



First
Presbyterian
Church

MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

Inside this issue:

Worship on the Lawn	2
Fall Harvest Distribution	3
Sept. Benevolence	3
Scout News	3
News Briefs	4
Welcome, Abigail	5
Capital Campaign—Boiler Replacement	5
Church Updates	6
Hope At Work Program	7
Safe Church Update	7



BEGINNING

SEPT. 13

Sunday
morning
livestream
worship
moves to

10:30 a.m.

FROM THE



PASTOR

I write to you with mixed feelings. The beauty of the day is wonderful, yet it seems almost hidden. For underneath the beauty is a lot of ugliness. Perhaps, ugliness is a metaphor for evil as I see it. We personally saw danger so close to us in the beautiful golden fields near our home. Last Saturday, we watched the fire line in the field just north of our property. As we watched, we wondered what we could do if the wind changed and the fire came toward us rapidly, instead of its very slow progression against the wind. Thankfully, a tanker truck came along the line and extinguished the fire, and a tractor with a disc created a physical barrier to any embers that might remain. I feel like I am watching so many fire lines right now. I wonder where the firefighters are to put them out.

The pandemic continues to burn across the globe, in our nation, state, and community. Unfortunately, we don't have a simple way to extinguish this flame with a tanker truck, and we must note that in some ways we are all the firefighters doing our best to stop the spread of the fire. We continue to create physical distance between us and we wear masks to protect each other. And we change our behaviors so we have less likelihood of contracting and/or spreading the virus. With these changes, loneliness and isolation have come as unwelcome companions. Many of us long for our human friends and the companionship we know with them. The longing and anxiety are like a chronic pain, induced and delivered by a pandemic.

And if the this were the only fire we were watching and participating in fighting, that would make life a little easier, yet it seems fighting the virus is also leading to a struggling economy. The worry about the economy brings to the fore questions about what we value. Is the enriching of few more important than the struggles of so many? How do we value human life and how do we manage to live through this time together? Or do we devolve into hoarding and making sure I am ok, and not worry about the "together" part? I have seen an outpouring of concern for those that might not have enough food or other necessities. How do we sustain this concern? This seems different than most natural disasters, which are soon over and we can move on. This pandemic-induced struggle seems to require systemic action where we work together for the benefit of all, particularly the most vulnerable and those stuck on the front lines, to address their suffering.

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

With conspiracy theories and belief in alternative realities so evident in our country, we struggle to bridge divides in perspective. We see evil twisting fear into hatred, and this fear-induced hatred erupting into violence and murder. With the resurgence of white supremacy and the protests against it, we see the evil of racism residing among us, creating tragic violence and loss of life. We can even begin to wonder when this violence might visit our own community as we hear vituperative voices in our midst. We wonder when new fires will erupt, and whether the embers are burning just under the surface.

I continue to attempt to proclaim the good news I know in the midst of these times. And the good news I know is the love of God given us in Christ Jesus. I believe that God calls us to accept the grace he brings. That acceptance is an entry into a relationship with our God—a relationship has been made real and right from God's work in Christ. In response, we are called to follow Christ, not only in our thanksgiving for God's love of us (and all God's children), but especially to become those that live as citizens of the kingdom of God and express the values of that kingdom. This, for me, means we must pay attention to the direction Jesus gives us, such as the injunction to "deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me (Jesus)." Over and over again scripture tells us to look to the good of others and not just our own good. We are encouraged to find what is good for others through the grace given us. We are to take that grace and extend it to others, to help every person know they are valued and unique. As children of God, we are to find the way to live peaceably with all and to give the cup of cold water, that is to give relief from suffering and struggle, to those in need. This is the real fire suppressant and the way to life that is not threatened by flames.

Within our present realities, we will go ahead with our lives and the ministry of our church. Yet, the challenges this fall are so different than any I have ever encountered. What is the best way to be the church, the people of God, when it is more clear than ever that gathering in the building is not all that we are talking about? We generally suggest the church is not the building, but is the people of God called out of the world to grow in Christ, worship our God, and to serve God's people. We will work toward the time when we can gather in person to worship, fellowship, work together, and learn together. In the meantime, we use phones, internet, and computer applications (like Zoom) to enable us to talk with each other safely. We use video capabilities to bring worship into our living rooms. We meet on the lawn outside for worship and even some distanced fellowship. And we will continue to work at these and other options as ways to minister to each other and to our community. We are called to let the Good News be proclaimed and let Christ shine through us.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit,

Norman

Worship on the Lawn Sundays at 6 p.m.

Join us on the front lawn of the church for 45 minutes of music, prayer requests, scripture, and a message. Communion served on Sept. 6. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blanket (we have a few chairs you may use if you don't have one). We will maintain safe social distances and wear masks to keep everyone as safe as possible. There is also the option of parking on the street in front of the church and participating from your car. If you plan to attend please use this online reservation form: <https://forms.gle/67paJZ9EPqQHiczXA>. Call 208-882-4122 or email office@fpcmoscow.org to let us know you will be there.



Sharing Our Bounty

In lieu of our annual Welcome Back BBQ, First Presbyterian Church is hosting a **FALL HARVEST DISTRIBUTION** on **Saturday, Sept. 12 from 3-5 pm.**

In collaboration with Food Not Bombs of the Palouse, Backyard Harvest, local farms and **YOU**, we will set up tables along our front lawn and cover them with fresh local fruits and vegetables. We are inviting our community to stop by and pick out whatever they would like, while supplies last.



If YOU have excess produce to contribute, please contact Celeste Brown (bioinfomom@roadrunner.com). We will accept produce at the Fellowship Hall door starting at 2 pm.

If you would like to help us “feed the 5,000”, we will need help with setting up, distributing food (wearing gloves), and cleaning up. Masks and social distancing will be required of workers and guests. For more information, please contact Susan Billin (susan.billin@gmail.com).

Deacons’ 1st Sunday Benevolence

The September 1st Sunday Benevolence offering will be used to purchase reusable covered containers for Food Not Bombs food distribution. Food Not Bombs provides over 100 to-go meals each week from our basement kitchen. Church members have been donating sterilizable 16 and 32 oz. containers (yogurt and cottage cheese) and will continue to do so. These reusable containers will supplement that supply.

With Labor Day weekend coming up, we encourage people to consider giving now – before the holiday weekend – supporting this immediate need. Gifts may be made via check made out to First Presbyterian Church, with the MEMO: “FNB meal containers”, or via the church’s online giving through Tithe.ly at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>. Please direct your gift to the Deacons Fund, adding “Deacons 1st Sunday Offering - FNB Containers” in the comment box towards the bottom of the screen.

Thank you for your generous support of the Food Not Bombs community, which is working so hard to feed our neighbors during this difficult time.

Scout Rummage Sale Report

Thanks to the teamwork of scouts and adults of Troops 344 and 333, the scouts raised \$2,176 at their outdoor rummage sale on August 15. Proceeds will help fund troop activities, and items that were not sold have been donated to local charities. The scouts extend their thanks to First Presbyterian Church for providing the parking lot for the sale, and for all the church members who donated sale items to support our scouts. Look for another sale next year!



News Briefs

THE ANTI-RACISM LEARNING CIRCLE continues to meet Thursdays 7:00-9:00 pm (via ZOOM). We are discussing the book *White Supremacy and Me* by Layla Saad, and other resources, in order to better understand and practice anti-racism. If you would like to join the reading group, our Facebook community page, or simply learn more, contact Delaney at delaneypiper19@gmail.com.

JACKIE’S BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

Jackie Wallis, a member of our congregation, is organizing a backpack drive to benefit children in need in our community. Needed items include backpacks, packs of pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers large pink erasers, glue sticks, glue bottles, dry erase markers, highlighters, 1- or 2-inch binders and dividers, sealable baggies, pens, notebooks, rulers, scissors, and pocket folders. For more information, call Jackie at 208-669-3036.

MOSCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURE CLUB is looking for magazines, catalogs, and newspapers for art projects during the first three weeks of the school year. For more information, contact Jeremiah at aslanscountry@gmail.com.

FOOD NOT BOMBS is receiving a lot of food during this wonderful harvest season, and they are also receiving a lot more requests for food. Food Not Bombs volunteers are only able to keep up with the demand by starting food prep on Saturdays. If you would like to help chop fruit and veggies on Saturdays between 3-5pm in our church kitchen, please let Celeste Brown (208-892-3356; bioinfomom@roadrunner.com) know so that we can plan accordingly.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTION BOOKLETS

The fall edition of Our Daily Bread, September through November regular print and October-December large print, have arrived. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please contact the office in the next couple of weeks by phone 208-882-4122, text 208-997-8837, or email office@fpcmoscow.org. Be sure to indicate regular or large print.

CONGRATULATIONS to Stephen Cole and Cartier Couch, who were married in July in Colorado. Stephen attended FPC for many years and is the son of Ibe and Becky Cole. Stephen and Cartier are now living in Parker, Colorado.



Apply NOW!

Location: Uniontown, WA

Deadline: October 5

Visit Palousehabitat.org



You or someone you know could own a Habitat home!



Finance Report

As of August 31, 2020



	August	YTD
Receipts	\$ 15,196	\$ 169,982
Disbursements	\$ 21,214	\$ 172,421
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$2,439)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$15,650*

* Includes prepaid pledges for 2020 @ \$2,602

Your regular offerings enable our church to continue our ministry in the community, meet our payroll, and maintain our facility. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Please mail your offerings to First Presbyterian Church, 405 South Van Buren St., Moscow ID 83843 or give online at this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>

Welcome Abigail Silverberg!

We are pleased to welcome Abigail Silverberg as Piano/Organ Accompanist! Abigail recently arrived in Moscow from Peyton, Colorado, to begin her Master's Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at University of Idaho. She most recently served as Organ Scholar-in-Residence at Ascension Episcopal Church while completing her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance at Colorado State University in Pueblo. An award-winning pianist, Abigail has over four years of experience as a piano teacher and in accompanying congregational singing, church and secular choirs, and soloists.



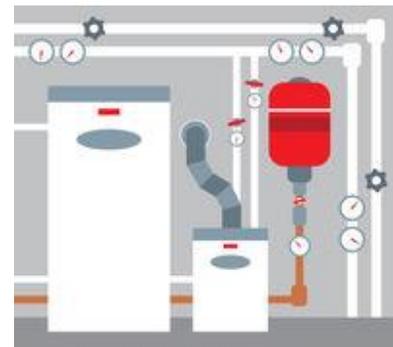
Abigail has an expressed interest in the sacred music genre and is eager to join the Music Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. When asked what she is most looking forward to on her path as a church musician, Abigail shared, "I am passionate about sacred and classical music and look forward to working with a choir and being expressive with a group of people." You will have a chance to meet Abigail during our livestream worship services beginning Sunday, September 6.

Capital Campaign Underway to Replace Damaged Boiler

June's heavy rain caused water to leak into our boiler room, damaging one of our two boilers. We will need both boilers to keep the church warm this winter. Boiler experts tell us that the boiler can be repaired, but the cost will approach the price of a new boiler and would not have the warranty that a new boiler would have. Although the church has insurance, the company has indicated the type of water damage incurred is not covered under our policy.

A new boiler will cost about \$20,000, and there are not sufficient funds in the budget or in our reserve funds to cover such a large expense. At its August meeting, Session approved a motion to conduct a focused capital campaign to raise funds for the replacement boiler.

We are grateful to church members for remaining faithful in honoring pledges and continuing to give to the general fund and special offerings during the pandemic closure. This unexpected expense makes it necessary for Session to humbly ask all congregation members to prayerfully consider an additional contribution. As a possible guide, if each member contributed an amount equal to 10% of their annual giving, we would have the funds we need.



You can make contributions using the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246) app on the church website (<https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>), or send a check to First Presbyterian Church, 405 S Van Buren St., Moscow ID 83843. Please note "boiler replacement fund" in the memo line. We hope to receive all contributions before September 30 so the boiler can be replaced before the weather gets cold.

Thank you for considering this request.

Jon Van Gerpen, Moderator
FPC Finance Committee

Survey Results are in on Small Group Meetings

Thank you to those who participated in our recent questionnaire asking whether you would be comfortable resuming adult education, Bible project, or other small group studies, and in what format. Many of you responded favorably to getting together either in person or on Zoom.

We are now in the process of finding group leaders for gatherings at various times of the week. If you are interested in facilitating a small group of some kind, please contact Celeste Brown at 208-892-3356; bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.

Watch for information later this month in the weekly Friday email or in the Sunday announcements posted on our website at fpcmoscow.org.

Programs for Children and Youth this Fall

Plans are in the works for Children's Church, Sunday School, and Youth Group, as well as some family events. Details are still being worked out, but will likely include both virtual and in-person forms. Parents, watch your email for updates. If you have questions or input to share, contact Jeremiah at aslanscountry@gmail.com.

Update on Worship

The COVID Task Force, appointed by Session to monitor the COVID situation in Moscow and our surrounding area, continues to meet and discuss plans for returning to worship in the sanctuary at some point. The current spike in new cases nearby is a concern.

At this time, the Task Force is recommending that we continue Worship on the Lawn at least through the end of September. At that point, they hope to have a recommendation for Session to consider regarding worship plans and small group gatherings going forward.

In the meantime, they are working to establish safety protocols, signage, and procedures to minimize risk to the congregation as much as possible when we are able to return to the building.

Staff Available by Appointment

Access to the church building remains restricted due to COVID-19 concerns. The staff continues to work remotely, and is available to meet or talk with you by appointment. To schedule an appointment, email the staff member directly or call 208-882-4122 and leave a message. You may also call or text Kathy on the church cell phone at 208-997-8837.

Pastor Norman Fowler, fpcpastornorman@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Kathy Pendegraft, office@fpcmoscow.org

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

Music Minister Thomas Pearson, thamusikboy@gmail.com

Financial Secretary John Farbo, fpcfinssec@turbonet.com



Hope At Work Program is Hiring

Are you or someone you know struggling to get or maintain employment? Maybe it's time for more than just a job. The HOPE Center is currently hiring people who are ready to join the Hope At Work Program and make positive life changes.

The Hope At Work Program is a resource, a program, and employment. As a resource, it is a place to gain job and life skills. It is a program because it includes budget coaching, mentor meetings, GED tutoring if needed, and Celebrate Recovery. It offers employment at the HOPE Center receiving, sorting, cleaning and stocking donations, 36-38 hours per week at \$7.75 per hour to start.

Hope At Work applications are available at the HOPE Center cash register. The HOPE Center is located at 1212 W Pullman Rd., Moscow ID 83843 (between Zip's and Tri-State).

For more information contact DeDe Wassmuth at hopecenterservices@gmail.com or call 208-596-4470.



Safe Church Project Update

Session appointed a Safe Church Project Team to address safety issues that are commonly part of our daily activity while maintaining our mission of being a welcoming church. The team completed an extensive review of our facility and practices with safety experts, potential service vendors, Moscow Day School, and our own staff to determine priorities. The Team's focus has been on common safety issues such as concerns for child safety, building access, people in distress from a variety of health issues, and safety of our staff.

One of the goals of the project was to purchase and install a defibrillator in an easily accessed, centrally located place in the building. The new defibrillator is now mounted on the wall of the main stairwell just down from the sanctuary and up from Fellowship Hall.

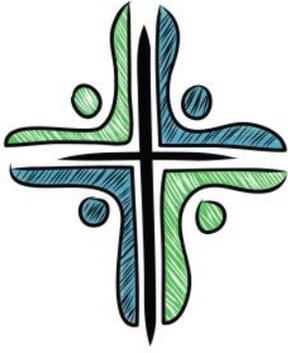
Another goal, just completed, was having wired safety glass installed on the fellowship hall door to increase security and safety while still allowing natural light into the entryway.

The largest part of the project, replacing the keyed locks with an electronic access system, is nearing completion. Fisher Systems, out of Lewiston, has installed control wiring and electronics, set up a connection to the internet, and installed an electronic lock on the side door into the lower chapel room. They should have the connections to the Fellowship Hall door and to the Day School doors on 5th Street completed by mid-September. The new locks will operate with key codes entered on a keypad adjacent to the outside of the door. Once the staff is trained, we will be issuing entry codes to members as needed. There will be some overlap time where our current church keys will still work in the main double doors into the narthex until we get the new system up and reliably running.

Other goals of the project, such as training a volunteer care team, are on hold during the pandemic.

Once again, thank you to our generous congregation for your support of these much-needed upgrades to our building.





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 Morning Worship Online
September 6—9:30 a.m.
September 13, 20, & 27—10:30 a.m.

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/moscowfirstpres>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzTIJBub4fHAgVPGn5rgag>

Sunday Evening Worship on the Lawn
6:00 p.m.

Office Hours by appointment—208-882-4122
Pastor Norman Fowler—fpcpastornorman@gmail.com