



First
Presbyterian
Church

MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Daylight Savings Time
begins March 14



FROM THE



PASTOR

I am aware of Lent in some new ways this year. Lent has always seemed a time to do introspection and consider the harder side of life. It has been a time to acknowledge sin, the ways one has gone off the path or missed the mark, and by doing so, experienced the struggles of life. Some of the struggles of life seem to come to us instead of having obvious roots in our behavior and beliefs. This, too, may lead us to reflect on how we see ourselves, our world, and our God. Lent invites us to acknowledge these reflections and how they may lead us to question God in relation to our lives and the events and experiences we encounter.

Four things this year have prompted this kind of questioning for me. First, the pandemic and the changes wrought upon our lives due to the novel coronavirus spreading like wildfire. As the death toll mounted and as deaths continue each day due to this virus, the pressure mounted on us to do what was safe and what would help keep others safe. This changed our patterns of living and the nature of our interactions, and created the sense of isolation we felt. Our expectations for how life would go in 2020 were wrenched away from us and we were left to deal with the new reality of curtailed mobility, children at home, and gatherings and socializing curtailed or only online. A new fear entered our psyches. How do we bring this fear into our relationship with God?

The pandemic in some ways amplified other problems lying beneath the surface for many of us. As the pandemic raged, we began to see the disparities in our society as our poor and people of color were harder hit with the disease and with deaths due to the disease. Events, the death of black men and women due to police shootings and choke holds, led us deeper into the racism rampant underneath the whitewash of our lives. Those of us that did/do not experience this racism were surprised and disappointed that we had not made more progress. Our black and brown brothers and sisters were not surprised at the racism. A ray of hope surfaced with the new recognition of the problem. This renewed focus on racism was and is a Lenten invitation to reflect on the sin of a nation. We are invited to listen again to how Jesus teaches us that all people, to the ends of the earth, are God's children, making us all brothers and sisters in God's world. We are invited to hear and to change.

Continued on Page 2...

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

The pandemic and an election pressed our buttons as nation. We found ourselves as citizens of the same nation, living what we would think would be the same reality, at odds with one another. Even the pandemic became politicized. It seems we do not see eye to eye, not even close. This difference in perspective and assessment of what is real has led to real rifts between friends, families, communities, and in our nation as whole. This can be incredibly painful and cause broken relationships and animosities that have even lead to violence. Lent invites us to attend to this brokenness, to pray for the reconciliation we need, and to live with grace and to hold fast to the will of God that, over and over again, requests of us justice, righteousness, and love for one another.

Finally, I personally have had a season of sciatica that brings the issue of chronic pain into my view. I have a new-found empathy with those who live with chronic pain, especially the pain that interferes with living what we often think of as normal life. I have hope I will move through this season of pain, yet realize that this experience also informs my Lenten journey and how I cry out and I question God. Indeed, each of these four struggles leads me to cry out to God. Often I want to know why, but I am not sure that is the most useful question. I wonder if the cry might simply be for God to be with us, to help us learn from our experiences, and to look again to how Jesus leads us. In turning to Jesus to lead us, we recognize that his way is very different than so much of the way the world around us guides us.

This is, in some ways, the very essence of Lent—that Jesus ended up on the outs with the leading perspectives of his day because he challenged the status quo, challenged it to move toward God's will. This included caring for all humanity and not just the ones on top, caring about the those in need rather than blaming them for their predicament, and inviting us to love one another even when we see each other as enemies.

Lent is a time of questions, challenges, and crying out. In some ways, Lent is a time of recognizing that God does not always do things the way we want them done. And, recognizing that we don't always do things the way God wants them done. This conflict between God's way and our way, we might say, led to Jesus' crucifixion. The world tried to get rid of the challenges Jesus brings, the uncomfortable answers Jesus offers, and the focus on healing all in need and seeing all as God's children rather than focusing on just one person or one group.

God will, of course, not be held down. Crucifixion and death will not hold God down nor refute God's ways. Jesus will rise. Yet, in Lent, we are given time to complain, to struggle, to question, and to see where we stand in our relationship with God. God can handle it all. We just may not get our way, and find that God's way truly is the way of life, love, and laughter.

I hope you will journey with us through Lent and the final week of this season which is Holy Week. While we will be doing things differently, having some smaller gatherings in-person and having live and pre-recorded online offerings, we will continue to engage our relationship with God including our struggles and God's gracious love.

May the grace of God and the peace of Christ be yours,

Norman

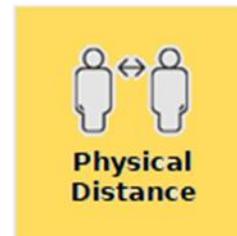


We Are Re-Opening for Sunday Worship on March 7

Beginning March 7, and continuing as long as conditions remain safe, the sanctuary will be open for in-person worship, with safety protocols in place (masks, distancing, no congregational singing, etc.). We welcome those who have been vaccinated as well as others who are feeling well and haven't been recently exposed to the virus. We will continue to livestream the service for those who prefer to worship at a distance.

If you plan to attend Sunday worship, please help us to be prepared by making a reservation between Monday and Saturday of *each week* using the online form at <https://forms.gle/XeQYFCLaGxXPFsgP9> or contact the office by email (office@fpcmoscow.org), phone (208-882-4122), or text (208-997-8837).

Those who attend Sunday worship in-person will be expected to adhere to these guidelines:



Make a Reservation. Seating capacity will be reduced in order to provide for distancing. Please call or email the church office each week by the Saturday afternoon prior to let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly. Reservations also help with contact tracing, if necessary. When you arrive, you will be asked to attest being in good health.

Masks are required at all times, both inside and outside.

If you are in a high-risk category, have any symptoms, or are unwell at all, please do stay home and take care of yourself. Services are livestreamed at 10:30 a.m. and recorded for later viewing on both Facebook and YouTube.

If you have traveled out of the area or may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks, please do stay home as a precaution and join us online.

Hand sanitizing stations are available outside the sanctuary door. Please use sanitizer before entering and exiting the sanctuary.

Sit in designated pews only. Enter through the main double doors and take the available seats closest to the front. Ushers will assist you in finding a seat.

Six-foot distancing is maintained at all times between individuals or family groups, whether inside or outside. Please visit outside to avoid congestion in the narthex.

Congregational participation is invited during corporate prayers (confession, morning prayers). Prayer requests (joys and concerns) may be written out at home or on a card we will provide. Pastor Norman will collect the prayer cards and share them at prayer time. Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.

Children are welcome to sit with their parents in worship. Parents are encouraged to bring activities for their children. The children's area in the sanctuary will not be available and childcare in the nursery will not be provided.

At the end of the service, exit via the side aisles, by pews, starting from the rear. Ushers will assist you. Please do not linger in the narthex, but go directly outside. You are welcome to visit with each other outside, with masks and social distancing in place. No treats or coffee will be served, but you may bring your own water bottle.

News Briefs

MOSCOW FOOD BANK As we are returning to church—and bringing food donations for the Moscow Food Bank—there are supplies especially needed. Soups, particularly “Cream of...”, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce are popular items for stretching meals. Our deacons will see that contributions are delivered to the food bank, or you may take your donations directly to their location at 110 North Polk Street in Moscow. They are open Tuesday - Friday from 2-4 pm, and someone is usually on site to receive donations by 1:30, or you may leave your donations on the front porch of the house, inside one of the plastic bins (to keep it away from the squirrels).

FAMILY PROMISE is actively looking for private landlords/rentals for their current family of five. With limited housing available for move-in at this time, they are asking for leads on a rental in Latah County, Moscow preferable. Please contact the Family Promise office at (208) 882-0165 or email info@familypromisepalouse.org if you have any information. Thank you!

SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The glass door into the lower chapel room will be unlocked. All are welcome to drop in for prayer and silent reflection. Masks and social distancing required. Please sign in and out.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP Each Wednesday afternoon, we will post a new Taizé service on our YouTube channel. To join in this time of worship, prayer, and song, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzTiJBUB4fHAgVPGn5rgag> any time/day.

CARING ANGEL NETWORK If you become ill, contact the church so we can pray for you and, if needed, bring meals or run errands. Please contact your deacon or the church office at 208-882-4122 or office@fpcmoscow.org. Our caring volunteers are ready to help.

SERMON TRANSCRIPTS of Pastor Norman’s sermons may be read or printed from the church website, fpcmoscow.org. If you would like to have the sermons mailed to you, contact the church office. Videos of past Sunday morning services and Taizé services may be found on YouTube under First Presbyterian Church of Moscow at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzTiJBUB4fHAgVPGn5rgag> (click on the “Videos” tab).

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTION BOOKLETS The large print spring edition (April through June) of Our Daily Bread has 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. Copies will also be available to pick up in the lower chapel room.

Easter Basket Project

Plans are underway for distribution of 50 small "Easter baskets" to community children in need. Jackie Wallis is requesting donations of small wrapped candies and plastic eggs (to stuff). Please deliver donations to Jackie by March 25th (505 Indian Hills Drive, Apt. C-6 in Moscow). Baskets will be distributed to parents of children on March 29th in time for Easter on April 4th. Thank you for your generosity.

For more info, call event organizer Jackie Wallis (208-669-3036).



Finance Report

As of January 31, 2021

	January	YTD
Receipts	\$ 37,073	\$ 37,073
Disbursements	\$ 24,300	\$ 24,300
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$12,773
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$65,984*

*Includes prepaid pledges for 2021 @ \$21,200

Thank you for supporting the work of our church both within the congregation and out in our community. Offerings may be made:

- Online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>
- By mailing your check to First Presbyterian Church, 405 S. Van Buren, Moscow, ID 83843

Deacons' Spotlight

Warren Case

Meet Elder Warren Case. Warren currently serves on the Session as Chairman of the Facilities Committee, class of 2021. Warren and his wife Beth transferred to FPC Moscow in 2017 after many years as members of Bovill Presbyterian where they served its congregation on Session and in Stephen Ministry.

Warren grew up in Portland, Oregon and attended Iowa State University with a swimming scholarship, earning degrees in fish and wildlife biology, and agriculture journalism. Finding their way to the Palouse via work (Warren as a guide on the Snake River with Fish and Game, and Beth with the U of I as a graphic artist), they made their first home in Viola as Warren got his teaching credential. He then began his teaching career as a substitute at Moscow High School, and from there went to Troy, then Deary High School where he retired after 29 years of teaching virtually everything: 7-12 English, Science, Speech, History. He doesn't miss grading papers.

When they moved to Deary, Warren and Beth started a tree farm. The tree farm, photography, and clearing the snow to get to the highway are their main hobbies. Retirement suits him. He and Beth have two grown children, one in California and one in Washington. They just became grandparents last year.

Warren has proven to be a valued addition to the Session during times of change and physical needs of the facility. His dealing with bricks and mortar, boiler replacement and elevators allows us to have a beautiful church going forward. Keep it up, Warren.

~Pat Carey, Deacon



Susan Roberts

This month we're pleased to feature Susan Roberts, a long-time church member who is one of our new Deacons this year.

Born in New Jersey, she was raised there until the age of 15 when her family moved to the Bay area in California, where she graduated from high school. She went on to Grinnell College in Iowa, majoring in English Literature, with an emphasis in 19th Century British Literature. In the summers she worked in journalism, honing her writing skills, and worked at Mesa Verde National Park the summer before graduation. She feels the most useful class she had in high school was Latin, which taught her so much about the English language and about writing.

Married right after college graduation, she lived in New Haven, CT where she worked for the New Haven Register for a time, and later as a social worker. They lived in Princeton, NJ for a time while her husband was a graduate student, and it was there that her son Matthew was born. They also spent time in Arizona, living in a Hopi village on 3rd Mesa, where



Continued on Page 6...

Deacons' Spotlight *...continued from Page 5*

she loved the Navajo rugs and the pottery and was able to buy a pot by the famous Maria Martinez.

She then spent a year in Moorehead, MN before moving to Pullman, WA in 1972. Son John was born there. In 1975 she moved to Moscow and worked 9 years in the College of Forestry doing editing and publishing work while also earning an MA in Environmental Sociology at UI.

In 1984 she took a faculty position in the College of Agriculture at WSU where she worked in professional editing and publishing for 19 years, until her retirement in 2003. Even after retirement she still did some free-lance editing for UI faculty.

Susan joined First Presbyterian Church in Moscow in 1976, and she taught Sunday School, joined Presbyterian Women, and later the Carol Renfrew Circle women's group. She was a Church Elder for many years and served as Clerk of Session for 6 different pastors. She has also previously served as a Deacon for at least one term. Susan has been one to volunteer for any job needed in the church, and joins in with a smile! Most recently she is serving as one of our church's Stephen Ministers. She also volunteers in the community with organizations such as the Moscow Food Bank and Heifer International.

When not at church, she likes to garden, take photos (especially of plants in the Arboretum), and she makes note cards with her photos. She often walks a neighbor's small dog, and when the neighbor needs to go out of town, Susan opens "Camp Susan" to care for her! She has enjoyed knitting in the past, but arthritis has cut down on that. Her sons now live in Connecticut and Colorado. It's a joy when they can come for a visit.

Once we get back to in person worship, take time to meet Susan if you haven't before. She's a lovely and interesting person to know!

~ Sharon Scott, Deacon Moderator

Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with...

- Isolation and loneliness
- Anxiety over health
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future
- Other unexpected life challenges?



If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office.

FAMILY MINISTRY

From Vocational to Civilian Service

February 28 was my last day as Family Ministry Director at First Presbyterian. I personally, and we as a church, have been planning for this for months, yet it still feels sudden.

Julie Hopper's service as the Interim Director of Family Ministry begins this month. I want to begin by saying that Julie will fill the role fantastically well. She is extremely empathetic and longs for people to have a deep connection to Jesus. Pair that with a deep knowledge of scripture, and she is an ideal hire. I am very excited that she will be leading my children.

While COVID-19 has limited my contact with many of you, I have really enjoyed Sunday School with the younger kids, youth group with Jed and Rowan, and all of my contact with others of you in between.

I am grateful for the support the congregation has shown for our children and youth, and for our Family Ministry programs and events. Mostly, thank you, parents, for trusting me with your kids. That is not an easy thing to do, and I hope I never took your trust lightly. I was sad on that last Sunday morning when one of the Sunday School kids asked me if my departure meant that I couldn't take the current Sunday School kids to Portland on a mission trip (primarily for the perk of donuts). The fact that this group will be the future youth group sounds exceedingly fun.

Many of you have asked what the future holds...and I still don't have as many answers as I would like. I am currently working for the school district as a supervisor at Adventure Club, and as a substitute teacher, as well as roasting/selling coffee. I have begun to do some work with 24-7 Prayer/USA. This is not church planting, but more discipleship and study groups. This work with 24/7 is not vocational. I am joyfully no longer a "vocational Christian"

I am still a member of First Presbyterian, and will be preaching on March 21. After 18 years of full-time ministry, I am looking forward to civilian service with y'all!

Love,
Jeremiah

Transition in Family Ministry

We are pleased to announce that Julie Hopper is our new interim family ministry director as of March 1. We welcome her with open hearts and look forward to her leadership and discipleship of our children, youth and families.

As we welcome Julie, we give our deepest thanks to Jeremiah for being our director since June 2017. He has been, and is, a wonderful Christian minister in our lives at First Presbyterian. Thank you, Jeremiah, for being and continuing to be a positive light in our church family.

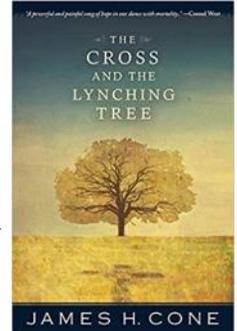


Jacob Wells, Elder for Family Ministry

Join One of Our Lenten Study Groups

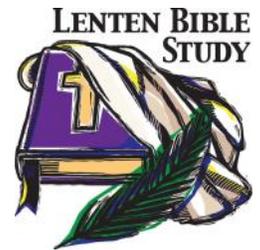
COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY

First Presbyterian Church of Moscow, as a continuation of our anti-racism learning circle, is hosting a Lenten (and beyond) discussion of the book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by Dr. James Cone. We meet every other week from 7:00-8:30 pm. For more information, or if you would like to join us, email crossandthelynchingtree@gmail.com. Portions of our discussion are based on this Lenten study guide: [https://www.nyac.com/files/fileslibrary/lenten_study_guide_for_the_cross_and_the_lynching_tree+\(cbcs\).pdf](https://www.nyac.com/files/fileslibrary/lenten_study_guide_for_the_cross_and_the_lynching_tree+(cbcs).pdf) The book can be ordered through [BookPeople of Moscow](#) (3-day turn-around time), or on [Amazon](#) or other online retailers as an audio, e-book, hardcover or paperback book.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

We have an opportunity to respond to Pastor Norman's invitation to listen to Jesus during this Lenten season. Janice Capel Anderson will lead a Lenten Bible Study on each week's lectionary readings (the bible readings for each Sunday). We will use Roger Gench's *Looking into the Lectionary*, which is available online and via email. The group meets Wednesdays at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Join any time. If you are interested, please email the church office at office@fpcmoscow.org. Janice will email each lesson and Zoom link to participants prior to each meeting.



One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in over 100 countries (including the U.S.) in these challenging situations by providing them safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, OGHS is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world and share God's love with our neighbors in need. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) : Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and provides support for refugees. (32%)

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) : Acts to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. (36%)

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) : Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. (32%)

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world. To learn more, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>. Please give generously by check to First Presbyterian Church (memo OGHS) or online through Tithe.ly. We will dedicate this special offering on Palm Sunday, March 28.





CAMP SPALDING

Summer Update

As of this writing (mid-February) we are preparing for another summer of classic camp fun (including an incredible summer staff team nearly all hired)! Clearly, we all hope that life in late June will allow for something approaching normal summer camp (and recent news provides reasons for cautious optimism). If we're not there yet, we - and a coalition of some 100+ other summer camps in Washington - are requesting that the governor's office agree to defer to CDC guidelines pertaining to summer camps, allowing camps to open under those measures. These are essentially the protocols we followed last summer, with no signs of COVID at Camp Spalding during our shortened season (the governor's office closed all camps July 31st).

Because the actual progress on the COVID front in the months ahead is unknown, **we will delay the opening of registration until as late as May 5th**. That will still give us enough time to process registrations in the seven weeks before camp is due to begin, AND allow our board and staff to have much more information to adapt, as necessary, for a safe, awesomely fun summer camp experience. If we have enough information to make definite plans before that date, we will begin registration earlier.



In the meantime, save the dates below for a camp session full of purposeful fun for your child this summer!

No.	Camp	Entering Grades	Dates
	Staff Training		June 20-26
101	"Mom / Dad & Me"	K-2 & Parent	June 25-26
102	Leadership Camp	10-12	June 26-30
103	Discovery I	2-4	June 30-July 3
104	Junior I	5-6	July 5-10
105	High School I	9-12	July 11-17
106	Middle School I	7-8	July 18-24
107	Junior II	5-6	July 25-31
108	Middle School II	6-8	August 1-7
109	High School II	9-12	August 8-14
110	Discovery II	2-4	August 15-18
111	Family Camp	--	August 18-22

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Holy Week takes us through Jesus' last days, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem which we celebrate on Palm Sunday to his death on the cross as recalled on Good Friday. Following Jesus on his journey to the cross makes his Easter resurrection even more meaningful. You are invited on this walk through Holy Week.



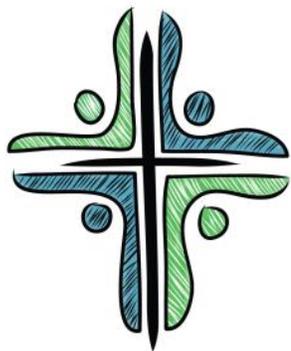
Palm Sunday, March 28—Holy Week begins with in-person and livestreamed worship at 10:30 a.m. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be dedicated.

Wednesday, March 31—Taizé worship, live in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m., with scriptures focusing on the events surrounding the Last Supper. The service will also be livestreamed.

Good Friday, April 2—A pre-recorded Tenebrae Service of Darkness will be available online. The service will use passages from the Gospels to tell the story of Jesus' final hours, interspersed with musical offerings from individuals and group in our congregation. We are also looking at the possibility of having a simple in-person service in addition to the online service. Watch for details in upcoming emails and announcements.

Easter Sunday, April 4—We will celebrate the resurrection together in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and welcome all who feel comfortable attending with safety protocol in place (see Page 3). This service will be streamed live online for those who prefer to worship from home. The congregation will flower the cross during the service (safely distanced), and we will move the cross outside afterwards, where those who could not attend in person can stop by later to add flowers to the cross. There are no plans for a sunrise service at this time.

Be sure to watch for Holy Week updates and further developments in our weekly bulletin announcements and emails, on our Facebook page, or on our website fpcmoscow.org. See below for links to our online livestreams and recorded services.



First
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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