



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

FROM THE



PASTOR

Generally, I come to the New Year with great hope and enthusiasm. As we enter this New Year, some of the luster of the holiday season has dimmed. We immediately lost some great folks and long-time members as they became witnesses to the resurrection. We who are left on this side of the veil will miss David Wenny and Lois Whybark greatly. You may have other losses that you are thinking about; I know Helen and I do. While we know that such moments come, I feel like I am always a bit surprised and shocked at the loss. We grieve, and it is appropriate. We find comfort in knowing we are each beloved children of God.

Remembering we are loved does bring some solace in the struggles of our lives. I have needed this solace this last year. For me, this last year of fractiousness in our nation—a time when civil discourse seems hard, when outright hatred seems on display, when self-interest seems to overshadow the common good—has also taken some of the luster off my hope for a brighter tomorrow. In this sphere, I also need to remember that the grace of God is not dependent on the actions of people or societies, but is something God offers. I need to remember that I can continue to attempt to do the good God teaches disciples of Christ to do.

I feel that this year is a time to look deeply at our faith and the way it can guide us in difficult times. To do this, I plan to offer a sermon series on the person of Jesus: a baby, a boy, a beloved Son of God, a teacher, a healer, a sacrifice for the sins of our world, and a redeemer of God’s people. I hope we can notice again the gift of grace that God has given us in Christ and how that gift shapes our understanding of the world and elicits a response—indeed, a way of life—from us.

I believe that looking deeply at our faith and its guidance involves the study of scripture. Scripture is not simply a story of God’s relationship with folks over time, nor simply a story of what happened 2000 years ago in Palestine to bring us salvation. Engaging with scripture invites us to see our own lives in the light of God’s will and teachings. The insights found in studying scripture apply to our lives here and now. In keeping with this, I would like you to consider

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

engaging in renewed Bible study this year. I have experience with a directed study from The Kerygma Program (Kerygma is Greek for Proclamation). The title of the Kerygma study is *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation*. I propose we form several groups to use this study aid. To this end, I am looking for some folks who would be interested in being leaders for this study, and for folks who would be interested in participating. If you are interested, please talk with me. Watch for more information coming over the next month or so.

We have begun the New Year, and to live well in it, I turn again to our faith. For I know God sent Jesus to give us light and life—indeed, to give us life abundant. While I feel like we struggle to accept and live into this abundant life, I find the new year to be a time to recommit myself to Jesus and his gift of God's will for our lives. Together as children of the living God, we are invited to grow in Christ, to live into the kingdom of God, and to exhibit the grace given us in our lives.

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church and Lael, Inc.
January 28 at 11:45 a.m. in the FPC sanctuary
Potluck lunch immediately following

The annual meeting of the congregation/corporation of First Presbyterian Church and the annual meeting of Lael, Inc. will be held in the FPC sanctuary immediately following worship (approx. 11:45 a.m.) on January 28, 2018. All church members should plan to attend.

The agenda will include election of elders, deacons, 2018 nominating committee, and Lael directors; voting on the Pastor's terms of call; a review of 2017; and presentation of the 2018 budget. Annual Reports, which will include a complete agenda, ministry reports, and budget information, will be available in the narthex on January 21.

Immediately following the meeting, everyone is invited to a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall where we will share a meal, visit with our church family, and have some fun together. Please bring a potluck dish to share, either a dish of your choice or follow our suggestion according to the first letter of your last name:

A-C—desserts

D-M—side dishes or salads

N-Z—main dishes

University Inn Church Reimbursement Program

Did you know that the Best Western University Inn will give our church a 10% rebate on our meals at Seasons Public House? Here's how it works: When you eat at Seasons or in one of the University Inn's meeting rooms (with Lions Club, NARFE, etc.), keep your receipt and turn it in to the church office within 3 months. We collect these receipts and send them to the University Inn, and they send us a check for 10% of the total amount you pay for your food (excluding tax, tip, and alcohol). The receipts must be from Seasons or University Inn (similar to those pictured here) and should show the amount paid for the meal — NO credit card receipts. The money we receive from these rebates goes into a special fund and is used for various mission needs as designated by session. In the past we have used these funds for needs as varied as the Bovill After-school Program, youth mission trips, and support of seminary students from our congregation. So save those receipts for mission!



Thank You from Family Promise of the Palouse

AVENUES FOR HOPE HOUSING CHALLENGE RESULTS



Family Promise of the Palouse and its partners raised \$63,657 thanks to your generosity. This includes matching funds for all of our benchmarks. This is Family Promise of the Palouse's largest fundraiser yet. We have gained 466 Partners over the past month. If you contributed, we thank you for partnering with us and donating through the Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge. Your donation helped us win 3rd place for an additional \$5,000.00.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Every day I see miracles. The most recent one will be in my memory bank for a while. The week before Christmas, we brought in a family that was so scared with no housing. It was not until after this family started in shelter that mom came to me and, as tears streamed down her face, she asked if we had any gifts laying around she could give to her children for Christmas. Mom stated that we have already been so helpful with the basic things they needed, she didn't want to ask for more, but had no other options. Right in this moment I thought, "Gosh I would do anything for my children to feel the magic of Christmas." I know



our network is strong, faithful and helpful. I asked her to give me some time and I would see what I could do. That is when I put out a plea for some help to all FPP Coordinators. Within minutes I was receiving emails and phone calls with support for this family. By the time Friday rolled around our network had raised several hundred dollars in gift cards for toys, gifts, and even fuel to meet some basic needs. This was requested to be distributed to both families. After discussing what their Christmas week was going to look like, I gave the families the many gift cards and explained who they were from. I immediately saw tears of relief, happiness, sadness and gratefulness. These families expressed gratitude, and continue to do so. I cannot express how thankful I am to have such a great network of people to work with and to support our families. This will be a Christmas they will remember....not because it was bad, but because it was good. Thanks to all of you, these families had a wonderful Christmas.

~ Katti Carlson, Director of Family Promise of the Palouse

News Briefs

CAROL RENFREW WOMEN'S CIRCLE After our winter break, the Carol Renfrew Circle will meet Thursday, January 25, at 1:30 in the library. Mary Jo Van Gerpen will lead Lesson 8, *Who is Jesus? according to other Abrahamic Faiths*. Background Scripture is *Genesis 12:1-4; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:6-7; 4:23-29*. The Key Scripture is *Galatians 4:23-29*. Nadine Morton will be hostess. All women are invited for Bible study and fellowship.



WEDNESDAY SUPPER FELLOWSHIP will resume on January 17 and continue through May 2. We will have delicious home-cooked meals and fellowship, starting at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to help with set up, clean up or on a cooking team, please contact Ellen Johansen. Grab a friend and join your church family for an evening of fellowship and a great meal! Taizé worship also returns on January 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel Room.

CHURCH LIBRARIAN NEEDED We are looking for a volunteer to serve as church librarian for this year. Duties involve checking in and re-shelving books and videos, sending overdue notices, cataloging new books, and keeping the library in good order. Training and materials provided. For more information, contact the church office at 208-882-4122 or office@fpcmoscow.org.

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH POSTPONED The appreciation luncheon planned for Family Promise volunteers from our church and our partner congregation has been postponed from January to a date to be determined. Watch for details next month.

This month we mourn the passing of Lois Whybark and David Wenny, and our hearts go out to their families in this time of loss. Both Lois and Dave were long-time members of our church. As we mourn their passing, let us look with hope to our Lord as God receives Dave and Lois and encourages us by the comfort and grace given to us and to their loved ones.

A memorial service for Lois Whybark is planned for Thursday, January 18, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Dave Wenny's service will be held on Saturday, January 20, at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary.

Finance Report

As of December 31, 2017

	December	YTD
Receipts	\$ 28,577	\$ 284,060
Disbursements	\$ 21,011	\$ 294,854
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$ 10,794)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$ 66,769*

*Includes Capital Campaign funds and prepaid pledges for 2018 of \$19,890

As you can see from the summary at left, we finished 2017 with a deficit of \$10,794, which was primarily due to unfulfilled pledges. Changes in circumstance, moving away to other areas, and member deaths do not always allow fulfillment of intended obligations. Our hope is that further fulfillment of these 2017 pledges will be provided in the next few weeks.



Campus Christian Center Hosts Discussion of Sexual Exploitation

Board Members of the Campus Christian Center—Pastor Norman Fowler, Dale Everson, and Mary Jo Van Gerpen—would like our church to know about the following program to be presented at the Campus Christian Center. There are some ways our church can help out by providing hors d'oeuvres and jewelry, so read on...

The Campus Christian Center is partnering with our church, as well as its other supporting churches, to stop sexual exploitation. This semester there will be a five-part speaker series entitled "Stopping Sexploitation" at the Center on five consecutive Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning January 30. The schedule for the presentations is as follows:

Date	Presentation	Speakers
January 30, 2018	The Social Construction of Gender Roles and Stereotypes	Lysa Salsbury, Women's Center, University of Idaho
February 6, 2018	Recognizing and Preventing Sexual Violence	Emilie Mc Clarnan, Coordinator of Violence Prevention Programs, University of Idaho
February 13, 2018	Sexual Cyber Abuse	Vanessa Corwin, Sexual Assault Advocate & Prevention Educator, Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse
February 20, 2018	Pornography Destroys Relationships	Invitation out to Detective Eric Kjorness, Moscow Police Department
February 27, 2018	Sex Trafficking	Rev. Dawn Beamish, PhD, Campus Christian Center

This speaker series is free and open to all. Contact for more information about the speaker series: Rev. Dawn Beamish, Campus Christian Center Director, (208) 882-2536 or campuscc@gmail.com.

Two ways that our church can be involved are:

- 1) to provide a snack supper (finger foods...i.e. hummus, chips, veggies, fruit, nuts, etc.) for people attending the February 6 program, and/or
- 2) to donate gently used jewelry for a "Bling for a Blessing" sale., which will take place before and after each presentation. Proceeds from the "Bling for a Blessing" jewelry sale will go to the Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse and the Campus Christian Center to raise awareness on issues surrounding sexual exploitation. Bling is needed by January 25th. Please place earrings on cardstock (index cards) with plastic or metal backings, and put necklaces in separate ziplock bags. Bling will be collected in the treasure box in the narthex at church through January 25th.



Please contact Mary Jo Van Gerpen at 208-883-3768 or maryjovg@yahoo.com for more information about the bling sale or to find out more about providing some finger foods for the second presentation in the speaker series on February 6.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Jeremiah Nealon, Director of Family Ministry aslanscountry@gmail.com

I am thankful this New Year for a December filled with celebration and friendships. Christmas parties with the Youth and with "Young-ish" adults were highlights for me. I am struck by how many of the relationships that I now hold dear either did not exist or have grown in depth since I began working at the church in June.

I am also thankful what is coming. New worship nights, mission opportunities for the youth, and preparations for this summer.

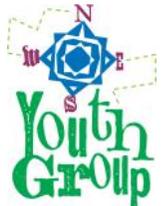
YOUTH:

- ◆ **Super Bowl of Caring**- Feb 4th: It's that time of year again when the youth will be gathering canned food or small donations for the Moscow Food Bank! We will gather the food on Super Bowl...er, I mean "Souper Bowl" Sunday, after the service. Please give what you can.



- ◆ **Pancake Fundraiser**- Feb 14th: Summer missions and camping are essential parts of the faith development of teens. They also cost money. The youth will cook pancakes for Wednesday Supper Fellowship on February 14th. Please give generously to our mission and camping funds!

- ◆ **Youth Group Volunteers**: Julie Hopper and Harper Wallen have been faithful and consistent volunteers at Youth Group for well over a year. I would love to have one more volunteer who can attend about once a month and fill in weeks that neither Julie or Harper can attend. Youth Group is a great time of play and conversation. Relationships with several different adults are very important to the faith development of teens. Let me know if you are interested or have questions.



FAMILY:

- ◆ **Youth Worship/Sunday School**: I want to take a moment to highlight Sunday mornings. Our worship with kids and youth begins with a short liturgical service at 9:15. Following that time, a group of volunteers work together to help our kids go deeper in worship and learning.

- ◇ David Roon has been leading our kids in lively and impactful musical worship every week since the beginning of fall. My own kids sing these songs at home, and proudly proclaim how much they love David.
- ◇ Donan and Delaney are leading "Godly Play" with the younger kids (Pre-K through 1st grade). Godly Play is a wonderful conversation-based way of engaging with the Bible. I have been impressed with how much it matches the curiosity of young minds.
- ◇ Helen has been planning lessons for older kids following Norman's sermon texts. What I love about this is that partnered with the small worship service we begin with, kids follow through a liturgy and texts that match the larger worship service. I believe this prepares kids to participate in worship as they grow older.



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Family Ministry *...continued from Page 6*

- ◇ I have been meeting with the youth for Bible study since the fall. Recently, we have veered into conversations about "churchy words" (grace, sin, worship, fellowship, etc.). There are some seriously thoughtful kids in our church!

- ◆ **The Christmas Pageant was Awesome:** Sydney Rozen wrote and directed another delightful Christmas Pageant in December. Sydney and her dedicated crew of volunteers put in many hours of work to make space for our kids to engage in the Christmas season.



*Scenes from
"The Cookie-Cutter Angels"*



Evening Worship and Supper January 20

On Saturday, January 20th at 6 p.m. we will host our second Alternative Worship service and dinner in the Upper Chapel Room. Worship includes several spaces for conversation and opportunities to pray with and for each other. All are welcome to attend!

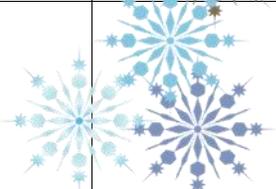


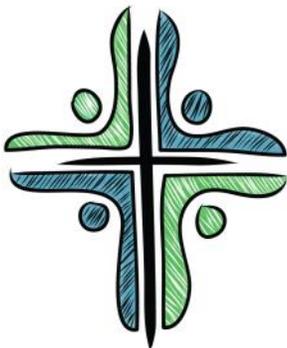
Stewardship Campaign Update



Thank you to all who submitted pledges of time, talent and treasure for 2018. As of January 9, we are at 98.9% of our goal, with pledges totaling \$206,734 received. This is only \$2,266 short of our goal of \$209,000. If you haven't had the opportunity to pledge, it's not too late to give your support to the work and ministry of our church! Pledge cards and Time & Talent pledge forms are available in the church office.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	4 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON	5	6
Family promise host week						
7 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (Gifts Sunday)	8 7p Scouts	9 6:30p Stephen Min. training	10 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	11 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON 5:30p Praise Team	12 6:30p Stephen Min. training	13 9a-2:30p Stephen Min. training 5p Parent Nite Out
14 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship (communion)	15 7p Deacons Annual Report submission deadline	16 6:30p Stephen Min. training & supervision	17 1:30p Pastor's Bible Study at CCC 5:30p Taizé 6p Wed. Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	18 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON 2p Lois Whybark memorial service 5:30p Praise Team	19 Annual Reports available to congregation	20 10:30a David Wenny memorial service 6p Alternative worship & supper
21 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship	22 7p Session 7p Scouts	23 6:30p Stephen Min. training	24 1:30p Pastor's Bible Study at CCC 5:30p Taizé 6p Wed. Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	25 6:30a Men's Group Noon—FOON 1:30p Circle 5:30p Praise Team	26 Deadline for February newsletter submissions	27 
28 9:15a Sun. School 10:30a Worship 11:45a Annual Meeting of the Congregation & potluck lunch	29 7p Scouts Court of Honor	30 6:30p Stephen Min. training	31 1:30p Pastor's Bible Study at CCC 5:30p Taizé 6p Wed. Supper 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir			



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First Presbyterian Church

"Growing in Christ"

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Followed by coffee fellowship

Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com