



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
September 2020

From the Pastor...

In a monastery, formal worship begins as the community gathers in the chapel. The faithful fidget, collecting books, marking pages, and preparing their hearts. At the designated time, the head of the group uses a mallet and a small tap resounds, unfolding the tradition, giving shape and structure to faith's mystery.

Monks and nuns around the globe keep observance, [praying the hours](#). At specific points throughout the day and night, the community collectively sings psalms, spiritual songs, and other prayers and praises. Formal gatherings proclaim God's goodness, grace, and glory in Latin and other languages. Incense smoke symbolizes the meeting of our prayers and God's mystery, the joining of earth and heaven.

Informally, prayers continue in silent vigil, praying without ceasing from cell (private living chamber) to daily tasks carried out with care. Together, we are Christ's body, and individually members within it, and this body is united in prayer. While some people are starting their day, others on the opposite side of the world are drawing theirs to a close. Morning prayers mingle

with evening vespers, both entrusting our lives at work and at rest to God's care.

On one specific occasion during a vespers service in the early evening in Ireland, the Benedictine Monks of Glenstal Abbey were singing the liturgy. A child in the public seating area had a meltdown, began crying, shrieking, and acting their young age at the end of a long day. The hard, smooth walls and high ceilings enhanced echoes, mixing the sophisticated Latin melodies with pre-conceptual screaming. Both carried on unfazed for a time.

The monks didn't miss a note, the rhythms carried on and the words were sung. The child reach a crescendo, really upset, until finally subsiding as parents placated their child as best they could. But with the call and response format of the brothers, with one leader sharing a refrain and the group following for resolution, it was unclear who was really leading, the in-tune tenor or the child. Or was the child responding to the holy pronouncements?

The service continued, interspersed with an occasional blip from the child, while song, silence, and tradition methodically maintained a calm continuance. But it was not indifferent to the interruption, or the larger suffering of the world.

The monks were able to not ignore, but hold space with the struggle. Amplify this on a global scale to remind us that Christ sustains all things, and even the pain of the world and our own grief and sorrow is held by a loving, hospitable Presence. God hears our cries, loves us through life's ups and downs, and constantly holds the spectrum of experience, seen and unseen as we live our life hidden in God, together in Christ.

After the service, the public leaves, children go home to familiar rest, and monks and nuns retreat to their cells for study, contemplation, and sleep. But echoes remain. As I go through my day, as tasks are done with attention, in the background it is not the screaming of two year olds but the Kyrie Eleison as brothers and sisters hallow daily life and each moment by awareness that not only does the Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, but God's nature is Mercy. God, Mercy, Christ, Mercy, Lord, Mercy. Moments of mercy play the music of the Abbey from a deeper place in the soul, tapping on conscious thought as pre-conceptual being is honored and shaped as a living expression of God's love in Christ in the world.

[Glenstal Abbey](https://www.glenstal.com/abbey/liturgy-prayer/church-web-cam) is one of the monasteries visited during the 2017 Sabbatical. Their chapel worship is live-streamed online. Here is a link, but you need to click on the [LIVE button to see it in real-time](#).
<https://www.glenstal.com/abbey/liturgy-prayer/church-web-cam>

Since they are in Ireland, the time is eight hours different. Their evening is our morning. Adjusted to our Pacific Time Zone, their evening Vesper service is at 10:00 a.m., Compline night prayer is at 12:35 p.m. If you want to see their midday Conventional Mass, for us that is at 4:10 a.m. I have not made it to that one yet. Their morning prayer is, for us, at 10:35 p.m. Although the time of day is flipped, God hears our prayer.

Peace and All Good,
Pastor Andy



OSPREY SPIRIT

Andy Kennaly
August 15, 2020

Four ospreys circle
staggering
altitudes above tree tops
reaching spacious skies
calling each other
circling the rotating world
one dynamic movement

Wings extended
vulnerable to falling
yet met, held
giving themselves over
to uplifting thermals
unseen rising
in song



Heritage Project

Good Day First Presbyterian Family,

Here's an update on some exciting news!

As you may recall, First Presbyterian Church received approval for a matching grant of \$5,000 from the Idaho Heritage Trust. This money will assist with needed repairs and replacement of damaged soffits, fascia and corbels surrounding the exterior of the original roof structure (the part of the building built in 1906). We are so grateful for this organization in recognizing the value of preserving historic buildings for future Idahoans. Each grant is reviewed by several preservation professionals and a local committee in our region of the state. The grant allows two years to complete this project, because in order to receive the funding, the project must be completed and matching funds raised. Last summer, Vorhies Built LLC submitted a bid to complete the project. Vorhies Built LLC, along with the Boden Design team completed our front entryway, so we are familiar and very satisfied with the job that was done for us. The bid for current repairs is for \$14,000.00. The Session feels it is important to move this project along, due to the sensitive time frame of the grant. At its May meeting, Session approved a formula of using \$5,000 from the church building fund, \$5,000 from the Idaho Heritage Trust grant, and \$5,000 to be raised by our congregation.

A planning committee recently met with Todd Vorhies to review the bid and assess the scope of work. In addition to repairs, we will add heat tape to the gutters on the north side to prevent the ice build-up that does so much roof damage, along with new downspouts to replace the dented ones. We are also fortunate to have Reid Weber, an architect from Boden Architecture, reviewing the building process. Todd Vorhies has put us on his schedule for this fall, once the summer heat subsides. In addition to this bid, he will also be refreshing the paint on the fascia boards on the Fellowship Hall wing of the church building. Check out the [Idaho Heritage Trust Website](#) for all the wonderful projects that they have supported for 25 years. If you would like to participate in this endeavor any contribution would be greatly appreciated, and can be sent to First Presbyterian Church with the memo Heritage Project. Thank you for your support in keeping the church building in sound condition. If you have questions, contact Sue Helander or Cynthia Dalsing.

Sue Helander, Ruling Elder for Buildings and Grounds



Pastor Andy (right) at the front entry ribbon cutting celebration, with Matt from the crew at Vorhies Built, and Todd Vorhies, and (left) Reid Weber from Boden Architecture.

Earth Care Updates

I, Marilyn can recommend two personal opportunities for positive environmental impacts, with moderate financial investments. I have been involved in each of these programs for a year or more. One is “Mighty Fix”. (So this won’t seem like a commercial, there are probably other businesses with similar goals and products.) If you become a member, you will automatically purchase a featured item each month; my favorites have been the substitutes for plastic. As I gradually use up my zip-lock bags, “stashers” silicone food storage bags from Mighty Fix are versatile replacements. Food can go from freezer or frig to microwave, & the bag can be washed in the dishwasher. You can learn more at mightynest.com.

As we try to do our bit to use less plastic and prevent it from clogging landfills and polluting oceans, several organizations are at work dealing with plastic and other ocean pollution. Ocean Conservancy does physical clean-up projects, education, research and advocacy. You can learn more about them at their website: www.ocean.org

An update from Jane Fritz: After 3 weeks of travel (mostly with tent camping), her message is: “Support the Wilderness Society & groups like Friends of the Scotchmans, because [they are] protecting such wild areas & all the lands that are left untrammled & not severely impacted by man, or being eyed for destruction.”

Lynn Pietz is learning about the ways Climate Change may be affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. (Maybe there are some hidden blessings to this strange time.) “A Prayer for the Earth”, read by Bill Love during an Earth Care Worship Service, is appropriate any time: “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of the earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it. That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love, and peace Amen.”

Respectfully Submitted by Marilyn Robertson

And the Earth Care Committee

Presbyterian Women

This has been an interesting year for PW. We had to cancel our January meeting due to bad weather. Our April and May meetings were canceled because of the Covid-19 virus.

Because of the current environment, it was recommended that PW take a year off from PW meetings and our Bible study. Our meeting and Bible study will be canceled until further notice. Since the building has limited access and in-person worship has been suspended, we have canceled the Upper Room devotionals that PW has been sponsoring until further notice. I am pleased to announce that two Betty Menser Scholarships have been given in the amount of \$500.00 each to Kelly Curtis and Sarah Hathaway.

Respectfully,
Susie Haskins
PW Moderator

Special Music

If you would like to share special Music during worship, contact Pastor Andy. This would include live-streaming on the web.

Bonner County Food Bank Tour.

The Bonner County Food Bank will offer a tour for FPC interested persons on Sept 23rd, Wed., at 11AM. at their facility on 1707 Culvers Drive in Sandpoint. The Food Bank is an organization FPC is supporting through some funding and they always appreciate financial help. Also, they need some volunteers to help at their place during the week.

If you are interested in going that tour, please notify the FPC office. Call me at 208-597-6908, if you have any questions.

Dave Pietz
Mission Chair



September Birthdays

18 Jeanne Marsden

21 Carol Ballard

21 Judy Labrie

24 Karen Rockhill

25 Margareta Larson

29 Charlene Krames

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. and on Facebook live or the sermon archive on the church website starting September 13th

Monday - Al-Anon TBD

Tuesday Book Study Group - 1:30 p.m.

Contemplative Prayer Group - 3:00 p.m.

Choir Practice - postponed

PFLAG - TBD

Wednesday - Al-Anon TBD

Thursday - Al-Anon TBD

Alcoholics Anonymous TBD



First Presbyterian Church

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