



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

FROM THE



PASTOR

I hope your New Year is starting off on the right foot, though I also know that this marker is just that—a marker. Time flows without respect to our markers, and another day dawns and evening comes and soon we pass into a new day once more. While taking a moment to reflect on the nature of the past year or so is useful to us, it does not change the flow of time. This reflection may change us, however. Just as we celebrate the coming of God into space and time in the form of a baby, we are invited to notice how that child, the Son of God, changes the events in time, and may change us.

When Jesus begins his ministry, he does not claim he has changed the nature of our existence. He instead invites us to follow him and discover how following him changes our life's path. Sometimes we think of change as being so different than what came before it, it is almost as if the old way of being is destroyed in favor of the new way. Jesus, however, does not claim his ministry is a disjunction, rather in Matthew 5:17 he says it this way: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." He comes to extend the mercy of God again and to show the grace of God anew as he speaks of the Good News and heals folks who come to him.

So even as the birth is a new event, even as our coming to trust in Jesus rather than the world can be a new event, the event is built on what went before. Coming to Jesus and following him changes our lives, but more in terms of our direction than all the history and events in motion around us. I often think of the birth of Jesus as similar to the birth of faith. Each Christmas we revisit the birth of Jesus and, in some ways, the birth of our own faith. We remember that energized time of growth and look to what this life of following Jesus means.

As we begin the New Year and begin to think again about the nature of following Jesus, I plan to reflect on the core directions of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments — how they are reflected in the New Testament texts and how they can be

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

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translated into our lives today as we follow Jesus. We have Katie Stark, our Missional Expediter from the Presbytery, here on Sunday, January 13th, to remind us of taking the journey into new territory through our trust in God. I believe the trip through the Ten Commandments and beyond will help us see how this territory is mapped out, and the disconnect between God's way and the way of the world.

We are fortunate to be on this journey together, this journey of faith enabled through God's grace. That companionship is invaluable. Thanks for taking this journey, for following Jesus together in our worship, study, fellowship, service and other activities. Speaking of which, our Sunday School classes and Bible project gatherings will be starting up this week and in the weeks following. Taizé and Wednesday supper start on January 23, while choir and youth group start again this week (January 9) on Wednesday nights.

I hope that you found blessings in the holiday season, and that our commitment to Christ is reborn as we enter this New Year.

Grace and peace,
Norman

Presbytery's Missional Expediter to Visit Moscow FPC

On Sunday, January 13, Katie Stark, who is the Missional Expediter for the Presbytery, will be offering the message in worship. An expediter is one employed to ensure the steady progress to completion or the efficient move of materials, orders, etc. Katie is here to help us notice that God is not contained within our church walls and to help us look for God in our neighborhoods and community.

Part of the process is taking time for story-telling and reflection on what God is up to and how we are partnering with God. Charting a missional course is to quit asking church-centered questions and start asking God-centered questions. It is about identity, about who we are, about living our whole lives in the context of God's presence and work in the world. The missional expectation is that we experience God at work through mutually transformative relationships. During our service, Katie will speak to our call to be part of this process.



Following worship, Katie will also be offering a conversation about discerning the Holy Spirit, recognizing that many Presbyterians are less familiar with the Holy Spirit and have a lot of questions like:

- How do we know what the Holy Spirit's voice sounds like?
- How do we know it's the Holy Spirit and not our own voice?
- What are ways that we can listen for God's voice (practices)?

After discussing the Holy Spirit (and our Presbyterian theology) Katie will lead the class through a couple of prayer practices that teach us to listen (when practiced regularly). Please consider staying after worship for this conversation with Katie.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon Sunday, January 27, following worship

Immediately following worship (approximately 11:40 a.m.) in the sanctuary on January 27, 2019, we will convene

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The agenda for the congregational meeting will include review of annual reports, presentation of the budget, election of elders and deacons, and approval of the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2019.



The Annual Corporation Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Moscow

The meeting of the Corporation will include a review of corporation business and introduction of officers for 2019.

The Annual Meeting of Lael, Inc.

The Lael meeting will include a review of the annual report and election of Board members.

At the conclusion of the meeting (approximately 12:15 p.m.), we will adjourn to Fellowship Hall for lunch and fellowship. All are invited to this annual feast! Celebrated Chef John Farbo will once again prepare his delicious tri-tip and pork loin roasts, and we will supply potluck side dishes to go with the main course. Beverages and table service will be provided.

Please bring a potluck dish to share. The fellowship team suggests the following (according to first letter of last name):

A-H Fruit or Desserts J-Z Vegetables, Salads, and Appetizers

Join us after worship for the annual meeting/luncheon!
Good food, good times, and good folks to share it with!

Stephen Ministry to Host Presentation on Mental Health

Stephen Ministry of Moscow First Presbyterian Church invites you to a presentation entitled "Depression, Anxiety, and Other Mood Disorders" on Tuesday evening, January 22 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Chapel Room of the church. The presentation, which will include time for questions and answers, will be made by psychiatric nurse practitioner Deborah Blazzard of Palouse Psychiatry in Pullman.



Ms. Blazzard is a board certified psychiatric nurse practitioner, who was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. After graduating from Lewis-Clark State College with a degree in Nursing, she entered the University of South Alabama where she received her Master's Degree in 2011. Her psychiatric repertoire includes general adult psychiatry, anxiety and mood disorders, depression, and she has a special interest in child and adolescent psychiatry. She believes that every human being is unique and created for a purpose: body, mind and spirit. Her experiences have taught her the importance of treating the individual as a whole and that sound mental health and success in life come from hard work, perseverance, and being kind to others.

Please join us for this presentation, the topic of which affects individuals and families in more ways than we realize. Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbors, as well.

News Briefs

TAIZÉ WORSHIP returns on January 23. Taizé is a quiet service of scripture, prayer, and song offered each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel Room. All are invited to this informal 30-minute mid-week service. Bring your friends and plan to stay for Wednesday Supper Fellowship.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER FELLOWSHIP Our popular Wednesday Suppers also return on January 23. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are appreciated. All are welcome to take a break from cooking and drop by for a hot homemade meal. January 23 will feature chili, cornbread, salad and ice cream. A potato bar with salad and dessert is scheduled for January 30. See you there!



CAROL RENFREW CIRCLE will resume monthly meetings for Bible study and fellowship on Thursday, January 24, at 1:30 in the Chapel Room. Nadine Morton will lead Lesson Seven in *Cloud of Witnesses, the Community of Christ in Hebrews*. This month's chapter, *In Community with the Hope of the Future*, will look specifically at the passages: *Hebrews 11:1-3; 3:1-19; Psalm 95; Hebrews 4:1-11; and 6:9-12*. Sally Amador will be hostess. All women are invited to attend.

MLK INTERFAITH CELEBRATION Everyone is invited to the annual Martin Luther King interfaith service, celebration, and fellowship at 4 pm Sunday, January 20, 2019, as we pray together and reflect upon the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. The group *God's Harmony* will sing. This annual celebration, part of the extended local MLK celebration events, is at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, (440 NE Ash St., Pullman). The interfaith service is followed by a free meal. Please bring a dessert to share.

Finance Report

We ended the year receiving 87% of our pledged income. We had budgeted pledges of \$209,000 but as of December 31, received \$182,741. This means we have a pledge shortfall of \$27,170. Actual disbursements for missions, salaries, and general expenses were \$294,249, slightly under the budgeted expenses of \$296,520 and slightly over the budgeted income of \$292,500. The actual income for 2018 was \$273,491. This means that we had a deficit of \$20,758 for 2018, which leaves us going into 2019 running behind.

While you can not get tax benefits in 2018, the church financial situation would benefit greatly if you are able to fulfill your pledge for 2018 if you have not done so. For those who fulfilled your pledge or who did not make a pledge, please consider giving an additional gift to get our church off to a good start in 2019. Any gifts you give will be tax deductible in 2019, though the new tax law has changed the formulae for how helpful that gift is on your taxes. (Consultant an accountant for how it effects you and your giving.) Whatever additional giving you can provide would be very helpful for the ministry and mission of our church as we move forward into 2019.

Thank you to all who pledged to support our church in 2019. If you didn't have an opportunity to pledge and would like to do so, please contact the church office for a pledge card.

Year-End Financial Highlights



As of December 31, 2018

	December	YTD
Receipts	\$ 18,168	\$ 273,491
Disbursements	\$ 23,188	\$ 294,249
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$20,758)
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$38,306

Please Join Us! Presbytery Summit - February 2nd, 2019

When the presbytery gathers in February, we'll participate in the Blanket Exercise, an interactive learning experience that teaches the Indigenous rights history rarely taught in our schools. Participants take on the roles of Native Americans. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. They are directed by facilitators representing a narrator and the European colonizers. Participants are drawn into the experience by carrying cards which ultimately determine their outcomes. By engaging on an emotional and intellectual level, the Blanket Exercise effectively educates and increases understanding. This exercise is followed by a reflection during which we will have the opportunity to discuss the experience as a group.

The Blanket Exercise will be part of the Presbytery Summit (our new name for our quarterly gatherings) on February 2nd at First Presbyterian Church of CDA. ALL congregation members are invited - not just pastors and elder commissioners. We'll worship at 9:30 a.m. and then take part in the Blanket Exercise. In the afternoon we will attend to our business together which includes General Assembly overtures and Presbytery policy changes. Please register if you plan to attend (www.presbyteryinw.org).

Deacons' Spotlight

Julie Hopper was born in a Walla Walla hospital; her family actually lived in Touchet, Washington. She has lived in little towns most of her growing up years: small towns in Washington, California, and Oregon. Her father is a retired pastor, who served in many small communities and small churches.

After completing high school, Julie attended Western Baptist College in Salem, Oregon. She graduated with a bachelors degree in psychology. She also met her future husband,



Brian. They were married after Julie graduated, and lived in western Oregon for about 10 years. Brian had continued his studies, earning a doctorate degree. They moved to Moscow when Brian got a position at UI. They have 3 children: Adelia, Rowan, and Myrtle. Julie's family is blessed in a very special way; her parents live next door!

Julie has held several part-time positions, including administering tests at UI. Most recently she worked at the dairy at Mary Jane's Farm for 3 ½ years. Their family loves animals, and they have enough land to have a variety of animals, and fowl. Brian actually prefers plants, which need to be protected from chickens and wayward sheep. Julie enjoys activities which include baking, reading, tending the animals; things that can be enjoyed with her husband and children at their own home.

About 7 years ago, Julie started attending a women's bible study at FPC. Her children enjoyed being in plays and other children's activities at FPC. I asked Julie, "Who inspires you?" She immediately said Bruce and Kathy Pitman, because they do so much for other people. Bruce and Julie were the leaders at a 2-day retreat a couple of years ago at Lael.

~ Submitted by Deacon Linda Fleener

Puerto Rico Mission Trip Update

Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico in September 2017. Millions of people were left without electricity, with limited access to clean water, and with damaged homes. While supplies and assistance have been arriving at the island since the hurricane, help will be needed for years to come to rebuild Puerto Rico.



Moscow First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a work team that will travel to Puerto Rico March 8-16 to assist in relief and recovery through home repair and roofing, debris clearing and residential cleanup, delivering supplies, and providing a ministry of presence. Planning for this intergenerational and interdenominational trip is well underway.

We are working through Group International Mission Trips, a non-profit organization with over 15 years of experience facilitating mission trips with meaningful service to communities throughout the world.

Most of our team members will be paying for their own way, but we have other volunteers who need help covering trip expenses. Every volunteer is expected to participate in raising funds to contribute to the common good. Each volunteer has been asked to engage in personal fundraising by contacting family members or by conducting their own projects. In addition, a fundraising event is being planned for February. Watch for details in upcoming bulletin announcements and in the February *News & Views*.

If you have questions about the trip and ways you might help, please contact Pastor Norman, Mary Read, or Bruce Pitman for more information or conversation about team needs.



Plans Underway for Scout Troop 333 for Girls

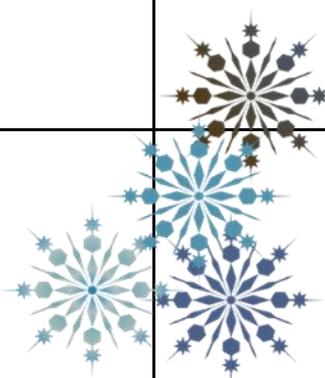
First Presbyterian Church has chartered at least one Boy Scout Troop since 1923. With the decision by BSA to open its scouting program to girls, First Presbyterian will also charter a girls' troop beginning February 1. Plans for the new troop have been developing over the course of the past few months, and we are pleased to offer this opportunity to all girls in our area.

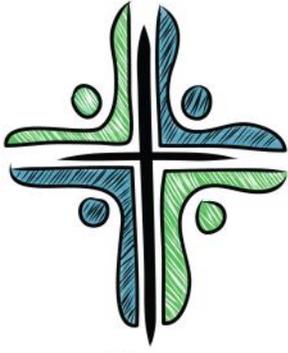
Scouts BSA is a year-round program for boys and girls in fifth grade through high school that provides fun, adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility to help them experience personal growth through community service, leadership opportunities, merit badge work, and rank advancement.



Organizational meetings will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays January 15, 22, and 29 in the Fellowship Hall of Moscow First Presbyterian Church. Come learn more about the new girls' troop. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Shelly Hanks at shellyhanks@msn.com.

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED						
6 EPIPHANY 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Gifts Sunday	7 JANUARY N&V DEADLINE 7p Scout T344 (boys' troop)	8 6:30p Stephen Ministers	9 10a Undecorating Party 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	10 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team 5:30p Lael Board	11 6:30p MCC in Fellowship Hall	12
13 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship—Communion; guest speaker Katie Stark, missional expediter 11:45a Workshop with Katie Stark	14 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE 7p Scout T344 (boys' troop) (Court of Honor)	15 8-3:30 MCC 3:30p Prayer Shawl Min. 7p Scout T333 (girls' troop) organizational meeting	16 6:30p Youth group 7p Choir	17 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team	18 5p wedding rehearsal and dinner	19 11a Erickson/ Evans Wedding
20 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	21 7p Deacons 7p Scout T344 (boys' troop)	22 8-3:30 MCC 6:30p Stephen Ministers 7p Scout T333 (girls' troop) organizational meeting	23 5:30p Taizé worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir 7p T344 Committee	24 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 1:30p Circle 5:30p Praise Team	25	26
27 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:40a Annual mtg. 12:15p Luncheon	28 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7p Session 7p Scout T344 (boys' troop)	29 8-3:30 MCC 7p Scout T333 (girls' troop) organizational meeting	30 5:30p Taizé worship 6p Supper Fellowship 6:30p Youth Group 7p Choir	31 6:30a Men's Group Noon – FOON 5:30p Praise Team		



First
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Church

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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