



First
Presbyterian
Church

MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views



The world around us feels unsettled and full of uncertainties. The war in Ukraine continues unabated and the horror of the conflict continues to tear up people’s lives and haunt the rest of us. We have fires burning in the West already, and it is not even summer. We continue to have political divides that threaten to rise again to levels of real violence. The pandemic has left us reeling and we are not quite sure it’s done disrupting our lives. And we could go on.

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Amid all of this, we celebrate Easter and the Easter season, which lasts until Pentecost on June 5th. As I look again at the events of Jesus’ day, the resurrection and the days that followed, I see a world that was in at least as much turmoil as our own. Jesus’ resurrection does change the trajectory of the Jewish nation toward its own destruction, about 30 years after Jesus’ ascension. Jesus’ followers experience being dismissed, derided, and persecuted. Yet, they trust in the work of God among them in Jesus, the teachings they learned from Jesus, and the gift of grace from Jesus. They find Jesus is good news to them in the midst of the tumult.

Through their trust in Jesus, their experience of grace, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, the followers of Jesus persisted. As they began to live as those caring for their neighbors, courageously living in peace across ethnic, historic, and religious differences, the followers of Jesus changed their world. And, I believe, the faith of those followers over the last two thousand years has changed our world. We were given a foundation for life together that includes empathy, care for others, honesty, kindness, and the list goes on. The very way of Jesus became part of the ethical and moral considerations of our society.

These foundations seem at risk today. Even the Ten Commandments—the minimal prohibitions against violence to another (murder), taking another’s things (theft), lying about someone else/slander (false witness), and desiring what another has (coveting)—seem to be set aside in our public discourse. Jesus’ teaching that we love one another seems diminished. So, Jesus’ message seems needed today and the transformational power of faith is ever relevant.

Easter seems a wonderful time to remember that God’s will, way, and word continue to offer us a vision and possibility of new life. In this new life, we might live together in peace. And, even if the world

Continued on Page 2...



Begins May 29
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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

at large is not responding to God's surprising gift of redeeming, reconciling love, the followers of Jesus today find encouragement in remembering the resurrection and the first followers of Jesus braving their times. We, too, may follow Jesus and live differently than the world in which we live.

In our larger life issues or in the smaller changes of our lives, God is with us. So not only in our attempt to follow Christ in general, but as we strive to be caring family of faith growing in Christ, we can be thankful for God leading us. As I prepare for a few months on Sabbatical, I am thankful for a confidence in God with us – whether here in Moscow or on my sabbatical travels.

I will be in Virginia for most of June as my daughter Jessa gives birth to her second child, and then I will travel to London for the month of July. There I will be with my other daughter Micah as she gives birth to her first child. The sabbatical will also include study and spiritual practices designed to help me return refreshed and renewed for ministry. I will keep our church family in my prayers and ask you to keep me and my immediate family in yours.

I am also thankful for God seems to have enabled us to find a very suitable temporary summer pastor to fill in while I am gone. We are only asking about 10 hours a week of the pastor's time to help facilitate the continued ministry of our church. The session has extended a call to Reverend Doctor Fritz Ritsch. Pastor Fritz is leaving the Presbyterian church he has served in Fort Worth, TX for the last 18 years in order to join his wife, who is teaching at WSU. We are fortunate enough to be needing pastoral leadership just as he is arriving on the Palouse. I give thanks to God for such a fortuitous circumstance. While Presbytery still needs to sign off on this arrangement, we expect that Rev. Ritsch will start on June 1st and be with us in Moscow through the summer. Look for more information further on in this newsletter from the Personnel committee.

Friends, remember God is good and present in our lives through the grace and peace of Christ.

Norman



**Starting May 29
worship time
will change to
9:30 a.m.**

Summer schedule is in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, September 4.

Our regular 10:30 a.m. worship time will return on September 11.

Finance Report

As of March 31, 2022

	March	YTD
Receipts	\$ 28,105	\$ 113,263
Disbursements	\$ 30,178	\$ 83,253
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 30,010
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$94,542*

* Includes pre-paid pledges for 2022 of \$41,300 which were paid in 2021.



Deacon's Spotlight

The Deacon's Spotlight for May is shining on **John Farbo**, church member since 1982, and presently serving in his 15th year as FPC Financial Secretary—a calling he took on after he retired in 2007. Hear how John has generously used his skills and talents to serve others.

With a childhood divided between Great Falls, Montana and Seattle, where his father worked for Boeing, John and his sister got a taste of both rural and big city life. When John was a junior in high school, his father's work moved the family across the country to Louisiana where Boeing's work building the Saturn V Apollo rocket was taking place. In New Orleans, John and his family were introduced to many new cultures. He discovered a variety of wonderful cuisines and new music. John loved the creole cooking and the fabulous jazz music of this multicultural city.

John pursued a degree in business economics at Louisiana State University and added to his skill set. His graduate studies were interrupted in the '70's with the threat of the draft. John wisely chose to enlist in the Air Force. During his training months, he volunteered to serve as Chaplain for the men in his company. He recalled that Psalm 23:4 was his "go to" scripture throughout his military service. He trained as a navigator, then the Air Force assigned him to serve as a Minute Man missile launch officer at Malmstrom AFB near Great Falls, Montana, where he spent 5 ½ years perpetually on alert and earned the rank of Captain.

After John left active duty, he joined the reserves and moved to Olympia, where he worked for the WA State Auditor's Office for 5 or 6 years. In mid-May of 1980, John interviewed for a position at the University of Idaho. Returning home on a Saturday, he awoke the next morning to the sounds and sights of Mount St. Helen erupting, all visible from his home! Due to that unexpected event, it took 3 weeks before the UI offered him the position. John accepted that offer and served the university as its Director of Auditing Services for 27 years.



John and his family moved to Moscow in July 1980. They built a house on Appaloosa Drive in a new Moscow subdivision. John joined the church in 1982 during Rev. Bob Slater's pastorate. Softball was popular then, and the church had a competitive softball team of its own. There were two pitchers on the Presbyterian team - John Farbo was one and Kim Hooper (daughter of Bill and Barbara Stellmon) was the other. Through softball games and church activities their friendship grew and blossomed. In the summer of '87 John and Kim were married in the chapel at Lael - a happy merger of their two families. John became a member of the Lael Board and served as its Treasurer. He accepted church leadership positions, serving as an Elder for 8 years and sharing responsibilities for church maintenance on the Facilities Committee. John proudly remembers his work chairing the fundraiser to enable the purchase of cushions for the sanctuary pews. He was involved in all stages of this project: planning, ordering and even installing the handsome blue upholstered cushions. All who now enjoy comfortable seating in the sanctuary can be grateful to John.

John's love of cooking is well-known to many. When Verna Bergmann proposed the first series of Wednesday Supper Fellowship Dinners, John thought it a great idea and volunteered to help get them started. He became a favorite chef and cooked not only for the mid-week suppers, but also prepared the entrée course for Stewardship Sunday Dinners for many years. Many of you may recall how we were blessed with his delicious roast beef and pork entrees. All of us were so proud when John's pulled-pork sliders and smoked salmon chowder won the People's Choice award at the Family Promise Cook-off Fundraiser and our church took home the trophy two years in a row! What a blessing to have John sharing his passion for cooking with us.

Thank you, John, for the many notable ways you have contributed your time and talents to our church.

~ Susan Billin, Deacon

“And I Will Give You Rest”

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” ~Mt 11:28-29

Over the past two years, we have received extra measures of care, prayer, shepherding, and Christian love from Pastor Norman. From the early rumblings of the pandemic, through our first year of streamed worship during the shutdown, and the second year of ongoing uncertainty and constant change, our shepherd steadily attended to the needs of this community.

The Personnel Committee approached Pastor Norman early this year to discuss the possibility of a sabbatical. The prospect of an extended time for rest, study, and sustained time with his family was welcomed by Norman with grace and thanksgiving.

Norman recently received good news that the PC(USA) Board of Pensions (BOP) awarded a \$4,000 grant toward a well-deserved “Sabbath Sabbatical” for the period of May 25-August 15. His condensed statement of purpose for the sabbatical is “to provide for renewal and regeneration of vision and vitality of my faith and of my leadership in the church.”

With thanksgiving and appreciation for Pastor Norman’s ongoing leadership and faithfulness, we invite you to make a designated financial gift toward the \$3,500 needed to round out the \$13,800 sabbatical budget approved by Session. In addition to direct sabbatical expenses, the budget includes providing for temporary pastoral leadership in Norman’s absence. The BOP grant, added to Pastor Norman’s Continuing Education and Study funds will cover about 75 percent of the projected expenses.

We also invite you to contribute your prayers and encouragement for Norman during this time of restoration and as we all look forward to new insights and his continued ministry.

To make a financial gift, we can place a check or cash in the offering plate designated for “Pastor Sabbatical”. As with all our offerings, we can also contribute online through [Tithely](#), or mail your gift to Moscow FPC, 405 S. Van Buren, Moscow, Idaho, 83843.

Thank you for supporting Pastor Norman’s leadership and compassionate care of Moscow First Presbyterian Church through any or all of these opportunities.

In Christ,
MFPC Personnel Committee

Welcome Reverend Ritsch!

At the end of this month, we will welcome Reverend Frederick “Fritz” Ritsch to serve as Temporary Pastor for our church family while Pastor Norman is on sabbatical this summer. Dr. Ritsch is relocating to the Moscow area from Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as Pastor/Head of Staff at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church over the last 18 years. He previously served Presbyterian churches in Bethesda, Maryland and Wilmington, Delaware and a rural church and a small inner-city church in Virginia. In addition to his theological and ministerial education, Fritz has a broad foundation of specialized training in many areas including mental health, counseling, faith-based community organizing, spiritual leadership, mediation, and NEXT Church.



Rev. Frederick Ritsch

As we spoke with Dr. Ritsch, we noticed similarities in community service interests, particularly in regard to addressing food and housing insecurity. In Fort Worth, he co-founded the Circle of

Continued on Page 5...

Rev. Ritsch *...continued from Page 4*

Clergy, an interracial, interfaith clergy group dedicated to social justice and racial unity.

Dr. Ritsch will provide pastoral leadership and serve as head of staff during Pastor Norman's sabbatical. He will preside over communions and will deliver the sermon some of the Sundays this summer. We will also have a number of guest preachers.

Fritz is married to Dr. Margaret Ritsch, who is a Scholarly Assistant Professor at the Edward R. Murrow College of Education at Washington State University. They have two adult children. Please join us in welcoming them to the Moscow FPC community.

News Briefs

LANDSCAPE FUND

Please help us complete the "Patio Project"! It took many man hours to remove the huge juniper shrub (including trunk and roots) that was covering the hillside to the right of the front entrance. Dan Crimmins drew up a plan to install a short retaining wall and make a level space for a patio area. The Garden Group envisions a small patio table and chairs to invite us to take a break, snack, meditate or visit. The initial bid was for \$3400 but we plan to get other bids. We need your donations to the Landscape Fund to make this happen this summer. If you have questions, contact Sally Amador or Dan Crimmins. Mark your envelope or [Tithely](#) for "Landscape Fund".

2022 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS READY

New directories are currently available in the church office. To request a copy to be mailed to you, call or email the church office at office@fpcmoscow.org.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE PROJECT

With the approach of summer, the women's Bible Project group has concluded for this semester. We will resume our study of Acts on September 8. All women are invited to join us in the fall.

TAIZÉ CONTINUES THROUGH MAY 12

May 12 will be the last Taizé service of spring. Thank you to Pastor Norman and Music Minister Thomas Pearson for leading these candlelit times of prayer and worship each Thursday. Watch for announcements about the return of Taizé worship in the fall.

May Deacons' Benevolence Offering

The Deacons have chosen Sojourners' Alliance for their May Benevolence Offering. Its brochure states: "Sojourners' offers transitional and affordable housing for homeless men, women, and families. Transitional housing differs from emergency shelter in that participants can stay up to 6 months. After the 6 months, continuation of the program is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, allowing those who need it the extra time to get back on their feet.



"Participants are required to attend weekly case management meetings. Through these meetings participants take a hard look at the root causes that led to their being homeless. Often these meetings involve conversations about career goals, money management, and debt reduction. Sojourners also offers counseling services, and referrals to other professionals and agencies as needed."

Our congregation's donations will help with various needs such as hygiene products and new sheets and pillows, which Sojourners' provides for each new resident. Please remember Sojourners' Alliance for the month of May. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with *Sojourners' Alliance* on the memo line. Thank you!

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.

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,... to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). These comforting words reminded the Israelites that, despite their experience of the present, God's plans for them—and for us—are peaceful, abundant and hopeful. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect young people with God's hope and future.

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 13 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 in and share 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. The offering will be dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 5.



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Hooray for May! Here we are, enjoying spring on the Palouse. I'm more appreciative than usual after the "Second Winter" we had over Holy Week. It was really quite great to contrast the joy and light of Easter with the week of snow preceding it. The bright spring sunlight was especially pretty on the snow covered trees on the way to Lael for the Easter Sunrise Service.

Both Easter services capped off a great Holy Week. I felt like I enjoyed Holy Week because the Saturday before Palm Sunday we had a great workday at Lael. For me, that folded into the entire experience. The workday fulfilled my hopes for a multigenerational service opportunity. Folks from 9 to 80+ participated in a variety of activities including trail clearing, post removal and resetting, building maintenance and cleaning. With perfect timing, the wildest snow flurries of the day hit while we were indoors enjoying sack lunches and conversation. In addition, if you want to know a conversation stopping example for a game of "Would you rather...," just ask me!



Besides the extra services that blessed our entire church community, Holy Week offered a couple of special activities specifically for Family Ministry. This was the first time since 2019 we had kids waving palms in a procession through the sanctuary for Palm Sunday, and they did a great job. On Wednesday, April 13, we had a youth group event that offered food and fun, as well as a look at the story of Holy Week and Easter. Harper is such a great partner for youth gatherings, and I'm amazed how much fun we all had over silly activities, even including a plastic egg "snowball" fight. I did not expect empty plastic eggs to sting when they hit...

Saturday, April 16, we had an Egg Hunt for elementary and younger kids. We kicked it off with baking empty tomb pastries and a little free play before going outside for the egg hunt. It was chilly outside, but considering the wind blown snow that came that afternoon, we were blessed with great morning weather! When we went back into the warm building, everyone shared pastries and we kicked off a round of Easter themed games. I particularly enjoyed the way the kids included one another in the free play games they created for themselves between the more organized activities. The other great thing about their creative and cooperative play was that it gave the adults time to chat and connect with one another.

May is a transitional month in our community. The university semester ends and the K-12 kids have their last full month of school. This means May is also our last full month of FOON, and it comes as FOON participation explodes. Word of mouth seems to have reached a critical level, and we are seeing new faces each week. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations for pizza, pop, and cookies. I wish you could see the happy high school kids each Wednesday.

We are also planning a youth group meeting for May 25, the last before school lets out. Keep your eyes open for more details about this get together in the bulletin soon.

And with school getting out, we know that VBS is coming! Vacation Bible School week will be

Family Ministry *(continued from previous page)*

June 20-24. Our theme this year is *Passport to Peace*, and that is certainly a timely message for all of us. If all goes well, our June dates will offer decent outdoor temperatures and a lack of the smoke that would be more likely later in the summer. Please see the article below for more VBS details and chances to serve and contribute this June. Our VBS program will be open for kids from age 4 through rising 5th graders. I would also love to involve middle school kids in leadership activities.

I want to thank all the members of our church family for your care and support of Family Ministry. I talk a lot about the Kingdom of God in our children's church time, a Kingdom of love, kindness and goodness. Jesus invites us all to participate in living this out, and through your interest and input in kids and families, God's invisible Kingdom is growing through our church.

~Julie

Vacation Bible School Next Month!

Save the date and plan to join us for VBS!

Location: First Presbyterian Church
 Dates: June 20-24
 Time: 9:00-11:30 a.m.
 Ages: 4 years through entering 5th Grade

For more information, contact Julie Hopper.
 She can be reached at
familyministryjulie@gmail.com or 208-882-0700.



You're invited to help!

We need volunteers to make VBS a success! There are many tasks to do before, during, and after VBS. Take a look at the following needs and prayerfully consider how you can support the children of this congregation and the local community. Contact Julie by May 24 at the email or phone number above and let her know what you're interested in helping with, and she will get back to you with more information. Thank you!

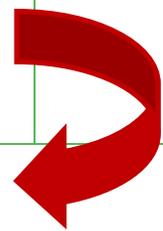
- Small Group Leader
- Worship Leader
- Drama Leader
- Drama participant
- Music Leader
- Technology Coordinator
- Bible Beach Leader (Bible)
- Creator's Canyon Leader (art/science activities)
- Move-It Mountain Leader (games)
- Donate supplies or snacks
- Decorate
- Prepare snacks
- Prepare arts and crafts
- Setup
- Cleanup
- Publicity/photography
- Help as needed



May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Sunday Worship and Children's Sunday School 1:30p FNB Community Meal Prep	2	3 6:30p Scouts BSA Troop 333 (girls) and Tropp 344 (boys) Noon—Tuesday Sisters Group @FPC 6:30p Stephen Min.	4 10:30a Men's Bible Project via Zoom 12p FOON	5 5:30p Taizé 6p Praise Team	6	7
8  10:30 am Sunday Worship and Children's Church 1:30p FNB Community Meal Prep	9	10 6:30p Scouts BSA Troop 333 (girls) and Tropp 344 (boys) Noon—Tuesday Sisters Group @FPC	11 10:30a Men's Bible Project via Zoom 12p FOON	12 5:30p Taizé (last) 6p Praise Team 6:30p MCC Awards Ceremony (FH)	13	14 
15 10:30 am Sunday Worship and Children's Church 1:30p FNB Community Meal Prep	16 7p Deacons	17 6:30p Scouts BSA Troop 333 (girls) and Tropp 344 (boys) Noon—Tuesday Sisters Group @FPC 6:30p Stephen Min.	18 10:30a Men's Bible Project via Zoom 12p FOON	19 6p Praise Team	20	21
22 10:30 am Sunday Worship and Children's Church	23 7p Session	24 6:30p Scouts BSA Troop 333 (girls) and Tropp 344 (boys) Noon—Tuesday Sisters Group @FPC	25 10:30a Men's Bible Project via Zoom 12p FOON 6p Youth Group "Almost Summer" Party <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;">Pastor's Sabbatical Begins</div>	26 6p Praise Team	27	28
29  9:30 am Sunday Worship and Children's Church	30 Office Closed 	31 6:30p Scouts BSA Troop 333 (girls) and Tropp 344 (boys) Noon—Tuesday Sisters Group @FPC				



Special Events Coming Up in June—Save the Dates!

June 5 — Pentecost Sunday
 Wear red to church to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

June 20-24 — Vacation Bible School
 9-11:30 a.m. at FPC
 See Page 8 for details.

June 26 — Vespers at Lael
 6:30 p.m.
 Come early and BYO picnic!

Home Start Moves and Grows

Our beloved Home Start program has relocated to the Family Promise facility on Palouse River Drive.

After much prayer and conversation, longtime Presbyterian volunteers agreed to move the Home Start program to the Family Promise Day Center. Home Start will be using the much larger space that is available at the Day Center, and will be directly connected to other programs that serve families who are in crisis. Family Promise staff can also be readily available to help those seeking assistance. Family Promise will now have another contact with families who are in crisis who may have not otherwise known about the several services offered by Family Promise and other community resources.

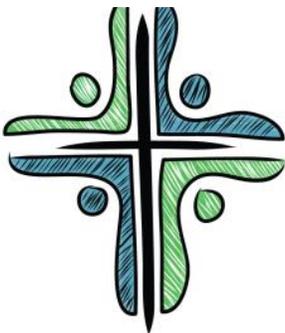
Home Start was started in 1992 by Alice DeShazer, Nadine Morton, Beth Seale and other Presbyterian women to provide personal care kits and basic kitchen items to women who needed to quickly move to other housing, often because of domestic violence situations. This work was done in collaboration with staff at Alternatives to Violence. In 1994, Home Start became an outreach mission to families in need of kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom items, etc., after a fire or other disaster that befell the family. Moscow First Presbyterian Church has served hundreds of families, helping them to rebuild their lives.



In recent years, Mary Stormo, Ellen Johansen and Nadine Morton have been faithful stewards of this valuable service, and members and friends of our congregation have faithfully contributed items to support this mission. Their efforts have shared God's love throughout our community.

Home Start has been operating out of a crowded corner of First Presbyterian's Scout Room, so another consequence of this move is that the Scouts will have more storage area for their gear. Their needs increased when the girls' Scout troop was established.

Moscow First Presbyterian Church will continue supporting Home Start by accepting donations of gently used or new cookware, utensils, tableware, sheets, blankets, towels, and other similar household necessities. Donated items, which may be left in the hope chest in the hallway outside the church office, will be regularly taken to the Day Center.



First
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Church

405 South Van Buren Street
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Phone: 208-882-4122
E-mail: office@fpcmoscow.org
Facebook: Moscow FPC
Web: fpcmoscow.org

First Presbyterian Church

"Growing in Christ"

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. through May 22
Summer Worship 9:30 a.m. beginning May 29

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment—call 208-882-4122

Pastor Norman Fowler
fpcpastornorman@gmail.com