

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Easter is coming. Yet, in the world around us you'd hardly know it. If it were Christmas, every station on the radio would have at least a few Christmas songs. We would see decorations everywhere, and the advertisements would be full of Christmas cheer enticing us to buy those gifts. Perhaps it's that we don't give gifts at Easter that the societal attention is so much greater than for Easter. Perhaps. But it feels to me like it goes deeper than that.

The idea of the gift of savior that comes as a baby encompasses so many things we want. We know our need for help to take care of some of our problems – surely a Savior could do this. A newborn baby is a great picture of new life and new possibilities. In the midst of the winter darkness, we get to put up lights and look with hope to a new day. We are reminded of our desire to have loving families who gather round and share gifts with one another.

Easter is different and the lead up to Easter is different. Lent in fact lends itself to notice our faults and struggles. Lent engages us in the idea that sin is in the world, and we need to take it seriously. Lent reminds us of how we struggle with acknowledging and accepting our need for forgiveness and the one that brings this forgiveness. Lent acknowledges our grief, loss, and disorientation. Lent suggests this shows up in our broken relationships - our relationships with one another and with God. Lent invites us to test our loyalty to God and to see our own struggles.

Lent talks about life that is experienced more like death and how darkness is so prevalent and discouraging. We are invited to notice again our need for the light of Christ and that we might be children of light. Yet, the journey to Easter is in many ways a journey through the valley of the shadow of death. And Lent asks whether we fear evil or trust in the good shepherd whose rod and staff give us confidence and hope.

At the end of the Lenten journey, we are even invited to let ourselves die with Jesus. We are invited to bring all our sin, our beaten-downness, befuddlement, and broken bonds, along with the hubris of believing we can fix ourselves, to the cross. We are

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

encouraged to find the forgiveness and grace of God that offers us new life, new purpose, and new meaning. That, contrary to our culture, dying to the life it gives us and finding rebirth in the life of Christ and the life he gives us, doesn't play well with the hype of our society.

Easter is about death and resurrection. Things feared (death) and out of the realm of believability (resurrection) in our times. No wonder we don't hear and see more about the season. Yet, in the life of faith, and in the reality of our lives lived, we experience both. The real loss of loved ones through death, and the ways our lives can feel deadened and without hope. We know times of struggle and uncertainty and realize all our decisions are not quite as good as we would hope them to be. We even know failure. And, in faith we find hope. We find one that acknowledges our struggles and our failures and doesn't devalue us but offers us a new life, a new way, and a new experience of being loved. As we trust in the one who comes from God to heal us, we find healing. We find resurrection amid the difficult, deadening aspects of life. We find we are invited to live into the resurrection and the joy in living it brings.

In our life together as a church, we help facilitate this journey through our activities and worship. We have gathered more often for dinners together on Wednesday nights. We reflect on scripture that helps us walk through Lent. We have Holy Week services coming up that will take us on Jesus' journey into Jerusalem, through the arrest, trial, and crucifixion and finally to the day of resurrection. On Thursday night of Holy Week, we will have a special Taize style service with communion to commemorate the last supper and Jesus' conversation with his disciples. Then on Friday night we remember Jesus' journey through the arrest, trial, and crucifixion. This service will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. On Saturday night, the sanctuary will be open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for individual silent meditation and prayer. On Easter morning we have an early service at 7 a.m. at Lael and to celebrate the new and glorious resurrection day. We have fellowship around food during our Easter brunch which is at 9:15-10:15 am in Fellowship Hall. Our 10:30 worship will celebrate the resurrection and what it means for us. I hope you will come to as many of these services and activities as possible. These do let us journey again with Jesus through his passion and the gift it is to us, a time of rending our sin into dust and giving us life.

Grace and peace,

Norman

Deacons' Benevolence Offering

The Deacons have chosen Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse for their April Benevolence Offering. The following excerpts were taken from their website. ATVP provides services for both Latah and Whitman Counties.

ATVP provides 24 hour emergency and supportive services to family and sexual violence victims and survivors and their children. Services are available for concerned, supportive family members, friends, and community members.

ATVP services are free, confidential, and are provided to clients without discrimination. ATVP maintains a safe, confidential shelter here on the Palouse for people in danger due to domestic violence. ATVP also provides food and clothing for survivors and their children. Staff are available for help, emotional support, and case management. Individuals living with disabilities will be accommodated.

Support groups, facilitated by ATVP staff, provide a safe, confidential space for survivors to share their experiences and support one another. There is no charge for any ATVP service, including support groups. For domestic violence support groups, child advocacy is often provided.

ATVP advocates work to ensure that people have the best possible information, identify useful resources, and help clients put their decisions into practice. ATVP staff and trained volunteer advocates are available 24-hours to provide intervention and support by phone or in-person.

Call our 24/7 Free & Confidential Hotline:

(509) 332-HELP (208)883-HELP



Deacons Spotlight– Doris Billingsley

Doris Billingsley will be celebrating her 100th B.D. on April 17. We will be having a reception for this immediately after the 10:30 service on April 16 in the Upper Chapel. Please attend and help her celebrate.



Here were some answers that Doris gave when asked some questions about her long life. She attributes her long life to having good genes and being mindful of how to stay in good health. She also attributes much to the care she has received from her son David who has been living with her in the last decade. Some of the things she likes to eat are oatmeal, yogurt, a handful of nuts, and string cheese. When asked what the most important invention of her lifetime has been, she had trouble answering this question because there have been so many. She did finally say “computers.” Some advice she would give a young person is “keep your mouth shut unless someone asks for help. Also, do what you’ve been taught.” Some things that have been meaningful in her life have been the church rummage sales and the Wednesday suppers for which she helped for a time. She notes that in older age being needed becomes less and less. She believes that finding something important to do is to help people and our church family witnesses this by her being involved in Stephen’s Ministry. Another question that she had difficulty answering was “What was the best decade for you?” She finally said “now” because of her appreciation for her church family but I believe from talking to her that she has appreciated every stage of her life.

The following is the deacon’s spotlight on Doris from our November 2020 *News and Views* which tells of her earlier life and coming to Moscow.

Doris Billingsley came with her husband Bill to Moscow in 1954. She had previously lived in geographically diverse places. She was born and grew up in Chillicothe, Missouri. During WWII her mother encouraged her to join her sister, who was in civil service work and the organist at Mt. Vernon Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Doris transferred to George Washington University in D.C. and became an active member of Mt. Vernon Place Church. Margaret Truman, daughter of President Truman, graduated from GWU the same year as Doris (1946), so President Truman gave the Commencement address for their graduating class. Doris bowled in Mt. Pleasant’s bowling league with the famous Pastor Peter Marshall of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in D.C. who then became the chaplain for Congress.

Doris met her husband, Bill, who was in the Navy and stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, at her church where she sang in the choir. After their marriage in 1947 they lived in Brooklyn, New York while he finished his enlistment. Bill got his music education from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He was choir director here at our church for several years not long after they got here in 1954. He taught in the School of Music at the University of Idaho. Doris remembers being good friends with the minister Harry Johns and his wife Molly and the next minister, Richard Lundy and his wife Mary Ann. Doris and Bill raised their three sons in this church, one of whom is living in Moscow.

Doris was widowed in 2007. In the past, she was active as a deacon, in a circle, and as a choir member, but more recently with the Stephen Ministry and an adult Sunday School class, “The Wired Word.” She, along with the rest of us, is looking forward to the end of Covid when we can resume our normal church activities.

Holy Week Schedule

April 6th– Maundy Thursday Taizé Service @ 5:30 pm . A special Maundy Thursday Taizé Service in the Sanctuary. Maundy Thursday recounts Jesus last supper with his disciples and the institution of the Lord’s Supper. Soup Supper Fellowship will follow the service.



April 7th– Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7:00 pm. The Tenebrae Service of Darkness, recalls the crucifixion of Jesus through a dramatic reading of scripture.



April 8th- Easter Saturday

10:00 am– Easter egg hunt and activities for kids

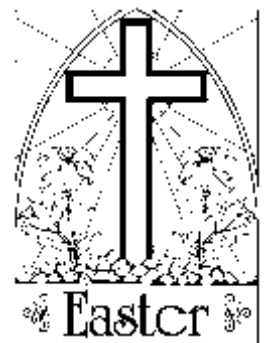
6:00-8:00 P.M.– Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection




April 9th– Easter Sunday Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am at the Lael Retreat Center. For more information about Lael, including Directions, go to www.fpcmoscow.org and click on the Lael tab at the top of the page.

9:15 am– 10:15 am– Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am– Easter Sunday Service in the Sanctuary





Finance Report

As of February, 2023

| | Month | YTD |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Receipts | \$55,419 | \$98,211 |
| Disbursements | \$26,232 | \$58,926 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit) | | \$39,285 |
| Cash Balance (checking/savings) | | \$120,428 |



First Presbyterian Church and our friends from Quail Run Ward are hosting Family Promise guests **April 16-23**. Our hosting duties include preparing and taking down guest bedrooms, providing and hosting evening meals and hosting our guests overnight on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be sign up sheets in the narthex, or please contact Celeste Brown at bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.

Family Promise of the Palouse is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower families experiencing homelessness – or in danger of becoming homeless – to achieve sustainable independence for a more promising future. Along with providing temporary housing and meals for up to four families 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. With the support of a case-manager, families are guided to employment, health care and housing.

One factor that helps families succeed is the long term relationships they develop with Family Promise volunteers.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

With Spring Break smack dab in the middle of March, the month flew by. Now with the start of April, we're rushing into Holy Week and Easter. Having Wednesday Supper Fellowship before youth group has been enjoyable. It brings back memories of youth group before Covid-19. The youth group kids are still talking about how fun the pancake dinner was, and they think we should make pancakes at youth group at least once more before the end of the school year. We've been going through the Bible Project Introduction to the Bible series, which has led to some thoughtful discussions. In April, we're planning to start a film studies component evaluating VeggieTales as a contemporary means of communicating biblical stories and themes with the option for the kids to directly compare Bob and Larry's version with modern English translations.

FOON took a week off for Spring Break, and the following week we had a record breaking number of kids, topping 90 in attendance. Of the recent questions we asked the kids, the most helpful one for me was asking, "When you wake up cranky or have a cranky day, what do you do so you don't inflict it on others?" We received such a wide array of responses. Here is a sample: keep my mouth shut, listen to music, play an instrument, drink coffee, go back or stay in bed, play video games and yell at the characters, run or do sports, avoid my siblings, take deep breaths, glare at people, inflict it on people anyway or lock myself away from people until I feel better.

We're also looking ahead to the last two months of FOON before the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We topped 90 students the week after Spring Break. Maybe it gets redundant, but every month when I write for the newsletter, I like to thank the generous people in our congregation who are helping with FOON. There are so many individuals involved, working together to make FOON function. It takes time, energy and muscles to get everything set up each week. Then there are the social demands of serving and connecting with the high school students. Many thanks to the people who are willing to accept the challenge of talking to teens.

I also want to extend thanks to all the people who bring cookies. I know it is a lot of cookies, now that so many kids are attending. Thank you to those who drop off drinks and who help pay for pizza. We are feeding a lot of hungry high schoolers, and your generosity also brings us the chance to encourage these students by kindness and by offering a bright spot in their school week. I wish everyone involved could see the benefits of this outreach. If you are curious, I encourage you to stop by on a Wednesday between 12:30 and 1:00.

Holy Week will bring extra activities for children and families. Youth are encouraged to attend the Good Friday Tenebrae service. Saturday morning at 10:00 there will be an egg hunt for kids from toddler through elementary age. I'm looking forward to the sunrise service at Lael and the joyful Easter service at FPC. For me, getting up early and experiencing the beautiful morning drive to Lael is a precious time, whether I can convince any family members to join me or not. As I anticipate the morning church service for Easter, I doubt I will have any of my own flowers blooming to flower the cross. This is definitely not a spring for early blooming! However, the good news is that the light of Jesus can shine in our lives whatever the season, and at Easter, whether it is gloomy or glorious, we remember his sacrifice and resurrection with gratitude and awe. Christ is risen!

April 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Palm Sunday 9:15– Sunday School 10:30– Sunday Worship | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Maundy Thursday Taizé @ 5:30 p.m. Supper Fellowship @ 6:00 p.m. | 7 Good Friday Tenebrae Service @7:00 p.m. | 8 10:00 a.m.— Easter egg hunt and children’s activities. 6-8 P.m.— Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection |
| 9 Easter 7:00 am— Sunrise service @ Lael 9:15-10:15— Brunch in Fellowship hall 10:30 a.m.— Easter Service in the Sanctuary. | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:15– Sunday School 10:30– Sunday Worship | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 9 a.m.-3 p.m.— Women’s Retreat @ 1912 Center |
| 23 9:15– Sunday School 10:30– Sunday Worship | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:15– Sunday School 10:30– Sunday Worship | | | | | | |

Family Promise Host Week



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

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

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com