



First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
MOSCOW, IDAHO

# News & Views

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Have you ever felt like you just did not know what to say? As we enter this second month of 2021, I feel a bit that way. Mostly I feel that way about what is happening in our society. In the deep divisions between how folks view our present situation and in the personal physical pain associated with sciatica, I notice how fear and pain wear one down. When we have such vehemence between sports fans that violence can erupt, I suppose I was naïve to think that would not happen in the political arena. Yet, I am aghast at how our divisions seem to have run rough shod over the idea we can reason together. I am reminded of the Revised Standard Version's rendering of Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." The whole chapter is about how listening to the good counsel of God is important in thriving.

Sunday, January 31, we heard a passage out of Deuteronomy about being accountable to God if we do not listen to God's prophet, and then heard about Jesus teaching with authority as the one speaking for God – the very definition of a prophet. I wonder if, as we seem to have more trouble listening to each other, we also have more trouble listening to God. We might notice the big themes that scripture gives us of revering and serving God, and how care for one another goes hand in hand with being God's servants. It feels to me like in today's social mix the approach taken is more about deciding who your enemies are – and not to love them, but to thwart their perceived despicable actions and goals. I would hope that those of us who profess a faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God come to save God's people, might find common values and concerns. Yet, I feel the rending of one from another over different views of what is real, what God wants, and how we serve God.

Perhaps that is why I feel like it is more important than ever to read scripture together and wrestle with what God is telling us through it. How is God speaking into our lives today with stories of events and teachings from thousands of years ago? I think our Bible Project study groups are wrestling with scripture and the central message it conveys. Despite the pandemic isolation, I hope we can maintain a sense of our church as a family of faith where children of God attempt to do the will of the good father. And while this family imagery can be difficult depending on our own experience within our

*Continued on Page 2...*



**February 17  
after 4 p.m.**

[First Presbyterian  
Church of Moscow -  
YouTube](#)

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

families and the role of father and/or parents in our lives, the idea that there is one who loves us and wants the best for us as individuals and as a community is central.

I don't know that I have direct answers to the divisions that drive us apart in our society, but I do believe that as disciples of Jesus we are pulled together and invited to love one another. In and through our faith in the saving work of Jesus, his followers are called to be in community. We are called to be in community not because we all agree, but because God loves each of us and wants us to love one another. We are to work it out together to find our common way forward as community of faith. We are to forgive one another and build one another up. We need to see our own sin, our own failures, to come humbly to our God for the grace that enables us to, once again, take a seat at God's table.

To do this, we continue to worship together online. We have groups meeting to converse about scripture, and we are invited to pay attention to its message. We continue to care about our community and support a variety of means for helping meet our community needs and encourage those in need. My hope is we will continue to commit to be a welcoming family of faith, called to love the Lord and our neighbors, and that we will grow in Jesus Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service to others.

The grace of God and the peace  
of Christ be with you,  
Norman

*Finally,  
all of you,  
have unity  
of spirit,  
sympathy,  
love for  
one another,  
a tender  
heart,  
and a  
humble mind.*

*1 Peter 3:8*

## 2021 Church Directory Coming Soon!

**...Please Update Your Contact Information and Send Pictures!**

A new church directory will be coming out at the end of this month, and we want to make sure we have everyone's information correct.

Have you moved, disconnected your land line, gotten a new cell phone number, or changed your email address in the past year? If any of these things have changed, please be sure we have your current name(s), address, phone number(s), and email address(es) as you would like to have them listed in the directory. Please email your contact info to the church office at [office@fpcmoscow.org](mailto:office@fpcmoscow.org) or call Kathy at 208-997-8837 or 208-882-4122 by February 17.

Photos of each individual or family will be included in our church directory. If you would like to update your photo in the directory, please email the new photo to the church office by February 17.



## Annual Meeting Highlights

### *Welcome, New Elders and Deacons!*

At our annual meeting on January 31, we elected a number of new Elders and Deacons, who will begin their terms of service this month. Congratulations and thanks to newly elected and re-elected Elders Nadine Morton, Dianne Daley Laursen, Delaney Elliandi, Ed Schaper, and Ann Ulliman; and Deacons Sally Amador, Karen Huntington, Susan Roberts, and Manny Sheibany.



Special thanks to outgoing elders Steve Bergmann and Bill Ward; and outgoing deacons Susan Billin, Zareen Dossey, and Kathy Pitman. These officers have served their terms faithfully and we appreciate their excellent work, dedication, and caring hearts.

We also elected Members-at-Large to the 2021 Nominating Committee. Thanks to Susan Billin, Steve Bergmann, Julie Hopper, and Sydney Rozen for answering this call. Session representatives on the 2021 Nominating Committee are Celeste Brown and Ed Schaper, and the Deacons' representative is Mary Jo Van Gerpen.

### *Other Actions*

The congregation voted to adopt amendments to the church bylaws to make provision for electronic meetings, and approved the Pastor's compensation for 2021. The 2021 budget was received, and ministry reports were reviewed. The Corporation meeting included a review of contracts for building use and services. Corporation officers for 2021 are Warren Case, President; Jon Van Gerpen, Treasurer; and Clerk of Session (TBD) as Secretary.

### *Annual Meeting of Lael, Inc.*

The annual meeting of Lael, Inc. was also held on January 31. The main order of business was the election of Board members for the Class of 2023: Nadine Morton, Neal Wallen, and Ed Schaper. They join Board members Dennis Ferguson, Ames Elliandi, Warren Case, Corinne Carey, Andy Johansen, and Dakota Wallen.

Lael is self-supporting and relies largely on donations from friends of Lael. Due to the pandemic, that support is more critical than ever. Contributions to Lael may be sent to the church address, or you may give through the church, indicating "Lael" on your check or Tithely gift.

## News from The Hope Center



We've been really blessed to be able to stay open through the majority of the Covid pandemic, but we've definitely taken a big hit. Our store and donation hours have been reduced in varying capacities since May, but starting February 1, we're extending our days and hours again! Our donation drop-off and store will both be open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm. The community of local believers has really enabled us to do mission in many ways before, so we're reaching out to ask for help. A big need we have is for physical donations. Resalable donations are really the lifeblood of our ministry. They create not just jobs, but the opportunities for growth, healing, and community that many in our Hope at Work program have been so desperate for. Thank you!

~ Maggi Billings, Hope Center Sales Floor Manager



## Deacons' Spotlight — New Deacon Karen Huntington

Did you know we have a Gardening Guru among our members at First Presbyterian? Meet Karen Huntington! She has shared not only her knowledge and skill as a gardening mentor to many, but also shares her bountiful vegetable harvest with her friends and her community.

Karen moved to Pullman in 2015 to be near her daughter, Katie, and family. She soon became an active member at FPC. Karen was born in Minnesota and moved between Minnesota and Billings, Montana several times. Most of her school years were spent in



Billings. After high school, she attended University of Montana and received a degree in Elementary Education. Following graduation, she was a substitute teacher. She was married while in college and soon began her family. She has one daughter, Katie, a son Jeff, and a step-son Tim. She has been blessed with 8 grandchildren who bring her much joy.

Karen's grandfather moved to Minnesota from Sweden at a young age and was teased for not knowing English. He set his mind on becoming very successful and ended up owning much of the town's businesses. He became one of the original stock holders in Green Giant. Maybe Karen's interest in "all things vegetables" comes from her connection to Green Giant!

When Karen moved to Pullman, her daughter secured her space at the Sunnyside Community Gardens where she spent much of her waking hours from early spring through fall harvest. She now gardens at the home of a young woman whom she mentors, and together they have 28 raised beds! Karen begins many of her plants from seed, converting her spare bathroom into a greenhouse! Many of us have been the recipient of her gardening wisdom, vegetable starts, and the delicious vegetables she has grown.

Karen spent most of her growing up years in the Congregational Church, but has since attended several Presbyterian Churches. When asked to recall a favorite church memory, she told of singing in the children's choir. The director, Alice Lyons, made her "feel" like she could sing even though Karen didn't think she could. Karen can still hear Alice Lyons say "E-NUN-CI-ATE" while trying to teach the children to be expressive! She also has wonderful memories of summers spent at church camp in the beautiful Montana mountains. One of her most special memories is of her father's beautiful and strong/loud voice singing "The Lord's Prayer."

When asked what drew her to FPC Karen said, "the people and friendships." She has become a very active member at FPC. She is an active Stephen Minister, volunteers with Family Promise, is a regular cook for Wednesday Suppers, assists with Treat Teams, is part of the gardening crew for the FPC grounds, has volunteered on the Camp Spalding work crews, and is a newly elected Deacon! We are grateful to have Karen as a member of our church family, and thank her for her dedication to the many missions of our church community.

## In the Mailbox



Dear Church Family,

Your prayers, emails, notes and gifts of food to us before, during and after my hip surgery on Dec. 14 have made all the difference. It seems miraculous to have been walking without pain since the afternoon after my surgery. I am doing very well! I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the many ways you have reached out in support to me and Geoff. We thank you for the blessings of your loving and generous gestures.

Susan and Geoff Billin

## Information on COVID Vaccinations

Beginning this month, Idaho seniors 65 and older will be eligible for COVID vaccinations. To sign up to receive notifications from Idaho Public Health about vaccination clinics in our area and how to make an appointment, visit [www.idahoprepmo.com](http://www.idahoprepmo.com). You could also call Idaho Public Health North Central District at 208.799.3100 and leave your name and number for someone to call you back.

People 65 years of age and older can also pre-register to be notified of upcoming vaccine clinics offered through Gritman Medical Center. Gritman is working to bring vaccines to our region as soon as they are made available by the State of Idaho. COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Idaho is under the authority and direction of Governor Brad Little, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and (in our region) District 2 Public Health—Idaho North Central District.

Please complete the form at this link to be notified of upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics through Gritman: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/gritmanmedical/vaccine>.

This is a pre-registration form only. It lets them know you are interested in receiving the vaccine. When the vaccine becomes available, you will receive an email from [covidvaccine@gritman.org](mailto:covidvaccine@gritman.org) to register for one of their upcoming clinics.



Accepting applications

## Director of Family Ministry

Coordinating outreach to and faith development in children and students birth through 12th grade, and their parents  
30 hrs/week, salary DOE

For details, visit [fpcmoscow.org/jobs.aspx](http://fpcmoscow.org/jobs.aspx)



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Church

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## First Presbyterian Church

*"Growing in Christ"*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.**

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

YouTube: [First Presbyterian Church of Moscow - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Office Hours: By appointment—call 208-882-4122

Pastor Norman Fowler  
[fpcpastornorman@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastornorman@gmail.com)