

First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
MOSCOW, IDAHO

# News & Views

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**Summer  
Worship starts  
@  
9:30 a.m.**



With summer just around the corner, I start my sabbatical on Tuesday, May 24, and fly to Virginia on Saturday May 28 for a 12-week sabbatical. Thank you so much for offering, encouraging, and enabling this summer's sabbatical. According to our presbytery policy: "The sabbatical is a time for teaching elders (pastors) to experience emotional, intellectual, and spiritual renewal and regeneration of vision and vitality within their ministry. It provides a time for a teaching elder to gain new perspectives on his/her immediate ministry to return with new insights and energy." The nature and purpose of my sabbatical is to meet these criteria.

I plan to use sabbatical time to be with my two daughters and their spouses who live far from me. Uniquely, each of my daughters, Jessa and Micah, will be giving birth to a child in this time period and being together for these significant family events will be of incomparable emotional value for all of us. My wife and I will be with our daughter in Virginia for much of June for the birth of Jessa's second child and with our daughter Micah in London for much of July and the birth of her first child in early July.

Concurrent with family time in Virginia and London, I plan to continue a long-held interest in researching and writing in three related areas: 1) the limits of human knowing; 2) the theological importance of God offering humans' divine companionship particularly in relation to our limitations; and 3) how companionship influences one's worldview. Infused in these interests is my interest in the Holy Spirit and Christian spirituality. I will also be attending to the spiritual practices Christians have developed over time. I hope this sabbatical will enable the renewal and regeneration of vision and the vitality of my faith and of my leadership.

While I am gone you will have new leadership and several different worship leaders and preachers. This is a time for you to hear another voice and perhaps some different perspectives on faith and the how we live it out. Rev Fritz Ritsch will be with you most of June and July and will supply pastoral leadership during that time.

*Continued on Page 2...*

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

He comes with many years of pastoral experience in the Presbyterian Church. Most recently in he has served for 18 years at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX though he is originally from Virginia.

We have also set up a care team of Stephen Ministers that will help with the pastoral care needs as they arise. This team of well trained, supportive, and caring people will be a great addition to our ministry this summer. I believe you will be in good hands this summer.

I look forward to seeing you all in August when I return and hope you have a wonderful summer.

Grace and peace,  
Norman

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## *Summer Vesper Services at Lael*

Monthly gatherings at Lael Retreat Center are being planned for this summer. Mark your calendars and plan to spend a peaceful evening in the country visiting with your church family. Guests welcome! Gates open at 6 p.m., and weather permitting, we will be outside enjoying the fresh air and summer sunshine. Lael is our church's retreat center, located on a hilltop just east of Troy. You may learn more about Lael at our website: <http://fpcmoscow.org/lael-facilities.aspx>

### June 26, 6:30 p.m. – Family Ministry Night

Bring a dessert to share with the group (and your own picnic, if you'd like). We will hear about Vacation Bible School, sing along with the Praise Team, pray together and enjoy some fellowship time.

### July 17, 6:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Social and Hymn Sing

Doesn't a selection of homemade ice cream sound great on a warm summer evening? If you have an ice cream freezer and would be willing to make a batch of ice cream to share, please contact the church office. No ice cream freezer? Some ice cream toppings or cookies would be a tasty addition. Afterwards, we will sing some favorite hymns and praise songs.

### August 21, 6:30 p.m. – Welcome Back

Pastor Norman will be back from his sabbatical, and will tell us about how he spent his summer. More details coming in August.



## Deacon's Benevolence offering for June

The June benevolence offering will go to our church's campership fund, allowing FPC to award camperships to our children and youth who want to attend Camp Spalding. Like groceries and gasoline, the cost of camp is rising. Your contribution can make a difference for the kids and families in our church. Camp Spalding offers summer camps that range across the lifespan: family, Mom/Dad and me, upper elementary grades, junior high and high school. There are also weekend camps and retreats for men, women and youth in the off season. Your financial assistance can keep camp attendance within reach for folks in our church family. To quote the camp director, Camp Spalding provides "a place away from the daily routine for campers to clearly hear, consider and respond to Jesus' invitation to follow" and is "complementary to the mission of area youth groups and churches: providing on-going fellowship, teaching and mentoring during the school year to support that growing relationship with Jesus." This means that camp experiences can catalyze a response in the lives of kids that can be nurtured and encouraged through the church when they come home again. Thank you for helping with this important work through your June benevolence giving.



Offerings may be put in the offering plate or mailed to First Presbyterian Church (marked June Benevolence) or give online using the [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) app or the "Give" button on our website at [fpcmoscow.org](https://fpcmoscow.org).

## Deacon's Benevolence offering for July

The mission for Weekend Food for Kids (WFFK) is to supplement the Moscow School District's free summertime lunch program by providing food for the weekends during the summer to children living in food-insecure circumstances. Volunteers pack bags with mostly nonperishable food items that are easy for a child to prepare with minimal or no adult help. Each bag contains a variety of food and beverages for breakfast, lunches, dinners, and snacks, and at least two kinds of fresh produce. The WFFK program depends entirely on the generosity of donors and volunteers and receives not only monetary donations, but also donated food items. Dedicated volunteers perform all the necessary tasks to make the food distribution possible, such as shopping, packing and distributing bags. St. Mark's Episcopal and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse spearhead the WFFK program.



Offerings may be put in the offering plate or mailed to First Presbyterian Church (marked July Benevolence) or give online using the [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) app or the "Give" button on our website at [fpcmoscow.org](https://fpcmoscow.org).

## Deacon's Spotlight

Our spotlight this month is on Jackson Davis, a tax accountant, and a 4th generation farmer who grows wheat and barley in Whitman County. His grandparents homesteaded the farm in 1894. Jackson was born in Spokane and grew up in St. John, WA. There he raised pigs as part of 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) projects—"and has the trophies to prove it" said Mindy. Jackson majored in Accounting at the University of Idaho, where he met Lewiston-raised Mindy. Jackson and Mindy married in 1992. They will celebrate their 30th Anniversary in November. Daughters Danica, Shelby, and Brittnay complete the Davis farming team. Danica has followed Jackson into accounting at Presnell Gage PLLC.



When Jackson wanted to attend a Christmas Eve service one year, he found a listing for a 9 p.m. service at First Presbyterian Church. That was five years ago; they have been attending ever since when they are in Moscow. Jackson and Mindy joined the church as active members. Mindy often serves as Worship Leader. Jackson was ordained and installed as an Elder in February.

Labor Day Fire. Jackson and Mindy Davis had come in from fighting strong winds at their farm home near Lamont, WA, on Labor Day, September 7, 2020. Power was out from the windstorm, and wind had torn the roof off the pigs' pen. They ushered Shelby's pigs into the shop for safety.

The radio put out a plea for all farmers to stop harvesting and come help neighbors fighting wind-driven wildfires in Pine City and Malden. Area firetrucks had been called to fight a fire in Colfax earlier that day. Jackson drove his water truck with Brittnay; Mindy followed with the Jeep in case the truck could not get through. Jackson said smoke was thick and heat intense as a chaos of trucks turned out to aid the stricken towns. Burned out cars lined the roadway. Jackson described going door to door, evacuating residents of Sunset and Pine City. They thought the end of the world had come that day. "Armageddon," said Mindy, as towns battled the unrelenting firestorm. They had never imagined living through such a fire. Eighty-five percent of homes and buildings were destroyed in Malden.

Only two weeks earlier, Mindy said they had lost an entire crop when a neighbor's equipment threw a spark into their ready-to-harvest field. Drought conditions and gusting winds create hazardous farm conditions in summer.

Whether wrangling taxes at Presnell Gage or dealing with cranky farm machinery 70 miles away in northern Whitman County, Team Davis is one busy, resourceful family.

Susan Roberts, Deacon

## News Briefs

- ◆ The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will begin meeting in-person on June 21st at 3:30 p.m. there will also be another chance to meet on July 19th at 3:30 p.m. in the church library. We hope to see you there! For more information please contact Ellen Johansen.
- ◆ Video Tech Substitutes Needed! We have an urgent need for volunteers to serve as occasional substitutes running the video equipment for our Sunday livestream. If you are comfortable working with a computer and are familiar with the flow of the service, please consider giving it a try. Training provided. For more information, please contact Kathy Pendegraft or talk to Arturo Beighler for more information.



# A Fond Farewell

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize Thomas Pearson's inspirational leadership of our Music Ministry over the past three years. Thomas recently accepted the position of Organist at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Lewiston, where he grew up and currently lives. We have individually and collectively benefitted from Thomas's musicianship, versatility, creativity, and loving spirit. His partnership with Pastor Norman during the pandemic blessed us with deeply spiritual worship in new ways, particularly during Lent, Holy Week, refreshing outdoor services on the lawn and at Lael, "Firepit Christmas Eve" in the parking lot, and last year's singing of Silent Night in front of the church.

Thomas mastered the art of virtual worship, creating spirit-filled multimedia arrangements when we could not meet in person. He has mentored our Piano Accompanists, and created safe ways for the Chancel Choir and Praise Team to again lift up praise and glory to God as we moved through Covid restrictions. Thomas inspired each musician, and all of the church community, to lift up their hearts to God in worship through his own example, his faith, and always offering his best to God. Even as we are saddened by his departure, we are happy for his home church in Lewiston and the blessings he will bestow there. May God continue to bless Thomas and his ministry in music.

Thomas will continue to lead us in the coming weeks as we search for a new Music Minister, and we look forward to giving him a warm send-off later this summer. Watch for more information as we begin our search for the next leader of music ministry at Moscow FPC.

~Mary Read,  
Personnel



# FAMILY MINISTRY

Julie Hopper, Director of Family Ministry [familyministryjulie@gmail.com](mailto:familyministryjulie@gmail.com)

This edition of the newsletter is coming out at a transitional moment. End of school; beginning of summer. Norman off on sabbatical; Fritz Ritsch here to serve in the interim. Regular church schedule and programming; summer schedule and special events. It also comes at a time when we have been dealing with issues of trauma: scary and violent circumstances in our nation and world, particularly mass shootings and armed aggression in Ukraine and elsewhere.

One thing that stands out to me in times of transition or trauma is the need for presence. The individual needs to be present to the uncertainty and trouble in the world, but, more importantly, these circumstances bring out our need for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. That is one of the beauties of adversity; it drives us into the arms of God. Throughout the Easter season, through Pentecost and beyond, we have been reminding ourselves of the gift and role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Praise God for this gift!

FOON Wisdom: On the last Wednesday of May, we had been anticipating a warm but cloudy day for outdoor FOON. However, it rained that morning, and my frequent weather app checks showed that rain was expected at exactly the time we would be serving the kids. Reluctantly, I decided that we would set up indoors. The best outcome of this situation was that it inspired the question we asked the students that day: How do you deal with disappointment? I've got to tell you, we received such a wide range of responses. We inspired blank or confused looks, with or without a mumbled, "I don't know." Other examples included: displace it, listen to music (very loud!), ignore it, play video games, take a shower, do something that you find comforting, think about what happened and if you could have done something differently, face it, keep going until you are past it, hide until you feel better, have low expectations so you can't be disappointed. I really appreciated the kids' willingness to share and the honesty of their answers. I was impressed by the depth and emotional maturity of some kids. They reminded me that there are many ways to cope with the disappointment and pain that is common to life, some more helpful and some less. This gives me a chance to acknowledge my own disappointments and try a variety of responses as I move through them in my life. I hope it inspires you as well.

The end of the school year means FOON is done for the season. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this ministry possible. I'm grateful for the faithful team of volunteers who helped each week. Working together and feeding kids was a joyful experience. Thank you also to those who provided treats, purchased boxes of soda, and gave specifically to pay for pizza. Your giving will enable us to have a good start for FOON in the upcoming school year as well. Thank you so much! We served between eighty and a hundred students at our last FOON. I wish you all could see the pleasure and gratitude of the students who come to our church for pizza. It is a blessing.

## Family Ministry (con't)

Our biggest summer event coming is Vacation Bible School, from 9:00-11:30, June 20-24. Our VBS theme is Passport to Peace, and we will be encouraging personal peacemaking strategies, learning about peaceful practices through Bible stories, and looking at various people from around the world who have initiated organizations that promote peace. This will be combined with singing, making an offering to a Presbyterian peacemaking fund, making crafts, playing games and enjoying snacks that emphasize the global nature of the VBS theme.

Summer will bring a variety of church related activities. Kids are looking forward to camp, and we have several evening services scheduled at Lael. I'm hoping to have some other family activities this summer, and I will get the word out about those once specific plans are made.

I want to thank you all in advance for your help and contributions to making VBS work. It takes a lot of time and effort from many people. I appreciate you all. As Norman reminded me before he went on his sabbatical, VBS is not just for the kids. There's something there to build up all of us. I hope that we can each improve our peacemaking skills and our compassion for others through our VBS theme this year. May the Holy Spirit use these skills in us to grow God's good work in the world!

~Julie

**Thank You Kitchen Elves !! Join the staff in thanking the women who took the time to deep clean the kitchen and make that area available to be used again!**



### Finance Report

As of May, 2022

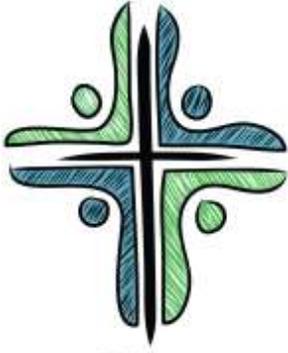
|                                 | Month    | YTD       |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Receipts                        | \$22,763 | \$158,388 |
| Disbursements                   | \$22,121 | \$126,269 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit)           |          | \$32,121  |
| Cash Balance (checking/savings) |          | \$99,181  |

# JUNE 2022

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat   |
|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
|  | 30<br>Church<br>Closed for<br>Memorial Day | 31<br>6:30 p.m.–<br>Scouts                       | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>9:30 am–<br>Pentecost<br>Sunday Wor-<br>ship  | 6  | 7<br>6:30 p.m.-<br>Stephen Min-<br>istry Meeting | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11<br>7:00-2:00pm<br>MDS Rum-<br>mage Sale in<br>Fellowship<br>Hall |
| 12<br>9:30 a.m.–<br>Sunday Wor-<br>ship and<br>Children's  | 13   | 14<br><u>Brickwork<br/>Resumes</u>               | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br>9:30 a.m.–<br>Sunday Wor-<br>ship and Chil-<br>dren's<br>Church  | 20<br>7:00 p.m.–<br>Deacons                | 21<br>3:30 p.m.–<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry     | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| <b>Vacation Bible School 9-11:30 a.m.</b>  |  |  |     |     |     |   |
| 26<br>9:30 a.m.–<br>Sunday Wor-<br>ship and Chil-<br>dren's<br>Church<br><br>6:30 p.m.–<br>Vespers @<br>Lael | 27<br>7:00 p.m.–<br>Session                | 28   | 29  | 30  | 1   | 2   |
| <b>Family Promise Neutral Site Host Week</b>   |  |  |     |     |     |   |

# JULY 2022

| SUN  | MON | TUE  | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  |     |  |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3<br>9:30 a.m.-<br>Sunday Worship<br>and Children's<br>Church  | 4   | 5  | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| <b>Family Promise Host Week</b>  |     |  |     |     |     |     |
| 10<br>9:30 a.m.-<br>Sunday Worship<br>and Children's<br>Church   | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17<br>9:30 a.m.-<br>Sunday Worship<br>and Children's<br>Church   | 18  | 19<br>3:30 p.m.-<br>Prayer<br>Shawl Min-<br>istry in the<br>library. | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br>9:30 a.m.-<br>Sunday Worship<br>and Children's<br>Church<br><br>6:30 p.m.- Ice<br>Cream Social and<br>Vespers @ Lael | 25  | 26   | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31<br>9:30 a.m.-<br>Sunday Worship<br>and Children's<br>Church   |     |  |     |     |     |     |



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# *First Presbyterian Church*

*"Growing in Christ"*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.**

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzTiJBUB4fHAgVPGn5rgag>

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

Pastor Norman Fowler

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