

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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I notice the change of the seasons and how that reflects, at least metaphorically, the way we look at life. I see spring as a time of rebirth. Certainly, coming out of a pandemic and hoping for the rebirth of a more normal life or even the ability to create a 'new normal' feels like a rebirth. If covid does not drag us back into the isolation, then perhaps we can feel a little rebirth among us. And yet, at the same time, we might wonder at the difficulty humans have getting along with one another. I think particularly of the war in Ukraine and how tragic it is and how desperate it can make us feel. How we might we find a way to overcome that pathetic move by Russia to attack its neighbor.

In the midst of it all, we can also feel our own way of life being threatened. Our own country is so divided and filled with different perspectives pitted against each other, which creates real tension. So many choose teams. I am not sure where values or what is "right", or how priorities overlap? With all these questions and what seem to be very different answers, we can struggle with the need to solve the conflict. How do we even deal with feeling like we should have the capability to solve the problems? I do feel like we are experiencing troubling times.

As I think about these troubling times in which we live, I wonder about how it's so easily to become troubled. I know that when my own expectations fail or are unrealistic, I can flounder. I thought I had it figured out. I thought I knew what to expect. The chagrin of not knowing, the disappointment with not experiencing, the uncertainty about what should be expected, brings me up short. Then, what might one expect? How do I move into the future, make decisions, and plans? What do I set my hopes on? When I find these questions pressing on me, I begin to wonder if somehow, I have left out God's presence, God's way, God's will, and God's word in my life.

I'm always amazed when I realize Jesus came in the midst of a military occupation, and was present in a time that people felt no freedom, but were constrained by poverty, military power, and political structures that gave them little wiggle room in their own lives. It was a time when it was easy for people to be at each other's throats because of fear that they would truly not have enough to eat, that they would



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

not find it possible to live. Reading about and noticing Jesus during this time, I see Jesus caring for the poor, for the peacemaker, for those who mourn, and so on. And so, he invites us not to get caught in that trap of false expectations and dashed hopes, but to find in our relationships with each other and with God, thus with a love that allows life to blossom in spite of the circumstances. We don't necessarily have the life we expected to have, or think we should have, or thought we could plan for, but we do have life as it is. We are invited in each moment of our lives to care for one another, to reflect God's presence with us and the wonder of the creation in which we live. Repeatedly he seems to suggest we too often listen to other voices, rather than allow God's healing to be at work. So sure of our own devices, we neglect God's word.

Perhaps, Lent is a good time to think about this struggle and walk with Jesus through his passion. Perhaps, we might walk with him into what he knows is not really a winning situation. From the human point of view, he will experience the evil, the struggle, and the pain this world can cause a person. However, he also knows it's not the end of the story; he has a faith, a hope, a certainty that through it all, beyond it, in spite of it, God acts. He will be resurrected. All the human attempts to block his work cannot be diminished. The grace embodied in Jesus, the surprising gift of reconciling love, that Jesus offers remains evident and available.

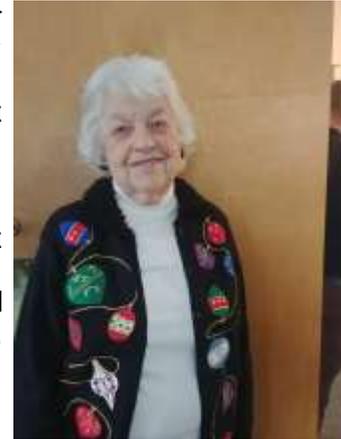
I'm ever challenged by Jesus giving himself in love to diminish the powers of evil and to empower the gift of grace. I am challenged how to fully open myself to what God is doing through Jesus and how Christ leads us beyond our own expectations to a different way of living. I am challenged by how, in the love we've experienced, given by God through the grace of Christ, we are invited to not get tied up in what doesn't happen or isn't happening or might happen and instead engage today with grace. As we walk through these final days of Lent, remembering Christ's passion, we might notice that God redeems even the worst of times. And, God redeems us, that we might have life, reconciling us for a relationship with God, and offers the opportunity to know we can reconcile with one another.

May the grace of God and the peace of Christ be with you,

Norman

Deacons Spotlight

Louise Ackley came to Moscow in the Fall of 2019 and started attending our church. She moved from Boise to Moscow to be near a son who is a teacher and coach in the Moscow School System and who has gotten married in the last couple of years. Louise grew up in the Church of the Nazarene and went to Northwest Nazarene University for her undergraduate degree and later furthered her education at the University of Washington where she received her M.A., and the University of Oregon. She began teaching Sunday School when she was a young girl and has been doing that ever since at all different age levels. In Boise, she attended the First Presbyterian Church near the State Capitol. She grew up in Colfax, Washington, and in adulthood has lived in several places in the Northwest. She taught high school English in Seattle, Enumclaw, Walla Walla, and Boise. She also taught at Boise State University. Literature has always been her specialty and she has always enjoyed reading. In her growing up years one of her cousins would come to visit and expected Louise to play but to her exasperation, Louise's head would usually be in a book. Louise enjoyed teaching high school students even though it was time consuming checking papers, mainly because students were disappointed if she did not write comments.



She is a new deacon at our church, but is not new to being a deacon. She continues to keep up with good friends back in Boise as well as with a daughter who still lives there. Being part of a church family has always been important to her wherever she has lived. We are happy she has chosen to make her church home here.

Deacons Benevolence Offering

The Deacons have chosen Community Action Partnership as the recipient of the 1st Sunday Benevolent Offering for the month of April. This non-profit organization will receive the loose offering collected on the first Sunday and all purposefully designated checks received throughout the month.



Community Action Partnership is an organization which serves the ten northernmost counties in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington.

The Community Action Agency for Latah County is located at 428 West 3rd Street in Moscow. The office's staffed-hours are M-T-W-F from 8-12 and 1-4. Although the office is not open to the public; clients are served by appointment only. Families with economic challenges may either call to make an appointment (208-882-3535) or may fill out application forms for assistance with water/utility bills. Application forms are available in the hallway near the office door.

The Community Action has gas vouchers for Sunset Mart and clothing vouchers for The Hope Center. Unfortunately, rent vouchers are not available. Families in need of food are directed to the local food banks. The West Side Food Pantry is not far away at 730 West Pullman Road, #3.

Your generous financial support will enable this worthy community service organization to assist more of our neighbors.

First Presbyterian's April Deacons' Benevolence Offering by mailing a check to First Presbyterian Church, 405 S. Van Buren, Moscow ID 83843, or online at this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>.

News Briefs

Food Bank DONATION Request

Donations of non-perishable food for the Moscow Food Bank are always welcome. This month the Moscow Food Banks are especially in need of rice, spaghetti sauce, cream soups, esp. mushroom, and Cake mixes for kids' parties.

Landscape Fund

Spring is here! The Pandemic is ending! The "Patio Project" needs your donations to the Landscape Fund! It seems so long ago that the huge juniper shrub was covering the hillside to the right of the front entrance. It took many man hours to remove the "shrub," tree trunk and roots. Dan Crimmins drew up a plan to remove dirt, install a short retaining wall and make a level space for a patio area. The Garden Group envisions a small patio table and chairs to invite us to take a break, snack, meditate or visit. The initial bid was for \$3400 but we plan to get other bids, we need your donations to the Landscape Fund to make this happen this spring or summer. If you have questions, contact Sally Amador or Dan Crimmins. Mark your envelope or Tithely for "Landscape Fund".

Lael Workday, Saturday April 9

There will be a workday at Lael on April 9th at 9:30 A.M. Everyone is invited to join the work getting Lael ready for our Easter Sunrise Service and for use throughout the spring and summer. This is a great chance for folks of all ages to be involved in caring for Lael, our own retreat center. Kids and families are welcome to help. Retired people have an important part to play. Men, women and children can all contribute to beautifying and maintaining our Lael facilities. If you have specific questions about jobs or tools that are needed, ask Neal Wallen, 208-882-1859. If you are wondering about general involvement or participation of kids and youth, contact Julie Hopper at 208-882-0700 or familyministryjulie@gmail.com. Anyone can pitch in!

Family Promise

Family Promise of the Palouse is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower families experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence for a more promising future. Along with providing temporary housing in local church facilities, they also work with homeless families in our community to guide them to long term sustainable housing. Families receive education related to financial literacy, parenting and life skills. Families also are guided with the support of our case-manager to employment, health care and housing.

First Presbyterian Church and our friends from Quail Run Ward are hosting Family Promise guests April 17 - 24. Our hosting duties include preparing and taking down guest bedrooms, providing evening meals and hosting our guests overnight on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering, there are sign up sheets in the narthex, or please contact Celeste Brown at bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Worship at **5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary** will be in Taizé style, and will conclude with communion. Scriptures will talk about the Last Supper, Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and sharing the bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus.

Good Friday, April 15

- ◇ **In-person Tenebrae service in the sanctuary at 7 p.m.** This service will be a little different from the video service, but will also tell the story of Jesus' passion and death on the cross through scripture and music.
- ◇ **A pre-recorded Tenebrae Service of Darkness** will be available at 5 p.m. on [YouTube - First Presbyterian Church of Moscow](#). The service will use passages from the Gospels to tell the story of Jesus' final hours, interspersed with musical offerings from Music Director, Chancel Choir, and Praise Team.

Holy Saturday, April 16

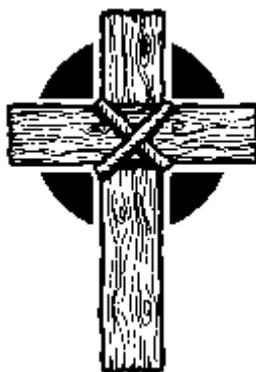
- ◇ **Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m.** All kids welcome!
- ◇ **Prayer vigil, 6-8 p.m. in the sanctuary.** The church will be open for prayer and reflection. All are welcome to drop in during this time for individual prayer.

Easter Sunday, April 17

- ⚡ **Sunrise Service in person at Lael Retreat Center, 7:00 a.m.** Join Pastor Norman and the Praise Team in celebrating the resurrection from the hilltop chapel at our church's retreat center east of Troy, 1181 White Pine Flats Road. Maps available in the narthex or at: <http://fpcmoscow.org/lael-retreat.aspx>.
- ⚡ **Easter Fellowship, 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Visit with your church family over coffee, tea, juice, and pastries. (Not a potluck, just come and enjoy!)
- ⚡ **Celebration of the resurrection in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.** Please **bring a flower** to flower the cross during the service. The cross will move outside afterwards so those who could not attend in person can stop by later to add flowers. This service will be streamed live online (and will remain available for viewing later) for those who prefer to worship from home:

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

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



FAMILY MINISTRY

Julie Hopper, Interim Director of Family Ministry familyministryjulie@gmail.com

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to Easter. Now that it is officially spring and we are occasionally even getting nice weather, I'm excited about new growth and the beauty that is unfolding in creation. I hope that will have a parallel in our hearts and lives as we come to the end of Lent, and watch as Jesus walks to Jerusalem and the cross. The cross seems to be the end. The disciples think it is the end, but the real end is the resurrection and the empty tomb, an end that is emphatically just the beginning.

What gives you hope? What are you hopeful for? We asked the kids at FOON these questions. A lot of kids feel hope when they think about summer and the freedom it offers. One notable exception was the hockey player who said he liked winter better than summer. The sweetest answer came from Anthony, who said his parents give him hope.

I have a couple of near term hopes for the month of April. I very much hope for a good turnout and a great day for our Lael work day on April 9. I'm happy that kids and families can be involved and make a contribution in a project that benefits our wider church family. I also would love to see all ages of folks working together on a joint project.

I am hoping for a great Holy Week with its various activities and services. We're planning a special youth group meeting for Wednesday, April 13, to celebrate and prepare for Easter. Saturday, April 16, we're hosting an egg hunt and various Easter themed activities and games for kids elementary aged and younger. And, of course, all ages are welcome and invited for the Sunrise Service at Lael and the regular Easter service Sunday morning.

The last Wednesday of March, we asked the FOON kids, "What do you treasure? What is something that is special or a treasure to you that might not be valuable to other people?" I confess, I was trying to set it up to be something small and not that significant. There were some lighthearted answers: my family picture, my Bob Ross Positive Energy Drink. But I got serious answers from most kids I asked, as well as from my adult volunteers. My family, my husband (that was from an adult), my cat named Sassy. "Friends," one girl stated. "What she said," agreed her friend, "and rocks and feathers."

Hearing about what different people treasured was really great. It gave me a chance to think about what is important to me, and it reminded me to feel grateful for some lovely things in my life. I appreciated the glimpse it gave into the lives of those who were willing to share with me as well.

Here we are, almost to the end of Lent and closing in on Easter. What do we treasure? Let's move closer to Jesus and strive to live into his Kingdom. What is special, or a treasure to us that might not be valuable to other people? While our culture is overemphasizing pastel eggs, rabbits and candy, let's not forget how Jesus suffered and died on the cross. Our excitement can overflow at the joy of the empty tomb. There's a treasure of hope. Jesus rose again. Now he offers forgiveness and life to us.

I'm so thankful that Jesus treasured me enough to die, even if other people would not value me that highly. I hope that He will help me to see other people the way He values them, so I can communicate love and care the way He did. I'm thankful that he is patient with me as I struggle and fail through life, and that His word and example continue to draw us all to practice extending his love in the world.

~Julie

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 a.m. – Palm Sunday Worship and Children’s Church	11	12 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Classical Conversations	13 10:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Project via Zoom 12:00 p.m. – FOON	14 5:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Taizé Service in the Sanctuary	15 7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary	16 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt and Activities for kids. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Sanctuary will be open for prayer & reflection
Holy Week						
17 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Lael 9:15 a.m. – Coffee & Pastries in the Fellowship hall 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary	18	19 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Classical Conversations 6:30 p.m. – Scouts	20 10:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Project via Zoom 12:00 p.m. – FOON	21 10:00 a.m. – Women’s Bible Project in the Library 5:30 p.m. – Taizé in the Sanctuary	22	23
FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK						
24 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship and children’s church	25	26 6:30 p.m. – Scouts	27 10:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Project via Zoom 12:00 p.m. – FOON	28 10:00 a.m. – Women’s Bible Project in the Library 5:30 p.m. – Taizé in the Sanctuary	29	30



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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](#)

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

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com