian Education Groups

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



The second option, facilitated by Julie Hopper, is a Bible Study using videos from *The Bible Project* (www.thebibleproject.com) to spur our discussions. The third, facilitated by Pastor Norman, is specifically for parents of young children, and will also use videos from *The Bible Project*.



In addition to the Sunday morning Bible Project groups, we also have a men's group, facilitated by Lee Rozen, that meets Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in Room 35, and a women's group will meet on Wednesdays in the church library at 10 a.m. beginning October 9, facilitated by Kathy Pitman.

The class sessions for all of these groups stand alone, so feel free to drop in as you are able. For more information, contact the church office.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

This month I am thinking about Jesus. I know, that isn't so surprising in a church newsletter. Maybe that is what I am thinking about, though. Jesus can become background noise for me. His teachings lose their teeth and lack the edge they had upon first hearing.

Last spring in Youth Group, we talked about church history. Kids struggled to identify aspects of church history that they were proud of. Only the worst examples of church came to mind. This fall, I posed the same conversation about Jesus. Students couldn't find anything to criticize. One student said, "I dunno, Jesus is chill".

Jesus is good. He is powerful. He is compassionate. He is brave. He is a dreadful dinner guest. He is confrontational. He is whimsical. He is anything but "chill".

Since that evening, I have had a deep longing, which I am still struggling to articulate (even as I am articulating it here). I have longed to see Jesus transform us in a deep way. To overcome our pithy and polite boxes. For him to become a fully-fledged savoir in our small theological abstractions.

November 8-10, I am honored to speak at our Presbytery's Fall Youth Camp. I am speaking about how Jesus' love can be both appalling and appealing. I am praying that we can capture Jesus' love in the fullness of its offense, as well as the deep pools of hope it generates. I hope for transformation.

Updates:

- **Money for FOON Pizzas:** FOON has attracted many high school students who would not otherwise visit our church. Last Spring FOON grew 50% and our initial budget was insufficient. Each FOON now costs \$90. To meet the need, I am working on new income streams for Youth Ministry expenses with some partners (coffee roasting, leaf raking, FOON merchandise). These ideas are still in a planning phase and details are coming! Want to "adopt" a FOON? Let me know!
- **"Foon Brew" Coffee is Launching Soon!** Keep your eyes open after church, soon we will have Foon Brew Coffee! 1 pound of coffee for \$12 suggested donation!
- **Falling Leaves Got You Down?** See what I did there? If you have leaves that need to be raked, the Youth Group has your back! Again, donations are welcomed, but we would also just love to pitch in a helping hand.
- **Nursery Worker or Volunteers Needed:** We need at least one additional nursery worker this fall. Please let me know if you, or anyone you know is interested in joining our team in a paid or volunteer capacity.
- **Children's Choir?:** Many members of our committee fondly remembered experiences they had in children's choirs. We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in engaging our kids in the gift of music!
- **Supportive Notes and Care Packages for Youth:** Are you interested in supporting one of our youth group kids with kind notes and snacks? Let me know and I can connect you to this new opportunity to bless our youth.

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Family Ministry *...continued from Page 6*

- **Men’s Retreat:** Did you know that Camp Spalding has a Men’s Retreat? Yep. Camp Spalding has a Men’s Retreat! It’s November 15-17. I want to go and I want you to come with me. Come with me? Details on Page 10.
- **Family Outreach:** Monthly outreach events for families with young children (Pre-K-5th) are happening! Why? To introduce families to our church through fun activities the entire family can enjoy together.

*On October 31, **Trunk or Treat is back!*** From 5:30-7pm, we’ll have nut and dairy free candy for the kids, and samples of Foon Blend Coffee for their parents.

But wait, there’s more!

On November 1st we have a **Candy Hangover Party!** Come with some excess candy and make care packages to pass out on campus. Movie and nutritious dinner provided. More details to come.

*December - Children's **DIY Gift Night.***

We welcome volunteers of all ages, especially those grandparent types! Got questions? Call me or Liz Lincoln (510) 926-1864.

Wednesday Supper Fellowship



Wednesday Supper Fellowship is served every week at 6:00 p.m. in fellowship hall. Everyone who would like to share a delicious home cooked meal, some good conversation, and a night off from cooking is welcome! Suppers are free, but free-will donations are gladly accepted to help cover the cost of the meal. Invite your friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors to this kid-friendly meal.

Here’s what’s cooking in October:

- October 2—**Lasagna:** meat, vegetarian and gluten-free, salad, bread, dessert
- October 9—**Sloppy Joes:** meat and vegetarian, green bean deluxe, peach crisp
- October 16—**Pasta Bar:** meat and vegetarian sauces, salad, bread, brownies/cookies (this is a fundraiser for Scout Troop 344)
- October 23—**Oktoberfest:** slow-roasted pork loin, hot German potato salad, red cabbage & apples, chocolate pudding
- October 30—**Spooky Potato Bar:** baked potatoes with fixin’s, green salad, dessert

Finance Report

As of August 31, 2019



	August	YTD
Receipts	\$ 23,672	\$ 181,506
Disbursements	\$20,820	\$ 189,242
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$ 7,736)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$ 12,702*
* includes prepaid pledges for 2019 @ \$19,600		



Happenings at the Campus Christian Center

The Campus Christian Center is starting out the academic year with a variety of weekly scheduled programs. "The Center" is located at 822 Elm on the University of Idaho campus.

On Sundays at 4:00 p.m. "Center Stage" takes place. This is a relaxed time of modern and contemporary worship, led by acoustic guitar. Each week offers music, a devotional, and time for prayer.



"Living Significantly" invites students to meet and discuss "Creation Care" topics. It meets every Sunday until December 8 at 7 p.m. Dawn Beamish, Campus Christian Center Director, facilitates.

"Souper" Mondays take place from 11:30 to 12:30. Every Monday a vegetarian and nonvegetarian soup, along with bread, are provided at no cost. It's a time for food, fellowship, and discussion.

"Illuminate" will be starting Tuesday, October 1, at 5:30 at the Campus Christian Center. It is hosted by the Campus Christian Center and Lutheran Campus Ministry. It will be meeting every Tuesday until December 10. Pause from the pace of campus, catch your breath, and let your soul catch up with your body through contemplative practices, prayer, and art exploration. Karla Neumann Smiley from Lutheran Campus Ministry will be leading this group.

On Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at The Center, Caitlyn Probasco, Campus Ministry volunteer for our church, will be leading a group in Bible Study, fun games, and sharing a meal.

Another activity sponsored by the Lutheran Campus Ministry taking place at the Campus Christian Center is a dinner and Bible Study/ Discussion Topic starting at 6 p.m. every Wednesday until December 11. You don't have to be Lutheran or even Christian to attend. For more information contact Karla at lcm@uidaho.edu or stop by her office for a visit, located on the lower floor of the Campus Christian Center. The meal is free.

The people on the Board from First Presbyterian Church are Pastor Norman Fowler, Dale Everson, Celeste Brown, and Jon and Mary Jo Van Gerpen.

Family Promise is Seeking a Case Manager

Our Family Promise Family is vast – and we are so happy you are part of it. Like any family, change is inevitable. With one big change (the recent departure of Director Katti Carlson) comes another. Zoila Mendez, our case manager since we opened our doors six years ago, is taking on a full-time role at another agency. We are proud of her accomplishments. As the case manager, Zoila was the steady heartbeat guiding our families from panic to progress. She helped create the steps and provided the guidance that our families needed while in shelter. While we are excited to see her aspire to and achieve her goals, we are sad to see her go. We deeply appreciate everything she did to help us grow as an organization.



The case manager position is posted on Indeed at <https://www.indeed.com/job/case-manager-bd519a3d120b8128>. We ask your help to identify potential candidates. We know that talent is deep in our communities and there are many with a heart for serving families in need. The position will remain open until we find the right person to lead the next chapter. An interim case manager will be appointed shortly until the hiring process is complete. Please pray for this process and for all those involved. ~Janine Rivera, Interim Executive Director

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9a-3p Moscow Classical Conversations 6p Stephen Min. 7p Scouts BSA T333 (girls)	2 10:30a Men's Bible Project Study 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	3 6:30a Men's Grp. at Shari's 6:30p Praise Team	4	5
6 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:15a Sunday School for all 10:30a Worship 4p FNB Community Dinner	7 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	8 9a-3p Moscow Classical Conversations 7p Scouts BSA T333 (girls)	9 10a Women's Bible Project Study 10:30a Men's Bible Project Study 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6p Scout Committee 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	10 6:30a Men's Grp. at Shari's 12:30p FOON 6:30p Praise Team	11	12 9a Oasis Day
13 STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY 9:15a Sunday School for all 10:30a Worship 4p FNB Community Dinner	14 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	15 9a-3p Moscow Classical Conversations 3:30p Prayer Shawl Min. 6p Stephen Min. 7p Scouts BSA T333 (girls)	16 10a Women's Bible Project Study 10:30a Men's Bible Project Study 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	17 6:30a Men's Grp. at Shari's 12:30p FOON 6:30p Praise Team 7p Community Conversation at 1912 Bldg.	18	19
20 9:15a Sunday School for all 10:30a Worship 4p FNB Community Dinner	21 7p Deacons 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	22 7p Scouts BSA T333 (girls)	23 10a Women's Bible Project Study 10:30a Men's Bible Project Study 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	24 6:30a Men's Grp. at Shari's 12:30p FOON 1:30p Circle 6:30p Praise Team	25 5:30p Parents' Night Out	26
27 ALL SAINTS OBSERVANCE 9:15a Sunday School for all 10:30a Worship 4p FNB Community Dinner	28 7p Session 7p Scouts BSA T344 (boys)	29 9a-3p Moscow Classical Conversations 7p Scouts BSA T333 (girls)	30 10a Women's Bible Project Study 10:30a Men's Bible Project Study 5:30p Taizé 6p Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	31 6:30a Men's Grp. at Shari's 5:30p Trunk or Treat Party 6:30p Praise Team		

Clearwater Lodge Men's Conference—November 15-17, 2019

In the rush and responsibilities of life's daily routine, it can be difficult to create space for God – time set apart to hear His voice. And in the busyness of life's everyday demands, our relationship with the Lord often doesn't receive the quality, focused time it deserves. Take time out for yourself – and the One who matters most – at Clearwater Lodge.

At the fall men's conference on November 15-17, **John Fischer** returns to Clearwater Lodge for another challenging, inspiring weekend as we explore what Christians think about the world and what the world thinks about Christians, discovering new models for Christians to make a difference in the marketplace and in our own backyards.

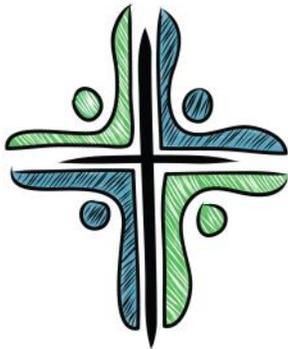
John's career spans over forty years of distinctive ministry, first as a singer/songwriter, recording artist and pioneer of Jesus Music; a best-selling author of 15 books; a popular speaker at conferences, retreats, churches and colleges; and pastor of a growing online community through *The Catch: Connecting Life to Faith*. John lives in Laguna Beach, CA, with his wife, Marti.



Speaker: John Fischer

(<https://catchjohnfischer.com/about-john/author-writer-speaker-and-references/>)

Cost for the conference ranges from \$98 to \$172 depending on accommodations. Great meals are included, and financial aid may be available. The conference schedule allows time for canoeing, reading by the fire, skiing/hiking, fishing, or a nap. Contact the church office if you are interested so that we can register as a group while there's still space available. Learn more here: <https://clearwaterlodge.configio.com/pd/395>



First
Presbyterian
Church

405 South Van Buren Street
Moscow, Idaho 83843

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



First Presbyterian is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation.