

# Moscow First Presbyterian Church

*We are a welcoming, caring family of faith, called to love the Lord and our neighbors. We are growing in Jesus Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service to others.*

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## **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 22, 2024**

Sunday, December 22  
10:30 a.m.    Worship

Tuesday, December 24  
7:00 p.m.    Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 29  
10:30 a.m.    Worship

*Church Office Closed 2:00 p.m. December 24, 2024-10:00 a.m. January 2, 2025*

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Website: [fpcmoscow.org](http://fpcmoscow.org)

Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10:00-2:00

Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Moscow

***Birthday this week:*** Lisa Shipley, Rick Brigham, Lee Rozen, Ian Wendt

***In our prayers:*** The longing for peace on earth

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 22, 2024**

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE**

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Tuesday, December 24 at 2:00 p.m. until Thursday morning, January 2 at 10:00 a.m.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**December 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

Our family-friendly service will include the reading of the Christmas story from scripture, lots of carol singing, and a candlelight conclusion.

### **DEACONS BENEVOLENCE OFFERING FOR DECEMBER**

The December Benevolence Offering will be going to Family Promise of the Palouse. Please make out your check to FPC, with December Deacons Benevolence in the memo line or on offering envelope. You may also give online using the [Tithe.ly app](#) or the "Give" button on our website at [fpcmoscow.org](http://fpcmoscow.org).

### **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing

our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There are designated envelopes in the pew for the Christmas Joy Offering, which runs from December 1 through 22. We will be dedicating this offering on December 22.

### **CHRISTMAS “GIFTS” CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

Bring a can of food to donate on December 29 and January 5 to help celebrate Epiphany and the gifts of the magi.

### **DEMENTIA CARE TRAINING**

The Stephen Ministers of FPC would like to invite all those who might be interested to join them for a special presentation on Tuesday evening, January 7 on the subject of caring for those with dementia. Guest speakers from Hill House and Palouse Dementia Care will provide information about their services, as well as offering helpful guidance for friends and family members. The hour-long presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Chapel Room and will include a time for questions. Light refreshments will be served.

**LAEL BOARD VACANCY** If you are interested in serving in a fun and rewarding volunteer position, there is an opening on the Lael Board of Directors which must be filled by a member of Moscow First Presbyterian Church. The Board oversees the operation, upkeep, improvements, and land stewardship of Lael Retreat Center, as well as putting on the annual Fall Festival at Lael. To find out more, please contact Neal Wallen (208-882-1859) or Kathy Pendegraft (208-883-3015) this week. The congregation will be voting on the slate of Board nominees at the annual meeting of the congregation, corporation, and Lael, Inc. on January 26.

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOLIDAY DINNER**

This dinner will be on December 23 at 4:00 p.m. at the International Programs Office, 901 Paradise Creek St, LLC Building #3 in Moscow. All are welcome.

## **The Nicene Creed**

### **Origin History**

In the first three centuries, the church found itself in a hostile environment. On the one hand, it grappled with the challenge of relating the language of the gospel, developed in a Hebraic and Jewish-Christian context, to a Graeco-Roman world. On the other hand, it was threatened not only by persecution, but also by ideas that were in conflict with the biblical witness.

In A.D. 312, Constantine won control of the Roman Empire in the battle of Milvian Bridge. Attributing his victory to the intervention of Jesus Christ, he elevated Christianity to favored status in the empire. “One God, one Lord, one faith, one church, one empire, one emperor” became his motto.

The new emperor soon discovered that “one faith and one church” were fractured by theological disputes, especially conflicting understandings of the nature of Christ, long a point of controversy. Arius, a priest of the church in Alexandria, asserted that the divine Christ, the Word through whom all things have their existence, was *created* by God before

the beginning of time. Therefore, the divinity of Christ was similar to the divinity of God, but not of the same essence. Arius was opposed by the bishop, Alexander, together with his associate and successor Athanasius. They affirmed that the divinity of Christ, the Son, is of the same substance as the divinity of God, the Father. To hold otherwise, they said, was to open the possibility of polytheism, and to imply that knowledge of God in Christ was not final knowledge of God.

To counter a widening rift within the church, Constantine convened a council in Nicaea in A.D. 325. A creed reflecting the position of Alexander and Athanasius was written and signed by a majority of the bishops. Nevertheless, the two parties continued to battle each other. In 381, a second council met in Constantinople. It adopted a revised and expanded form of the A.D. 325 creed, now known as the Nicene Creed.

**The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it. Nevertheless, in contrast to Eastern Orthodox churches, the western churches state that the Holy Spirit proceeds not only from the Father, but from the Father *and the Son* (Latin, *filioque*). To the eastern churches, saying that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both Father and Son threatens the distinctiveness of the person of the Holy Spirit; to the western churches, the *filioque* guards the unity of the triune God. This issue remains unresolved in the ecumenical dialogue.**

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