

First
Presbyterian
Church
MOSCOW, IDAHO

News & Views



Dear Ones,

Let us begin at the beginning...

December 1, 2024:

- The Sunday Sabbath,
- The First day of the Christian Week,
- The First day of the New Christian Year (C)
- The First Day and the First Sunday of the Season of Advent

By The Grace of God,

We are living our lives in the midst of changing seasons. Winter approaches as the Season of Advent begins – followed by Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Christmastime, and Epiphany – December 1, 2024, through January 6, 2025. It calls for us to do and to be, to prepare and to wait. To take one step at a time, resisting the need to rush – to rediscover the rhythm of the way of our Lord. To celebrate not only His birth, but the promise of His second coming!

Ablaze with the liturgical colors of Purple and White,

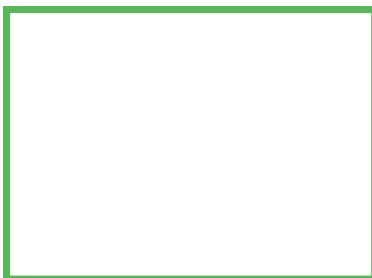
We will be called to continue this season’s culmination on the “Day of Epiphany”, a celebration and acknowledgement of “God’s Word made Flesh” in Jesus Christ, his Son and our Savior. It is a sacred day, in which all believers are called to exhibit in word and in deed that Christ alone is Lord! Christians around the world will celebrate in distinct and unique ways that testify to the variety of lands, countries, and languages.

How blessed we are to be part of, and to witness to global expressions of faith!

Pastor Sly and Rev. Bev

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Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV)**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is making good progress. We have reviewed more than 30 resumes and we have requested more information from several candidates. We are listening to recorded sermons, deeply considering statements of faith, evaluating professional experiences and praying. We hope that we will soon be able to host a few zoom interviews to become better acquainted with several candidates.

We are striving to evaluate potential candidates to understand who would be a "fit" for the needs of our faith community. These candidates also are determining if our situation and their ministry gifts are a "fit" for their spiritual journey. The goal of this process to make the best match with those who are seeking a call at this time because we will be sharing precious parts of our lives with one another.



We are moving forward in faith...

Respectfully,
Bruce Pitman

Preparing for Advent

HELP NEEDED SETTING UP FOR ADVENT / HANGING OF THE GREENS



We will have an Advent Decorating Party on Saturday, November 30 starting at 10 a.m. and volunteers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join in. We will be putting lights on the Chrismon tree, setting up a tree in the Chapel Room, hanging and setting up decorations in the narthex/chapel room area, setting up the Advent wreath, and getting things ready for Hanging of the Greens. Call or email Kathy Pendegraft at 208-883-3015 or kathyp8623@twc.com if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

HANGING OF THE GREENS DECEMBER 1



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, adding Chrismons to the tree in the sanctuary, and hearing scriptures and singing hymns of the season. We will remember the meaning behind the Chrismons, lights, evergreens, Advent wreath, and poinsettias, and begin to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Communion is postponed to December 8.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING



Advent begins December 1, and it is the tradition in our church to include the lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday in worship. If you and your spouse, family, or a group of friends would like to light candles on December 1 or 15, **please sign up** on the sheet on the office window as soon as possible or contact Kathy Pendegraft at kathyp8623@twc.com. Readings will be provided in advance. Thank you to those who have already volunteered for the other Sundays.

Time To Order Poinsettias



Would you like to help decorate the church and honor loved ones with beautiful poinsettias during the Advent/Christmas season? The plants are \$15 each, and you are welcome to take yours home after Christmas. Please return this form with your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettia" on the memo line) to the church office no later than Nov. 24.

Name _____ How Many _____ Amt. Paid _____

Dedicated to/In Memory of (circle one) _____

Family Promise Host Week December 1-8



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 December 1-8. 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.

Also, we are looking for a volunteer coordinator in 2025. If you're interested, this will be a great opportunity to learn what being a coordinator means. Please contact Celeste.

Friendly Reminder from Your Financial Secretary

As we approach year-end, remember to complete your 2024 pledge commitment. Per IRS requirements, such contributions need to be received by 12/31/2024. Your 2024 Pledge Statement will be mailed out by mid-January 2025. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your current pledge status, please contact me at jkfarbo@frontier.com.

Thank you for your consideration, and wishing everyone a Happy Holiday.

~ John Farbo

Finance Report

As of October 31, 2024



	Month	YTD
Receipts	\$24,521	\$255,449
Disbursements	\$19,249	\$206,631
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 48,818
Cash Balance (checking/savings)		\$ 68,603

Advent Devotion Booklets

Our Elders, Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and church staff have written Advent devotions to guide us through this Advent season. Be sure to pick up a copy of the devotion booklet in the narthex after November 24, or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

Blue Christmas Interfaith Service



Christmas can be a time when many of us feel the need for reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or feeling lonely or detached for a variety of reasons. We may wonder how we will get through the holidays and look for God to come near to comfort and support us. All are welcome to the interfaith Community Blue Christmas Service in our sanctuary, Monday, December 9, at 7:00pm. This service is co-sponsored by Short's Chapel and local faith communities. A reception will follow.

Christmas Eve at Moscow First Presbyterian

December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Scripture readings interspersed with carol singing

Candlelight Conclusion

All are welcome!



FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Fall has been a busy time for Family Ministry, and winter and the Advent season look like they will continue this trend.

FOON took off faster than ever, with numbers surpassing 100 per week in record time. We have a good FOON team, but there's always room for more participation. This is a joyful ministry that impacts the lives of more people than anything else we do regularly in our church. It also involves many people in our congregation and beyond. We always have room for more helpers, whether you want to be involved regularly or would just like to fill in on occasion. If you have never seen what we do at FOON, pick a Wednesday and join in.

Our Youth Group meets twice a month and has a group of energetic middle and high schoolers. On November 6, the majority of the students were in the MMS Fall Concert, so instead of having our regular youth group that week, we went to see our middle school musicians perform. Participants report that our youth group is "really fun" and they "are always looking forward to it."

This fall we have been going through the Lord's Prayer with imaginative readings, exploring conversations Jesus might have had with his disciples. We feed the youth group students each meeting, so if you would like to supply the food sometime, just let me know. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas at upcoming meetings.

We had a record-breaking Parent Night Out in October, with 21 kids attending. It was a great combination of new and returning families. The parents were free to enjoy themselves without worrying about their kids, including a group of single moms who were able to have a fun evening out together. Our November PNO is November 22 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Our final Parent Night Out of 2024 will be December 21 from noon to 3:00. This is a great event for people in our congregation to help out with activities at a PNO that will be finished before dark. At this meeting, the kids do a lot of crafts and have the chance to select and wrap gifts for their family members. The Parent Night Out program is a wonderful cooperative project between our congregation and the UU Church.

The Family Ministry wreath sale is going on until December 15 through Lynch Creek Farms. If you would like to purchase a wreath, use this link: https://www.lynchcreekwreaths.com?campaign_id=3828819. The proceeds will help with camperships and other Family Ministry outreach activities.

As we enter Advent, in this season of uncertainty and change, we have incentive to think about the original Advent and the birth of Jesus into our troubled world. Let's remember the faithfulness of God in our uncertain times. Jesus lived to give us an example of how to live and how to respond to one another. Then Jesus died and rose again to provide forgiveness and reconciliation for us as well.

Let's trust God to be with us and keep expressing God's love to people. We can be thankful for Jesus' example and the Holy Spirit's help as we attempt to shine God's light in the world. And we can be oh so thankful for God's forgiveness and help through our failures. Let's keep turning to God each day of Advent and into the new year as well.

Holiday Season Mission Report

Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year are reflective times of the year when our hearts are filled with gratitude, when we offer our gifts to loved ones, the church and our community in need. In the New Year, we refresh and examine our lives. As a Matthew 25 church we embrace dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty and building congregational vitality. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus says that how we treat others is important to God. As you reflect and prepare for this holiday season, please include the desires of God, how we live out Jesus' example of how we love our neighbors. Consider how we can contribute to the fellowship and outreach of our own church family by thinking of ways we can share our time, talent and treasure this season as part of our faith journey.

There will be a folder in the Mission inbox in the church office with literature we have received this year from local, regional and international organizations.

A few highlights:

- ◆ **The Christmas Joy Offering** is Dec 1-22. Our gifts are combined with thousands of other congregations. Donations support our past, present and future church leaders with financial resources, housing subsidies and emergency assistance grants. Gifts dedication will be Dec. 22. 
- ◆ **The Presbyterian Giving Catalog** has over 40 gifts, helping families around the globe become self-sustaining. With the changing global landscape of war, climate disasters, and poverty, I am drawn to a fund that you can give where it is most needed at any given time as determined by our national professional staff. 
- ◆ **Christmas for Kids** is seeking donations of money, those willing to fulfill a tree tag or buy gifts for a family. This longtime community nonprofit was started by FPC members and is still staffed by a few members. <https://www.christmasforkidsmoscow.org/help>
- ◆ **The Campus Christian Center** is still in need of winter clothing for International students for this semester and for new arrivals in January. Contact the International Student office if you would like to host students for Thanksgiving dinner, mkestle@uidaho.edu
- ◆ **Lael** will be participating in the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (also started by FPC members). Online giving is from Nov 29th-Dec 11th agmpalouse.org or in person Wednesday Dec 11th 5-8 pm at the 1912 Center. 
- ◆ **Inland Oasis** and the **Westside Food Bank** support over 650 families, a significant increase. They need volunteers at the food bank and financial resources to continue the breadth of community services they provide. Inland Oasis staff are in our church family and generously contribute time and talent to our church. Let's return the love.
- ◆ **Candy donations** for the 870 Christmas stockings delivered to children served by area food banks can be dropped off in the church office prior to December 4.

Heavenly father, thank you for all the gifts in our lives. May we follow Christ's example and your commands, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and providing for the least among us. Amen.

Lael Chapel Siding Replacement Project

Looking for end-of-year giving opportunities?
Please help restore Lael's Chapel!

The chapel's original cedar siding, now 40 years old, has reached the end of its useful life. Despite efforts to maintain the siding over the years, the wood has become weathered and brittle, and flickers have moved in. The Lael Board plans to install new siding which will be more durable and resistant to weather, pests, and fire. Insulation will be upgraded, and sliding glass doors and a window will be replaced. To keep costs down, we plan to complete the work with volunteer labor in the spring – more about that as plans evolve.

Our fundraising goal is \$15,000.

To date, there is just over \$7,000 in the siding fund.



Mail donations to
Lael, Inc.
405 S Van Buren St.
Moscow ID 83843

THANK YOU!



Lael Retreat Center Update

Thank you to everyone who helped with Lael's Second Annual Fall Festival on October 13. We welcomed around 400 people from the surrounding area for a warm and beautiful afternoon of live music, kids' activities, costume contest, cider pressing, food, silent auctions, and a raffle of a cord of firewood from Lael and other prizes generously donated by local businesses. (See a complete list of our 20+ sponsors on the [Lael website](#).)



*Andres Trujillo won
168 lb. giant*

The Festival gives us the opportunity to share Lael with our Palouse community and provide a fun event for all ages. In addition, the raffle added \$1,200 to our siding fund, and everyone had a lovely day at Lael.

Thank you for your continuing support of and interest in Lael!



Lael Retreat Center will be participating in the [Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse](#)!

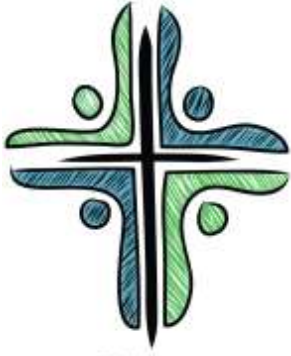
Online giving begins November 29th, with the in-person event happening on December 11th at the 1912 Center. Be sure to mark your calendars for this great event that supports over 30 local nonprofits!

Session Report

On November 18 there was a joint meeting of the Session and the Deacons, where Bruce Pitman presented an encouraging Pastoral Nominating Committee report. The Deacons were also commended for all their various contributions to our congregation and community. After the joint meeting, the Session considered building use requests and had a preliminary report on the pledges from the stewardship campaign.

Next month there will be a staff appreciation dinner on December 16 followed by the meetings of both the Deacons and Session. The Session will continue to work toward a final version of the church budget for 2025.

Thank you Deacons and Session members for all you do for our church!



First
Presbyterian
Church

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First Presbyterian Church

“Growing in Christ”

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Interim Co-Pastors Sylvester and Beverly Bullock