



First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views

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Sunday School:

9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship:

10:30 a.m.



Even with an extra day, February seems like a short month. Here we are already entering March, and we with an early Easter, we are well on our way to Easter. As we approach Easter, I seem to be focused on the wonderous nature of God. Even while I have many down to earth tasks to get done, my thoughts are drawn to incredible gift we have of life in God's

beautiful and complex creation and our part in it. I recognize that we often seem more intent on controlling, using, and sometimes even destroying creation or some aspect of it. Yet, the vast nature of creation, not only on earth but throughout the universe, remains impressive. And that we find sustenance and beauty in creation reminds me of God's providence.

Perhaps it is the contrast between the wonder of God and the humble life of Jesus. The life of an itinerant prophet that falls prey to an elite that doesn't want him rocking the boat, doesn't seem earthshaking. I might expect the grand and mighty nature of God to dominate human life. Yet, God sends the Son who humbles himself and becomes "obedient to the point of death – event death on a cross." (Philippians 2:10) Yet, this gift is not received well, at least by the leadership. And, in our time ignoring what God has done and attending to our earthly experience has become more the norm.

I wonder about how easily we live our lives without wondering at God greatness. When I really think about it in the grand scheme of things, I can begin to feel pretty small and insignificant. Only by ignoring the vast, beautiful, complex nature of creation, can I somehow see myself as central. If I do pay attention to the creation, I feel the need for the gift of God's paying attention to me, to us, to all God's children, that lifts us out of obscurity and gives us value and dignity. God's willingness to become humble to reach humble humans is a gift indeed.

Yet, humanity holds strongly to what pomposity and power it develops. While often it is concentrated with the few, that status

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

and power is wielded to maintain the status quo. God's power is seldom used to destroy or deconstruct such power. Rather, Jesus comes teaching, gathering, and leading a small group of folks we now call disciples. Jesus moves under neath the imagined heights of human power and creates a movement of people caring for one another and appreciating the grace, that forgiving, healing, redeeming love of God.

We find a description of the confrontation between God's grace and human power in the last days of Jesus. We walk through Lent and how the story of this confrontation plays out. I find myself amazed again at the grace God shows and instead of using physical power, God shows the power of love and the underlying power of a creator God to whom death is not a barrier to life. We experience the wonder of this God's work that draws us to a life that is real and eternal.

We walk this journey together as we ask difficult questions and wrestle with them. We walk this journey as we care for one another and gather in fellowship. We walk this journey in our worship on Wednesdays at our Taize services, on Sundays at our worship service, and at our Holy Week services. Indeed, the Maundy Thursday service and our Tenebrae service each, help us remember and re-engage with the passion of Jesus. Jesus' experience enables us to recognize the grace of God and the use violence that humans and their systems can embody.

We are invited to end the month of March with the wonderful explosion of hope that is the resurrection. We celebrate that no evil nor even death can overcome the love of God in Jesus Christ and that Christ's reappearance demotes the power of humans. Instead, we look to the power of God to bring life, abundant and everlasting through the life, teachings, example, death and resurrection of Jesus. May this Lent, Holy Week, and Easter be a blessing to you.

Grace and peace,

Norman

Deacons Benevolence Offering

For the month of March the Deacon's have chosen **St. Vincent DePaul**. The St. Francis of Assisi Conference of the Society of St. Vincent is a Catholic lay organization of men and women who join together to grow spiritually and offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in Latah County. In 2023, there were 2,023 client visits and 4,266 people helped. All donations directly assist local folks in crisis with housing, utility bills, food, clothing, and other needs. Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church with Deacon's March Benevolence in the Memo line.



MISSION

Meet with our Executive Presbyter about our Transition

On March 10th after worship, our Executive Presbyter, Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, wants to meet with members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to talk about the transition to a new pastor. You are invited to come for this conversation about the steps involved and Presbytery's support during the transition. Transitions always bring with them a bit of uncertainty and clearly some real changes. We have a process to follow, and leadership that will work with this process as they guide us in exploring possible new directions as well as recognizing our core strengths. Please come to be part of this process on Sunday March 10th after worship.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be received during the season of Lent (February 14th - March 31st). Around the world millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People- all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGH is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together each year to work for a better world.



MISSION STUDY ONLINE SURVEY IS LIVE!

The Mission Study Team sent out an email on February 21 with a link to our online Mission Study Survey. The link was sent to everyone in our congregation for whom we have a current email address. If you did not receive the link, first check your Spam folder and if you don't find it there, please contact Kathy Pendegraft today at 208-883-3015 or kathyp8623@twc.com.

Please complete the survey no later than noon March 4.

Members of the Mission Study Team will have laptops available in the upstairs Sunday School room following the service on March 3, and would be happy to help you access and complete the survey at that time.

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, contact Kathy, or you may pick one up in the narthex and return it to the church office **no later than March 3**.

Your responses will aid the Mission Study Team in creating a report about our church as well as a mission statement to guide us as we seek our next pastor. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL** to creating an accurate picture of who we are as a church and what we hope to see for our future. We ask everyone to please take the time to thoughtfully and candidly answer the questions, and submit your survey by the deadline. Responses are anonymous.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect and contribute!

Questions can be directed to the Mission Study Team: Dianne Daley Laursen (chair), Kathy Pendegraft, Mark Ulliman, Harper Wallen, Jed Wallen, Amanda Wells.

What does the Mission Study Team Do?

Accomplished through prayer, discernment, and a process to include the church and the larger community. (through surveys and interviews) the team develops:

The Mission Study Report: This report is a summary of the study which gives the reader a sense of where the congregation has been, where we are now and where we are going. Mission Study Reports take many forms but generally include: a history of the congregation, summaries of the gathered information, a narrative analysis of the gathered information, financial reports and analysis, goals and objectives for the future, and a Mission Statement.

The Mission Statement: From the process of studying the congregation and writing the report, the Mission Study Team will write a Mission Statement that will guide the congregation over the next 5-10 years



COMFORT FOOD COOK-OFF

5-7 PM - MARCH 23, 2024

Trinity Baptist Church

711 Fairview Dr, Moscow, ID

Enjoy dinner and samples from a variety of comfort foods and vote for your favorites!

Bid on delectable dessert items from local bakeries, restaurants, and cafes!

Submit a crockpot of your favorite comfort food to the cook-off!
Registration can be done by calling our office or using QR code below.

Tickets can be bought on our website, through partner congregations, at our office or at the event. Or scan the QR code below!

Purchase Tickets:

www.familypromisepalouse.org

208-882-0165

Tickets \$10 Adults/ \$5 Child or \$30 for Family of 5

Benefits go towards providing services for local families experiencing homelessness.



Family Promise of the Palouse is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower families experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless to achieve sustainable independence for a more promising future. Along with providing temporary housing and meals for up to four families in local church facilities, they also work with homeless families in our community to guide them to long-term sustainable housing. Families receive education related to financial literacy, parenting and life skills. With the support of a case-manager, families are guided to employment, health care and housing.

First Presbyterian Church and our friends from Quail Run Ward are hosting Family Promise guests again on **April 7-14**. Our hosting duties include preparing and taking down guest bedrooms, providing and hosting evening meals and hosting our guests overnight on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be sign up sheets in the narthex, or please contact Celeste Brown at bioinfomom@roadrunner.com.

MISSION CATALOG

Looking to make a big difference in the world with a small gift? The new Presbyterian Giving Catalog is available next to the big red chair in the lower entrance to the Chapel Room. Share your gratitude for God’s grace that moves us to join in God’s Mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation, and Peace.



Finance Report

As of February, 2024

	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$38,663	\$38,663
Disbursements	\$28,864	\$28,864
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$9,799
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$100,250*

Menu for March 20 Wednesday Supper

The Tuesday Sisters group that meets Tuesday at noon for Bible Study and prayer will be hosting a chili and corn bread dinner with salad and ice cream in the Fellowship Hall on March 20.

Easter Breakfast on March 31

Easter Breakfast from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having some 9 x 13 egg dishes, pastries, coffee and juice. It is not a potluck, just come and enjoy.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Easter is coming at the very end of March this year, which makes this month a busy one for Family Ministry. We also had quite a full February, including the extra day for Leap Year.

Our youth group kids were very active in February. Besides two regular meetings, they also hosted the Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day Wednesday Supper Fellowship. The kids and the adult helpers had a great time flipping pancakes and serving food to about 40 people. We had four weeks of FOON in February, and there were over 90 students on two of those weeks. I'm so grateful for the generosity of our FPC congregation for funding pizza, helping serve the kids, bringing cookies and drinks. We expect that we will need over 1,000 more plates between now and the end of the school year. I also want to encourage you all to pray for the students who come. They are from every background you can imagine. We are privileged to serve and encourage them.

In addition to our regular complement of Family Ministry activities, Holy Week brings extra events. On Saturday, March 30th, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and other fun activities at the church from 10:00 to 12:00. That evening at Lael, the youth group will have an overnight activity, so the kids will already be there for the March 31st sunrise service. Although our youth have done this previously, the tradition has had a years-long hiatus. We're looking forward to a fun Saturday evening at Lael getting ready for Easter morning.

I can't help but feel excited thinking about Easter. We have a long way still to go through Lent and the journey of Holy Week. Good Friday services hold a special place in my heart and my spiritual life. But the joy of Easter and the resurrection can't be stopped. I'm looking forward to growing through this Easter season with you all.

~Julie

Holy Week Schedule

Lenten Study on Sunday Evenings :

On Sunday Evenings during Lent at 4:00 p.m. we'll meet in the library to discuss a few heavy theological questions, such as: Why is the Old Testament so violent, but the New Testament is much less so? How could God care about me personally? Is John 14:6 exclusionary? A discussion guide will be provided by Pastor Norman.

Holy Week

March 24th– Palm Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Worship includes a palm processional and dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. We begin Holy Week remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the road to Jesus' passion.



March 28th– Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m.– A special Maundy Thursday Service will be held at the Methodist Church. FPC attendees are invited to bring a plate of sliced cheese or bread to share.



March 29th– Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Darkness, recalling the crucifixion of Jesus through a dramatic reading of scripture

March 30th– Holy Saturday

10-12 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt and activities for kids

6-8 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer & reflection

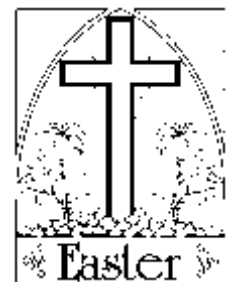


March 31st– Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Early morning worship in the hilltop chapel at Lael Retreat Center, Troy ID. Music led by Praise Team; sermon by Pastor Norman.

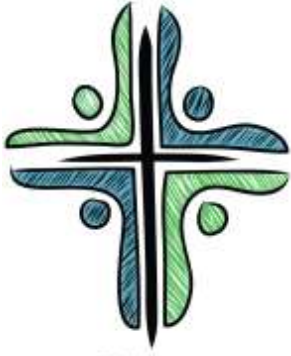
9:15-10:15 a.m. -Easter Breakfast from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having some 9 x 13 egg dishes, pastries, coffee and juice. It is not a potluck, just come and enjoy.

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary includes flowering the cross (bring a flower from your garden if possible), a celebration of the resurrection.



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:15 a.m.— Sunday School 10:30 a.m.— Worship 4:00 p.m.— Lenten Study</p>	4	<p>5 12:00 p.m.— Tuesday Sisters 6:00 p.m.— Ste- phen Ministry</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m.— Men’s Study 5:30— Taizé 6:00 p.m.— Wednesday Supper Fellow- ship 6:00 p.m.— Youth Group 7:00 p.m.— Choir</p>	<p>7 10:00 a.m.— Women’s Study</p>	8	9
<p>10 9:15 a.m.— Sunday School 10:30 a.m.— Worship 4:00 p.m.— Lenten Study</p>	11	<p>12 12:00 p.m.— Tuesday Sisters</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m.— Men’s Study 5:30— Taizé 6:00 p.m.— Wednesday Supper Fellow- ship 7:00 p.m.— Choir</p>	<p>14 10:00 a.m.— Women’s Study</p>	15	16
<p>17 9:15 a.m.— Sunday School 10:30 a.m.— Worship 4:00 p.m.— Lenten Study</p>	<p>18 7:00 p.m.— Deacons</p>	<p>19 12:00 p.m.— Tuesday Sisters 3:30 p.m.— Prayer Shawl Meeting 6:00 p.m.— Ste- phen Ministry</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m.— Men’s Study 5:30— Taizé 6:00 p.m.— Wednesday Supper Fellow- ship 6:00 p.m.— Youth Group 7:00 p.m.— Choir</p>	<p>21 10:00 a.m.— Women’s Study</p>	22	23
<p>24— Palm Sunday 9:15 a.m.— Sunday School 10:30 a.m.— Sunday Worship 4:00 p.m.— Lenten Study</p>	<p>25 7:00 p.m.— Session</p>	<p>26 12:00 p.m.— Tuesday Sisters</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m.— Men’s Study 7:00 p.m.— Choir</p>	<p>28 Maundy Thursday 10:00 a.m.— Women’s Study 6:00 p.m.— Maundy Thursday Service @ Methodist Church</p>	<p>29 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.— Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>30 Holy Saturday 10:00 a.m.— Noon— Kids Egg Hunt and activities 6-8 p.m.— Sanc- tuary open for Prayer and re- flection</p>
<p>31 Easter 7:00 a.m.— Lael Sunrise Service 9:15 a.m.— Easter Breakfast 10:30 a.m.— Worship One Great Hour of Sharing</p>	1	<p>2 12:00 p.m.— Tuesday Sisters</p>	<p>3 10:00 a.m.— Men’s Study 6:00 p.m.— Youth Group 7:00 p.m.— Choir</p>	<p>4 10:00 a.m.— Women’s Study</p>	5	6



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First Presbyterian Church

"Growing in Christ"

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

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