



First
Presbyterian
Church

MOSCOW, IDAHO

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The church office will be closed from December 23 until January 7. We will be checking phone messages and email, so please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Merry Christmas!

News & Views

FROM THE



PASTOR

December seems to be all about Advent and Christmas. I have other things to think about, yet the season is ever present. We see holiday decorations. We hear carols playing on the radio or in stores. We think about decorating our homes and maybe do so sooner rather than later. While all of these things are part of this season, I am focusing this year on the words of Advent. We have a theme for each Sunday, often described in a single word. This year those words are hope, peace, joy, and love. These words of Advent stand out even more this year, since it seems to me the attitudes, conversations and perspectives I hear about in the news have little to do with these words. These words contrast with the despair, conflict, fear, anger, and hate I seem to hear about daily.

Advent traditionally does not gloss over the struggles in the world around us. Many of the scriptures for Advent in the common lectionary suggest a feeling of the world coming to an end in destruction. While expressing this vision of the way the world is headed, the season of Advent invites us to see through the tragedy, conflict, anger, and hate to the more important gifts God invites us to embrace—gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

As we search for glimmers of *hope* and look to leaders and movements to deliver it, Advent reminds us that hope springs forth through our faith in God. In spite of the circumstances around us, hope becomes evident when we look to God and allow God to guide us to a brighter future. We trust in a good God that is willing to lead us into abundant life and teach us what peace really is. God, in sending God's Son, invites us to decry the tragedy, conflict, anger, and hate and see the more excellent way that God gives us. As we wait for Jesus to come, we live confident in the goodness God has given us, to which Jesus pointed us, and in which the Spirit enables us to participate.

Advent is a tool of faith that allows us to remember that God brings us *peace* and blesses the peacemaker. We hear Jesus offer us a peace that passes all understanding, and we may only begin to

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

see the value of what he is offering. We look again to that which begins to bring the life-changing reality of peace into our lives. The birth and life of Jesus is like the wedge that splits the interwoven grip of animosity, fear, and division that brings conflict and dysfunction to human society. Jesus offers us a peace that is more than freedom of conflict. He offers a path of cooperation and collaboration that brings the goodness of God to fruition in human society and culture.

Advent focuses on the way faith invites us to recognize and celebrate the goodness of God and how that goodness can be expressed in our life together. Living in anticipation of this goodness, we may actually see glimpses of goodness and know moments of *joy* in its realization. The invitation is to look to God, beyond ourselves and our creations, and to see that God's creation invites us to embrace joy.

Advent takes us to the moment when love becomes incarnate, God becomes human. We are, through this gift of a baby, invited to realize that the greatest gift that shapes all reality is *love*. We have all seen a child refuse the loving help of parent because they "want to do it myself." God comes into our reality to help us see anew how central valuing others and entering into mutual caring relationships is. We find love is the good way God calls us to take, the way to abundant life. Love shapes our experience in this mortal life.

We celebrate Advent with anticipation, remembering the goodness of God and the 'words' God gives us to embrace and live. We have many activities during this season to help us remember God's way, God's gift, and God's grace in the midst of a world that seems to easily forget all of this. I hope you will participate in the worship, study, and fellowship of our church this season and remember that God is good, and God's grace abounds. And, we can embrace the words of Advent—hope, peace, joy, love—as they lead to celebrating the birth of our savior.

Grace and peace,
Norman

"Fumbly, Bumbly Angels" arrive on a cloud of faith & laughter during Sunday worship service, December 16th

Five exuberant young angels are well known in heaven for fumbling their assignments. Angela, a skeptical archangel, offers them one more chance to earn their places in the celestial choir. Their mission: go back in time, to a town called Bethlehem, and find the special baby who will bring joy and hope to our world. What could possibly go wrong? Join us Sunday morning, Dec. 16, during worship, as "The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels" show us the power of faith.





HELP NEEDED SETTING UP FOR ADVENT

On Saturday, December 1, a crew of volunteers is needed to set up trees in the sanctuary, chapel and office, and prepare for the Hanging of the Greens service. Anyone who would like to help with the preparations is welcome to come from 2-4 p.m.

HANGING OF THE GREENS DECEMBER 2 During 10:30 a.m. worship on the First Sunday of Advent, the congregation will participate in the "hanging of the greens" by hanging wreaths and adding Chrismons to the tree in the sanctuary. We will remember the meaning behind the decorations, and begin to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

DEACONS' BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY DECEMBER 2 On the first Sunday of December, the loose offering will go to the Deacons' Benevolence Fund for the benefit of Community Action Partnership, a local agency that helps families in our community with clothing, gas, and other needs. Also, donations of non-perishable food for the Moscow Food Bank are always welcome.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Advent begins Dec. 2, and it is the tradition in our church to begin each Sunday worship service with the lighting of the Advent candles. If you and your spouse, family, or a group of friends would like to light candles for worship, **please sign up** on the sheet on the office window as soon as possible. Readings will be provided in advance.

Sundays of the Season

Dec. 2—Hanging of the Greens, Deacons' Benevolence offering for Community Action Partnership

Dec. 9—Communion, College grad recognition

Dec. 16—10:30 worship includes Children's Christmas Play, "The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels"

Dec. 23—10:30 worship, Joy Offering; 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Nursing Home Services

Dec. 30—10:30 worship with carol singing

Jan. 1—10:30 worship; "Gifts" Sunday

Christmas Eve at FPC

All are invited to celebrate Christ's birth at one or both of our Christmas Eve services on December 24th:

5:30 p.m. This family-friendly service will include scripture, carols, and children's time.

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will include scripture, carols, and special music by our Chancel Choir.



January 6 is "Gifts Sunday"

Our Epiphany Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. will include the offering of "gifts" from congregation members in the form of music, poetry, story, dance, or other art forms. If you would like to share your gifts and talents in worship, contact the church office at 208-882-4122 or office@fpcmoscow.org before December 20. Adult classes, Sunday School, and nursery care resume Jan. 6. January communion will be January 13.



News Briefs

FAMILY PROMISE AVENUES FOR HOPE FUNDRAISER THIS MONTH From December 12-31, 2018, Family Promise of the Palouse is looking for 800 people to join together to help end homelessness on the Palouse through the Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge. By donating \$25 or more, you will help Family Promise of the Palouse (FPP) win up to \$20,000 in matching donations from the Home Partner Foundation and other companies. Every dollar donated is multiplied, and provides goods and services to homeless families in need. We transform your dollars; you help transform lives! To partner with FPP in this major fundraising effort, you may go to [@familypromisepalouse](https://www.facebook.com/familypromisepalouse) on Facebook, www.familypromisepalouse.org, or go directly to the Avenues for Hope donation site at <https://www.avenuesforhope.org/organizations/family-promise-of-the-palouse>. All donation are tax deductible.

YEAR-END REMINDER The Finance Team would like to encourage everyone to ensure they have fulfilled their pledges for this year. For tax purposes, in order for your gifts to be counted for 2018, they MUST be received in the church office or put in the offering plate no later than the end of worship on December 30. Contributions received after this deadline will be counted for 2019. If you have questions about the status of your pledge, please contact John Farbo, 208-882-4122.

FPC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available in the narthex. The devotions were prepared by elders, deacons, staff, and Stephen Ministers for our use during Advent. Pick one up in the narthex. Also available is the winter issue of *Our Daily Bread* devotion booklets.

CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will not meet in December, but will pick up again on January 24th.

ANNUAL REPORTS from ministry teams are due in the church office no later than January 14.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TEAM will meet on Sunday afternoon, December 9, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel Room.

FALL GRAD RECOGNITION Congratulations to Lydia Baxter-Potter, Ames Fowler, and Caitlyn Probasco who have been awarded degrees from UI or WSU this summer/fall.

CHRISTMAS NURSING HOME SERVICES All are welcome to help spread some Christmas cheer to the residents of Aspen Park (2 p.m.) and Good Samaritan Village (3 p.m.) on December 23. Join Pastor Norman and our nursing home ministry team as we bring worship, carol singing, and a caring presence to those who can't make it to church.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:30-5:00 in the church library. We have completed over 15 shawls in this new ministry and with joyful hearts have given several shawls to those in need of comfort. If you knit or crochet (or if you would like to learn) please consider joining us in this ministry.



Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Proverbs 3:9a

STEWARDSHIP 2019

Thank you to all who submitted pledges of time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. It's not too late to submit a pledge for 2019. Pledge cards and Time & Talent forms are available in the narthex and church office.

Finance Report



As of October 31, 2018

	October	YTD
Receipts	\$ 18,522	\$ 233,129
Disbursements	\$ 30,718	\$ 246,144
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$ 13,015)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$11,507*

* includes capital campaign funds & pre-paid pledges for 2018 @ \$19,890

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Our Puerto Rico Mission team is forming with enthusiasm and humility. Approximately 25 people have expressed strong interest in going to Puerto Rico during the week of March 9-16 to repair homes, restore spirits and deepen our own compassion for others. In September 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated much of the island and now much work needs to be done to help people regain housing and rebuild their lives.

Most of our team members will be paying for their own way, but we have other volunteers who need help covering trip expenses. Each volunteer has been asked to engage in personal fundraising by contacting family members or by conducting their own projects. Every volunteer is expected to participate in raising funds to contribute to the common good.

We are asking you to be a "member" of this mission team by making a financial commitment to helping others to go on this mission trip.

Here are suggested levels of contributing that reflect the real cost of this mission work.

Sponsor a volunteer	\$2,000.00
Purchase an airline ticket	\$1,000.00
One onsite registration fee	\$700.00
Rent a van	\$500.00
Trip Partner	\$250.00
Trip Supporter	\$100.00



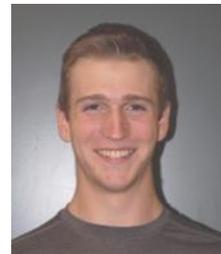
Your gifts or pledges toward this trip in the next couple weeks would be greatly appreciated to enable us to move forward with making airline reservations and completing site registrations. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "P.R. Trip" noted on the memo line. Please contact Pastor Norman, Mary Read or Bruce Pitman for more information or conversation about team needs.

Please prayerfully consider becoming an important member of this mission team.

Deacon's Spotlight

Jasper Wallen grew up in our church and is very fond of the way the church treats its members like a big family. He feels that everyone knows and cares about everyone else.

Jasper has many interesting memories of our church, and one of his most amusing was when he was leading music for VBS and directing the children in a song called "I just want to be a sheep." After singing several verses that go, "I don't want to be a Sadducee, Pharisee," etc., Jasper accidentally started a verse with, "I *don't* want to be a child of God," much to the distress of the lead music director and Jasper himself, once he realized his mistake. Luckily, he noticed before the verse was over and was able to transition the verse into "I just want to be a child of God" as intended so that the children were singing to the congregation correctly again.



Jasper grew up in the countryside outside of Moscow with his "very numerous" family, and he enjoys having a large, caring, and supportive family nearby. He is currently the Campus Ministry Intern for First Presbyterian Church, in addition to being a Sales Associate at Spence Hardware, directing the Palouse Dance Society, and studying Linguistics at the University of Idaho. He loves to dance and explore the outdoors, as well.

Treat Teams for Coffee Fellowship 2019

A big thank you to the 9 coffee fellowship treat teams that have served faithfully in 2018. Our church has been welcoming to new people, and good times of conversation have continued to take place over coffee and snacks after church. Mary Jo Van Gerpen is soliciting feedback from the 2018 teams and a new schedule should be in place by February. January will continue with the present rotation—Teams #2, #3, #4, and #5 will be serving treats in January. If you would like to join a team, form a new team, or have questions, please contact Mary Jo. We are always in need of new team members to supplement some of our smaller teams or better yet, form a new team. Contact info for Mary Jo is 208-883-3768 or maryjovg@yahoo.com



Wednesday Supper Fellowship & Joyful Jars Project

I would like to sincerely thank the over 50 volunteers who assisted in various capacities this fall to make our Wednesday Supper Fellowship evenings a success. November 28th was our last dinner for the year and we had over 60 people in attendance. In addition to the dinner, those in attendance helped to fill over 40 quart jars with dried soup ingredients for the completion of our Joyful Jars Project. Those festively decorated jars were joyously received by the St. Mary's Food Bank and our Pastors Pantry. Thank you Nadine Morton and Marissa Rudley for organizing this event.

Wednesday Supper Fellowship will resume mid January. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity—set up, cooking or clean up—please let me know.

~ Ellen Johansen



Poinsettias

The poinsettias gracing the sanctuary, narthex and chapel room have been lovingly given by:

- Jean Currin (2) – In memory of Roberta & Dan Crimmins and Kenneth Currin
- Barb Hipple and family (2) – In memory of Tom Hipple
- Nate and Trudy Hespelt (1) – In memory of George & Arlene Hespelt
- Andy and Ellen Johansen (3) – In memory of our parents Grace & Maurice Webb and Barbara & Keith Johansen, and Eugene Peterson, pastor and friend
- Nadine Morton (2) – In memory of Ronald Morton and dedicated to Norman Fowler & Helen Brown
- Bruce and Kathy Pitman (2) – In memory of Melvin & Patricia Pitman and Tom & Sammie Evans
- Tom and Janet Richards (10) – For everyone to enjoy
- Sharon Royce (2) – In memory of Chuck Royce and David Spratling
- Jon and Mary Jo Van Gerpen (2) – In memory of Leona Mulholland Whitty and Harlan & Betty Van Gerpen
- Kathy Warren (2) – In memory of Jon Warren, and dedicated to my sons, Ted and Sam Warren and their families
- Lauren Wenny (2) – In memory of Dave Wenny and dedicated to grandson Owen David Shearer



"Gift of the Magi" at University of Idaho

I am directing the music for a short play called The Gift of the Magi this year. Most of you know this story—it portrays selflessness and generosity in a warm Christmas setting. The cast is wonderfully talented and I am so proud of my small music ensemble for the work that they've done.

Showtimes are. 6:30pm - November 30, December 1, 7, & 8
8:30pm - November 30, December 1 & 8
12:00pm - December 1 & 9 (matinees)

All shows take place in the Forge Theater, 404 Sweet Avenue, in the annex building across the street from the Transportation Center. Musical entertainment by various groups begins in the lobby 30 minutes prior to each show. Tickets are \$5-15 for evening showings, and the matinees are pay-what-you-can. Hope to see you there!

~ Megan Rich, FPC pianist

Community Christmas Festival Dec. 1 & 2

at LDS Church, 2600 W. A St. (behind Walmart), Moscow—all events free!



Nativities Around the World (December 1 & 2). See hundreds of nativities on display at the 12th annual Nativities Around the World, now part of the Community Christmas Festival. Live music, activities for children, and an opportunity to dress up in nativity costumes for a free holiday photo enable the whole family to experience the magic of a Christ-centered Christmas.

Live Nativity: How Far to Bethlehem (December 1) Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at this annual community living nativity. How Far to Bethlehem is a living portrayal of Christ's birth as recorded in the New Testament. This 15-minute performance repeats every half hour beginning at 12:30pm with the last performance starting at 7:00pm.

Community Christmas Festival Concert (Dec 2) Bell choir, barbershop chorus and other musical groups from our Palouse community, including the Chancel Choir from First Presbyterian Church! Join us for this stunning and moving multi-denominational concert on the final evening of the Community Christmas Festival.

Find more community Christmas Events at PalouseChristmas.org

Financial Peace University Coming to Pullman

What if you could be debt-free and prepared for life's emergencies, all while investing for retirement and planning for your family's future? Sound impossible? It's not! With Dave Ramsey's updated class, Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money. We're offering it at Pullman Presbyterian Church starting January 5th. Join us for this nine week course and learn how to win with money! Start the year off right by changing your life!

When: Saturdays 9:30-11:30am, January 5th – March 2nd

Where: Pullman Presbyterian Church, 1630 NE Stadium Way (Park in back lot)

Cost: \$109

Register: <http://fpu.com/1077194>

Contact: Erin Nelson at erina_nelson@hotmail.com or (509)993-4167 with any questions, scholarship information, or requests for childcare.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Christmas is an interesting time in Family Ministry. On one hand, things are ramping up. Christmas parties and pageants are dotting a busy calendar. On the other hand, as the school year settles into a break, so does Sunday School and Youth Group. I am excited for the ways that Advent and Christmas encourage conversation and ritual in the home. I hope that Family Ministry is able to help families prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Youth Events:

This Spring the Youth will again be participating in the **30 Hour Famine**, raising money to support World Vision's efforts to impact global food shortages. Youth will be seeking donations!

The Youth will end 2018's Youth Groups with a **Christmas party** on December 12. Youth Groups will resume January 9th.

Family Events:

Illustrated Children's Advent Sheets: A couple of cool new resources we will be using this year are beautiful coloring sheets that are meant to be shared intergenerationally. First, families are invited to pick up a paper advent wreath kit to color and assemble at home. It comes with a weekly liturgy. Then, every Sunday in Advent will have a VERY large Advent coloring sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. It will be moved into the Library after service so everyone can work on them together. The completed sheets will be displayed in the narthex. Please work together; kids, youth, parents and congregants, to make these a beautiful reminder of our season of hopeful anticipation.

Christmas Pageant: "The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels" will be presented to the congregation in worship on Dec. 16. You can read more about this original play by Sydney Craft Rozen on Page 2 of this newsletter. Join me in thanking Sydney for her annual service to our church and community.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who purchased **Christmas Wreaths**, raising money for youth mission and camperships. We will contact you when the wreaths arrive.

Thank you to all who donated money to help cover the cost of more kids coming to **FOON**.

Thank you to **Donan and Helen** for teaching Sunday School every week.
Thank you to **Harper, Caitlyn and Simon** for helping with Youth Group.
Thank you to countless others who bake snacks, bring soda, and help provide for this ministry.



DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10a InterVarsity workshop? 11a Helen Stormo memorial service 2p Advent prep & decorating
2 ADVENT I 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Hanging of the Greens 7p Community Christmas festival at LDS	3 6:30p staff party 7p Boy Scouts	4 8-3:30 MCC 7p Service of Remembrance	5 11a Bible Study 5:15p Play practice 5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	6 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team	7	8 10a InterVarsity workshop
9 ADVENT II	10	11	12	13	14	15
FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK —>						
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Communion & grad recognition 4p Mission trip mtg	6p Joint Session/Deacons/Staff dinner mtg 7p Boy Scouts (upstairs)	8-3:30 MCC	11a Bible Study 5:15p Play practice 5:30p Taizé 6:30p Youth party 7p Choir	6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team		10:30a-noon Pageant dress rehearsal
16 ADVENT III 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Christmas Pageant	17 7p Boy Scouts	18 3:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30p Stephen Ministers	19 11a Bible Study 5:30p Taizé 7p Choir	20 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team	21	22
23 ADVENT IV 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Christmas Joy Offering 2p Nursing Homes	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30p Family Service 9:00p Service of Lessons and Carols	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27	28	29
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED —>						
30 10:30a Worship—Carol singing	31 NEW YEARS EVE					
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED —>						

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season?

Do the holidays create stress or sadness rather than joy?

In recognition of the challenges you may be facing, you are invited to attend an inter-denominational

Service of Remembrance

Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Moscow First Presbyterian Church

Hope and comfort will be offered through special music, scripture, prayer, remembering, and a time for fellowship and refreshments. Stephen Ministers will be available for those who would like someone to talk to or pray with. For more information, call 208-882-4122.



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Please prayerfully consider giving a gift to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Christmas Joy Offering which is dedicated to the care of retired church workers who are in need and to aspiring ministry leaders who need support to complete their education. Our contribution will be added to other gifts from around the nation to support our faith leaders who have loved us and to prepare the next generation who lead our Church.

The Joy Offering will be taken on December 23rd, but gifts will be welcomed throughout Advent. Thank you for your generous support of the Special Offerings that are promoted by the Presbyterian Church USA throughout the year.



First
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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