

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Dear Friends,

As Spring brings forth the beauty of tulips, daffodils and other early spring flowers and the hills turn green, I am drawn to the wonder of new life and new possibilities. Maybe because my sciatica lingers and so does the pandemic, I am not quite as optimistic this year. Easter seems timed to celebrate the new life not only of Christ, but of the world around us. As I think about that, I realize Jesus also returned to life in a time that was unchanged. The Roman government was still in power. Judean elites still controlled Jerusalem. The Pharisees were still leading the people to a showdown with Rome that would end in tragedy. Yet into this difficult situation Jesus brought new life, new opportunities, new ways of living that will seep into the culture of the Middle East until the whole thing is floating on the grace shown us in Jesus.

We see this ragtag group of disciples, scared and sitting in their upper room, finally going out and sharing the good news that they have known and that is real in their lives. We know that this wasn't accepted as good news in all quarters. Indeed, it took three centuries for Christianity to become something leaders needed to reckon with, and it seems its power was based in its caring for the least and for the struggling. We hear about Paul's preaching. We hear about Peter's preaching. And these guided the movement. However, what we see is that the goodness and grace they talk about was put into action, and that seems to engage other people in way that also leads them to follow Jesus. Perhaps those disadvantaged and struggling encountered the love of God in Jesus through the care they received from Jesus' followers. Jesus' followers, filled with the Spirit, seem able to live out the good news.

As we come to the end of the Easter season and recognize the coming of the Holy Spirit, let's pray that we again can be those that live out the good news. Let us recognize that living out the good news is not about our circumstances, but about the grace given us. Indeed, it seems counter to many of the voices shouting so loudly that attending to our mistakes is misguided and that social justice is an effort to oppress and hurt rather than an avenue through which God's love is enacted. I believe we need to see our mistakes in order to look for better ways to live and show God's love. Each Sunday we quote 1 John 1:8-9 which states: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we



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

confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Acknowledging our issues is what helps us see clearly and enables us to receive forgiveness, to be cleansed of the wrongs, and to be led into what is good and right.

I look again in hope to our risen Lord, not to the unchanged circumstance to which he returned. I look to the gift of the Holy Spirit as guide and encourager to enable us to live for Christ in our present circumstance. We are invited to exhibit to our neighbors and our world the love God has shown us in our lives. We don't need to deceive ourselves, but to refrain from vilification and its accompanying viciousness, which can lead to violence. We are invited to a different way, and we can practice it together: to love one another even as Jesus has loved us. That is what I believe we try to do in our worship, teaching, fellowship, and service to others. You are invited to continue to participate in these aspects of our church through our on-line presence or come to in-person worship (still following Covid-19 protocols). Let us continue to "grow in Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship and service to others."

Grace and peace,

Norman



WE ARE HIRING!

Administrative Assistant

Moscow First Presbyterian Church is now accepting applications for Administrative Assistant to join our ministry team, provide administrative and secretarial support to staff and volunteers, and be a welcoming, compassionate, and professional presence for all who visit, call, or utilize the church facility.

This is an exempt (salaried) 12-month position, 30 hrs/week during the school year, and 20 hrs/week for the 2 months of summer

The base salary is \$24,000, and starting salary and benefits are negotiable within the salary package.

For More Information and to Apply:

fpcmoscow.org/administrative-assistant.aspx

office@fpcmoscow.org

208-882-4122.

New FPC Coordinating Team Forming for Family Promise!

It has been a true joy to serve as First Presbyterian's Volunteer Coordinator for Family Promise over the past five years. Serving in this capacity has provided me with the opportunity to learn more in-depth about the struggles of those experiencing housing insecurity, and to be inspired time and again by the families I have met and their stories. It has been heartwarming to see first hand the faithful and loving service of the Moscow FPC community in the various roles involved in hosting the families. I have enjoyed meeting and partnering with other congregations in Moscow and Pullman as we work united to help end homelessness.

As I step away from a leadership role in Family Promise, I am excited to think about a new framework. In the future, we would like to establish a Coordinating Team made up of 4-5 people who can work together while focusing on different aspects of hosting Family Promise. Areas of leadership could include:

Coordinating Team Leader: Intersect with Family Promise staff and coordinators from other congregations, connect with volunteers and families during host week, serve as on-call contact, facilitate training of volunteers

Facility Coordinator: Set-up and take-down beds, supplies, etc.

Kitchen Coordinator: Lining up cooks, purchasing groceries, etc.
(currently filled by Kathy Pitman)

Communications Coordinator: Set-up and publish Sign-Up Genius, prepare communications for newsletter & bulletin



I invite and encourage you to consider joining this leadership team. Once we are back to "normal" operations (after Covid), we typically host families 4 separate weeks spread throughout the year. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who step up each time we host to make beds, do laundry, prepare dinner, engage in fellowship with the families, and stay overnight. I cannot recall a time when we did not have a full slate of volunteers. It is indeed a joyful ministry. If you feel called to serve on the Coordinating Team, send an email to office@fpcmoscow.org or call 208.882.4122.

~ Mary Read
Volunteer Coordinator (outgoing)

Family Promise Innovation Summit: Innovation Starts with You

Family Promise National is hosting its second Virtual Innovation Summit on May 12-13, from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET each day via zoom. This is a great platform to hear from other affiliates, guest speakers, past guest families, and experts on poverty and homelessness. All Family Promise Affiliate board, staff, and volunteers are welcome to attend. To learn more about the Innovation Summit schedule and speakers, and to register for the event, please https://whova.com/web/fpvis_202105. Registration will close on Monday, May 10.

Once you complete your registration, you will be prompted to either download the Mobile app or you can proceed with the web app. On either app, you will be asked to sign-up/log-in using the email that you registered with and a password you create. Once in the event, you can update your attendee profile and view the speakers and the agenda. As you browse through the schedule for the two days you can select the workshops you would like to attend and add them to your personal agenda. If you have any questions or difficulties using Whova, please refer to their [User Guide](#)

Family Promise Host Week May 30—June 6, 2021

As progress is made with vaccinations, Family Promise, under guidance from the national organization and local public health guidelines, is developing a transitional plan that will hopefully reduce the number of nights Family Promise guests stay in hotels, while still recognizing that we have ongoing restrictions related to the pandemic.



Our church will be collaborating with the core Family Promise staff to implement overnight hosting in our building for a two week trial period May 30 - June 13. Our minimum commitment during this time is to provide dedicated space for that period (which will be the three basement level rooms we typically use), and to provide meals for four nights of the first week, May 30 through June 5. Meals will be delivered to the Day Center and the families will eat there before coming to the church for overnight. The families will not use the kitchen or Fellowship Hall as those areas are in use by other groups.

If you are interested in providing an evening meal, visit the Meal SignUp at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4daaad22aaf94-family21>. We do not know family details yet, but there will be a maximum of 2 families. As usual, things can change, so we will remain flexible and ready to adapt as needed.

Meals will need to be packaged separately for each family, and delivered to the drop off station at the Family Promise Day Center. More detailed instructions will be provided as we get closer to May 30. If you are not able to deliver your dinner, please contact our wonderful Kitchen Captain, Kathy Pitman, for assistance.

If you are interested in serving as an Overnight Host or helping with setup, take-down, or laundry, there will be a separate sign-up for those tasks managed centrally by the Family Promise staff. Stay tuned for more information on that.

If you have questions about the Meals sign-up or need assistance, please contact Mary Read, idahoreader@gmail.com, after May 4. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting local families! Please continue to hold Family Promise and the families served in your prayers.

~ Mary Read

Finance Report



As of March 31, 2021

	March	YTD
Receipts	\$ 18,216	\$101,215
Disbursements	\$ 28,202	\$ 74,627
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 26,587
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$ 75,837*

* Includes prepaid pledges for 2021 of \$21,200 paid in 2020.

Your regular giving and extra donations to our monthly Deacons' Benevolence offerings and other special offerings allow us to continue our ministry within our church, out in the community, and across the world. Thank you!



**Summer
Worship time
changes to
9:30 a.m.
beginning
May 30**

Join us in-person
(no RSVP needed)
or online for worship
this summer.

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

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

Food Not Bombs of the Palouse Update

Every Sunday since October, Food Not Bombs (FNB) has provided at least four meals to 165 people on the Palouse. They start on Saturday by gleaning food from Safeway, the Food Co-Op, other local groceries, and local farmers (like Julie Hopper's Hubbard squash!). Saturday afternoon in Fellowship Hall, a faithful band of sous chefs chop vegetables, make breakfast oats and sterilize reusable containers.

Early Sunday afternoon, Food Not Bombs and volunteers from WSU, UI and the community begin prepping entrées and soup. Along with bread, sweets and other staples, the soup and oats are distributed in re-used yogurt and cottage cheese containers, and the entrées are distributed in purchased plastic containers. By 5 o'clock, volunteers are out delivering boxes of food to those who have requested meals through the [FNB Facebook page](#).



Throughout the week, FNB also distributes food to their regular clientele and other food distribution centers around the area. Thank you for your donations of reusable 16-, 24-, and 32-ounce plastic containers, and for your generous donation to FNB through the Deacon's benevolence fund. You are helping to feed the Palouse.

Deacons' Benevolence for May Benefits Food Not Bombs

This month's benevolence offering will go to Food Not Bombs of the Palouse (FNB). FNB's goal is simple: use donated food to feed the hungry. They work tirelessly to redistribute food to those in need. You can read more about their work in the article above. Offerings may be mailed to First Presbyterian Church (memo: May Benevolence) or give online using the [Tithe.ly app](#) or the "Give" button on the church website at fpcmoscow.org.

Update on the Campus Christian Center

The Campus Christian Center was a very pleasant place to visit today. It is located close to the "Hello Walk," the well-known walkway that leads to the University of Idaho Administration Building. Rick Sperry, the Interim Director, serves a different food each day of the week for free from 11 to 1 for anybody that drops in. Today, I stopped in and found Rick and four others seated around a table having roast beef sandwiches. The Food Co-op also offers snacks such as deli salads, barista coffee, and a variety of canned drinks. If I were a college student, I would want to stop by for a snack, or sit at a table or in the lounge area. It would be a good place to meet up with friends or discuss a class project. Campus faculty and staff also use it.



During this Covid time, the tables have been spaced for social distancing. If you go to the [Campus Christian Center Facebook page](#) you can see what it looks like inside. This has been a time of less programming for the Center. There has been a Bible Study led by a student from the Methodist church with participants from different faiths and denominations.

Continued on Page 6...

Campus Christian Center *...continued from Page 5*

The "Center" is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, United Church of Moscow, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Currently Pastor Norman Fowler is the Board President. Celeste Brown, Jon Van Gerpen, and Mary Jo Van Gerpen are board members from our church.

Rick Sperry's wife, Debbie, who is the First United Methodist Church pastor, has been called to serve a church in Wenatchee, Washington, so Rick will be leaving us at the end of June. We have appreciated his being there for the students.

If you would ever like to visit the Center and have some company while doing it, just contact Mary Jo Van Gerpen. A good time to visit would be on Mondays from 11 to 1 when they serve Ferdinand's ice cream.

~ Mary Jo Van Gerpen

Deacons' Spotlight

Audrey Norman was one of the first women I got to know when our family started attending First Presbyterian Church in 2004. I got to know her through the Presbyterian Women group and also the Polly Eldridge Circle that later became Carol Renfrew Circle. The Presbyterian Women were in charge of the annual rummage sales, which she always helped organize.

Our church started having dinners on Wednesday evenings open to the community and serving as many as 90 people. Audrey was one of the four main rotating chefs. She has also been on the flower committee for church, supplying flowers for the sanctuary for many years. She has volunteered to help decorate or set tables for our congregational dinners and Fall Barbecue. She is the church mouse that waters the plants around church including the poinsettias at Christmas and the Easter Lilies at Easter. Another quiet task she does is taking dish towels home to launder.

All of the above is what I know of Audrey from being around church, but I was able to find out about her growing-up-years in Osmond, Nebraska. Her father ran the Skelly Oil Station in town. He had some health problems so the family would go away for a few months in the winter—places such as McCallan, Texas, Arkansas, and Arizona. It was surprising to me Audrey attended high school in Mesa, Arizona for three years, but finished her last year of high school in Osmond. Audrey went to several colleges in Nebraska and got a degree in Medical Technology from the University of Omaha. Other places she has lived are Philadelphia, Shoshone, Idaho, and in the country outside Moscow before moving into town in 1991. This is when she started attending First Presbyterian Church.

Audrey had an aunt that she was particularly fond of and who was her "rock." This aunt lived in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. I didn't know much about the Sand Hills of Nebraska, but found out it is a sparsely populated area of the state covering one-fourth of Nebraska.

Audrey has 4 children, including one set of identical twins, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. She is looking forward to the marriage of a granddaughter next summer.



~ Mary Jo Van Gerpen, Deacon

Save the Date! Family Promise Comfort Food From Your Car May 21

Many of you have come to recognize and support Family Promise's Annual Comfort Food Cook-Off Event. This year, they have decided to provide a wonderful spin-off event for 2021 called Comfort Food From Your Car. It is a drive-through pasta dinner fundraiser that will go towards helping families in need on the Palouse.

In the spirit of the annual Cook-off competition, supporting congregations will submit a secret pasta sauce to a Sauce Off Competition judged by Family Promise board members. The winner and their secret sauce will receive the coveted Comfort Food Cook-Off Trophy (and a year's worth of bragging rights)!

So pencil in the date and come pick up a pasta dinner for you and your family to enjoy on Friday, May 21st! The drive-thru will take place at the FPP Day Center between 5 and 7 p.m. Come out and support Family Promise. Watch for additional details in upcoming emails and Sunday bulletins.



Attention Cooks! Enter FPC's Spaghetti Sauce Contest

Each Family Promise partner congregation can enter one pasta sauce in the Sauce-Off competition described above. In order to submit the best sauce possible and win the right to keep the fabulous travelling trophy for another year, First Presbyterian will have our own pasta sauce contest on Sunday May 9, and everyone is invited to enter. Five judges have been lined up to meet in the chapel room for the contest after the church service. You do not need to register early. Just bring at least 2 cups of your sauce, and be sure your name is on the container (a pint jar would be perfect). You do not need to bring a recipe.

Our church's winner will need to supply one quart of their sauce to the Family Promise Day Center (Old Latah Health Services building) Tuesday, May 11, between 4:30 -5:30 p.m. for judging. (You may drop it off or Nadine will deliver it for you.) If we win, we get to keep the trophy that is in the Narthex curio cabinet. The winner's sauce will be featured at the Drive-thru event.

If you have questions, contact Nadine or the church office.



Important Church Updates

STAFF CHANGE

Kathy Pendegraft will leave her job as church Administrative Assistant at the end of May. She will miss working with everyone on a daily basis, but looks forward to joining her husband in retirement and continuing to serve alongside her church family and friends in Praise Team and other ministries. Please pray that God will supply the right person to fill the position.

WORSHIP UPDATE

According to our informal poll, around 90% of those attending in-person worship have been vaccinated. Because of the high vaccination rate, everyone's willingness to continue to wear masks and observe COVID protocol, and plenty of room to spare, RESERVATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED for those attending church in person. We will still ask everyone to sign in when they arrive just in case we need to do any contact tracing. Also note that worship will switch from 10:30 a.m. to our summer 9:30 a.m. start time beginning May 30.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Thank you to all the people who donated snacks and games for the Family Ministry Park Play Day. On April 24, kids and families gathered for a blessed but cold and wet time to play and fellowship at Mountain View Park. At precisely the coldest, wettest part of the afternoon, a team of faithful women delivered their snacks to the shelter at the park. When Myrtle Hopper checked out the snack offerings, she said, "Mom, I know you didn't buy the juice. This is the good kind!"

Kids from Kindergarten through middle school snacked, played on the playground and generally enjoyed the park. A croquet game was set up and seven players took to the field. Five brave players made it to the end of the game, with Amanda Wells as the winner. Despite the grimmer sort of spring weather, there were many smiles as masked and jacketed adults visited in person while children dispersed around the playground. Although Norman was difficult to recognize in his winter gloves, coat, hat, hood and mask, it was great to see him visiting with families and coaching kids at croquet.

We are hoping to plan another park play day when the weather might be better. With better weather, we could get out the corn hole game, play more croquet, and hopefully other backyard games as well. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all who brought snacks.

~ Julie



CAMP SPALDING REGISTRATION IS OPEN

For more information, visit
campspalding.org/schedule/

Camperships available. Contact Julie BEFORE registering.

Pentecost Special Offering

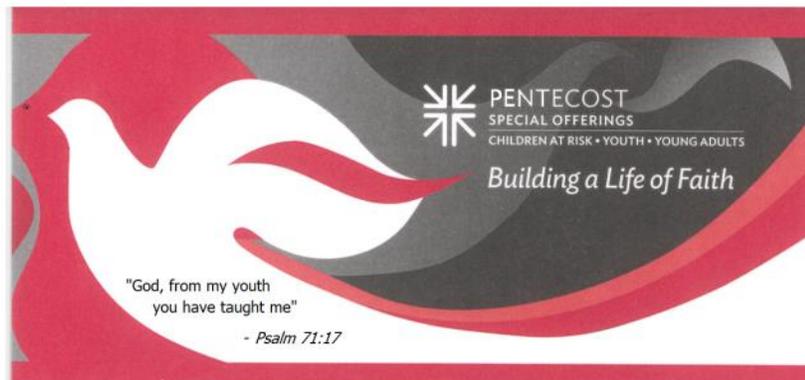
Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering, which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit through a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we help our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, *"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."*

The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which are taken at various times during the year. Since this offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$15 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. It supports several programs and initiatives:

- 40% of the Pentecost Offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our church and local community. Our church has used our portion of this offering for Camp Spalding camperships, the summer weekend food for kids program coordinated by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and Family Promise to help homeless families with children.
- 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) to train and equip volunteers to engage in mission at more than 20 sites in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing training and counseling, YAV assists with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.
- 25 % supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and those called to accompany them. It offers youth a chance to explore faith, assists youth ministry workers, enables Presbyterian Youth Triennium gatherings, and provides digital resources for youth ministry.
- 10% supports child advocacy through the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly in 2014. The goal of this initiative is to motivate and inspire Presbyterians to improve the quality of public education.

Your gift to the Pentecost Offering will help provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please mail your offering to the church office, 405 South Van Buren St., Moscow ID 83843 (memo: Pentecost Offering), give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>, or look for the special offering envelope in the pew rack on Sunday morning.



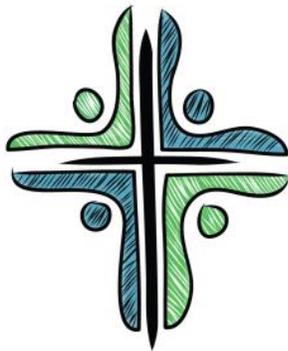
IDAHO GIVES



We have a chance to help nonprofit organizations in our community and state this week through IdahoGives. In particular, Family Promise of the Palouse is asking us to help them reach their goal of \$20,000 through this statewide giving campaign, which ends on May 6.

Use this link to support Family Promise: <https://www.idahogives.org/organizations/family-promise-of-the-palouse>.

Or, visit idahogives.org to donate to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations based in Moscow (25 listed) and throughout Idaho.



First
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First Presbyterian Church

"Growing in Christ"

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship In Person and Online

May 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 10:30 a.m.

May 30 and throughout the summer at 9:30 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