



**THE GRAPEVINE**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO**  
 April 2021

From the Pastor ...

Do you have an EV? What is your ride? Do you realize the transportation industry is undergoing a revolution? The current shift from petroleum to electricity gains momentum every day. An EV is an “electric vehicle.”

As the warm weather arrives, I have enjoyed my Christmas present: a new e-bike, made by the Rad company from Seattle. The model is the Rad Runner Plus, designed for the commute. I live 2.5 miles from the church, just a short hop for an e-bike. I can now arrive in a healthy way without the side effect of sweating. The electric motor assists the process of pedaling, based on the amount of help I select, levels one through five. It also has a throttle, so I can zip along up to 20 miles per hour without pedals at all. I park inside my office, no need to take up space along the alley or mess with the time limits of city streets. Yesterday for lunch, I rode down to City Beach and got back in time for the Zoom book study group. It was a cool spring ride, but refreshing and nice to get the legs active.

It's a very nice bike! I also purchased extras, like a front rack with a basket and a small, soft-sided cooler bag to hold things. It's great for holding Moose Meadow Farm veggies (a local farm in Clark Fork with greenhouses) at their weekly drop off. I also put on a center console, which makes it look like a motorcycle but is just an empty bin to hold a water bottle, bike locks, and

stuff. The battery is mounted vertically on the back side of the frame tube between the pedal crank and the seat. It is removable, to bring inside to charge and keep out of cold night temperatures. My e-bike came with a cushion on the rear rack and has extra little foot pegs that flip out so a child or small adult can sit behind me to hitch a ride. But I removed the cushion seat and installed a basket that holds my backpack. This way, I can haul my laptop computer, books, and other work items back and forth in the commute. I also bought an upgrade: a seat post with built-in shock absorbers and a cushion seat with springs. It's so smooth! I ride over railroad tracks and don't even stand up.

Some people do not consider it a “real” bike because it has an electric motor. I would agree; I do not anticipate using this e-bike for bicycle tours, and my road bike is still important. The e-bike has a limited range and requires a plug-in to charge. Because of the motor and battery, it is heavier than a “regular” bike, so the pedal assist is nice.

If you are thinking of this ride as a bicycle, it won't fit your paradigm. An e-bike is an entirely new transportation system. I view it as a vehicle with varied options. I can ride on a path or a road. I can use assist, or not. It can escort me to a meeting, or a sweet huckleberry patch. It has a smaller carbon footprint than other transportation options. It's nice to leave the car parked at home.

Revolutions have their challenges. So far, as I've ridden through town, some people share compliments, while others literally sneer. Drivers don't seem to know to what to do when they see a bicycle going uphill at twenty miles an hour. Do they pass, do they wait? Revolutions bring learning curves, and just as we figure it out, something new comes. Eventually, cars will use hydrogen. Then cars will be replaced by drones. We may not even need streets, nor the need to commute. But those are future paradigm shifts. Riding an e-bike is just one step on the larger spectrum of transportation developments, most of which have been embraced. No one I know rides a horse as their main transportation. Someday, everyone will assume drones are normal.

The reason I mention social changes is to parallel another shift. Organized religion has faded in our culture, with less than half of Americans focused on participation in a church, the lowest percentage ever recorded. For young Millennials, less than a third (30%) are active in a church. Does this mean God has stopped working in our culture? Is Jesus obsolete? Or is the Spirit at work in new ways as Easter continues to revolutionize life? There are many people who may not be "real Christians" in a traditional sense, but the Church, like transportation, is amid a revolution as paradigms shift. Though the terminology may change, people are still spiritual beings having a human experience, and God gives the breath of life. The decline of organized religion in America is not a sign of failure, but a signal that God is at work in other ways. May we enjoy the ride together as we respond to the living Christ in our midst. Happy Easter!

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Andy Kennaly



## THE SESSION SUMMARY

APRIL 2021

Session met on March 16, 2021, via Zoom conferencing. While we are getting used to this virtual format, elders look forward to meeting in-person.

As we have been doing every meeting, Session reviewed the current COVID-19 health protocols for public gatherings. In doing so, we confirmed our plan developed in February to resume in-person Sunday worship services on March 21. At the same time, we will continue Sunday services on Facebook Live to remain in contact with our virtual congregation around the world.

Session approved a recommendation from the Earth Care Committee to install raised garden beds for growing produce to donate to the local food bank. The beds, constructed of cedar lumber, will be located along the exterior wall south of the Fireside Room and the kitchen. The Deacons offered \$1,600 to purchase the materials. Construction will take place off-site by Bonner County Justice Services (people completing community services) with anticipated delivery in April.

Other facility improvements include the installation of handrails in the sanctuary and repairs to the exterior roof line of the sanctuary. The contractor is waiting for better weather conditions to begin the exterior project. Sue Helander, Building and Grounds elder, is soliciting bids from roofing contractors to conduct an annual inspection of the roofs.

Paula Vincent, Stewardship and Finance Elder, reported that the Audit Committee, elected during the recent Congregational Annual Meeting, met to review the fiscal segregation of duties to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place. The committee confirmed that all personnel responsible for handling the church's finances exercise a high degree of diligence with sufficient checks and balances in place.

We received notice from the Presbytery of Inland Northwest that Rev. Steve Neuder has been appointed as the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry liaison to our church. You probably associate Steve with his position as associate pastor at the First Lutheran Church. Remember, however, that he is also ordained as a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church USA. In his liaison position, he will occasionally meet with Session and pass along pertinent information from Presbytery. Pastor Andy and Pastor Steve visit informally almost weekly so we look forward to our continued relationship with him.

During this Easter season, let us remember: We are an Easter People. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bill Love, Clerk of Session

## COMMUNITY PEACE GARDEN

When I'm in my church office, I look out the window and see people every day in the Community Peace Garden. Sometimes they sit on the bench in the Gazebo, others have lunch at the picnic tables. This morning, a woman took a photo of the spring flowers growing under the church sign. The Little Free Library is very popular, with regular visits as people share books or sit on the bench and read in the sunshine. Even the parking places along North Fourth Avenue are a favorite stop for people who sit in their cars and eat their lunch. The dance studio next door has little kids coming and going, and the church grounds are so much nicer to explore than the parking lot when your 8 years old. Sometimes they have dance routines on the grass as the parents pull out their cell phones and snap some pictures. The Community Peace Garden is living up to its name, connecting community and serving as a peaceful sanctuary in the midst of a bustling small town and a noisy culture.

The Peace Garden Committee, along with Building and Grounds, are hopeful to start the next phase of the design. This includes the walking prayer labyrinth, a rain garden for storm runoff, improved drainage near the historic building, and a sprinkler system for the gardens and remaining lawn. A new bicycle rack, raised garden beds, another picnic table, and increased plantings are all part of the plan. We will see how far we get this year as we continue this process of reaching out to the community through hospitality.

Peace

Pastor Andy Kennaly

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## HIGHWAY CLEAN UP

Mark your calendar: Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> is the Highway Clean Up. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Westmond Store in Cocolalla to cover the one-mile stretch of Adopt-A-Highway program along route 95. Bring your work gloves. Vests and trash bags are provided by the state. Contact Sylvia Humes ([poppy3942@gmail.com](mailto:poppy3942@gmail.com)) to sign up, because we need to know ahead of time how many will come. Plus, there is lunch afterwards featuring delicious soup and bread. Come join others to be stewards of creation as we pick up along the road.

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## HERITAGE TRUST WORK

Todd Vorhies Construction has us on their list for spring repairs to the exterior soffits and gutters along the church roof. He is waiting for the ground to get a little firmer before hauling in a power lift. The Idaho Heritage Trust has said this project qualifies. Once the work is completed, we submit for the matching funds and they go through final approvals. We have raised the amount needed to cover this, and the Building Fund will also be used for part of the expenses. If you see Todd's crew one of these days, be sure to stop and thank them for their work.

## EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

### Growing Gardens for Community

Early in 2014, First Presbyterian Church formed an Earth Care Team. This has become a “learn as you go” project. A theme the team promotes and tries to live by, is “Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.” This helps us respond to God’s call to be “Stewards of Creation.” Within the Presbyterian Church (USA), Earth Care is under the umbrella of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, because if we avoid wasting resources, food and other essentials will be available to more people. Conserving resources and seeking to improve our environment involve individual choices and collective actions as a congregation. Early in 2015, we took an assessment, answering detailed questions about Outreach and Advocacy, Worship, Facilities, and Education. Our efforts in these areas, with ongoing plans for improvement, earned the church an official certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

We already had a good start. In Worship, for example, we already sing hymns and read scriptures which relate to the Earth, and we go outside to host a church service at City Beach each summer. For Facilities, we include the Deacons’ positive effort of recycling office paper and other items, the pastor composting kitchen scraps, and Building and Ground’s upgrades to lighting. The church office limits paper use by distributing *The Grapevine* newsletter by email. Education includes informing members and friends about our efforts through announcements, *The Grapevine*, and bulletin boards. Outreach and Advocacy gradually develop as we become recognized as an Earth Care Congregation in the community through participation in community Earth Day celebrations. We have been recertified each year, among a growing number of congregations nationwide who make environmental efforts.

Now, we have a new opportunity to apply our concerns in a very practical way--gardens to benefit the community. On September 23, 2020, an interest in how local people cope with this time of pandemic and food insecurity, led Pastor Andy, Anna Bates, and Dave and Lynn Pietz to tour the Bonner Community Food Bank. While there, we met Michele Murphree who coordinates Community Gardens throughout Sandpoint, at churches, schools, the Library, and the Food Bank. Michele was excited to hear of the church’s interest in creating raised garden beds in the Community Peace Garden to support food security in our area.

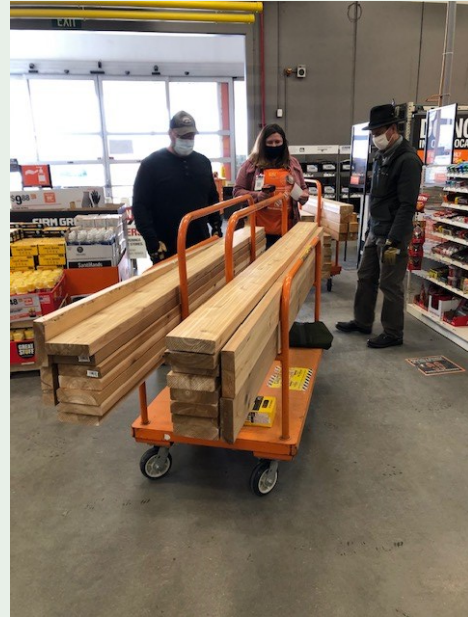
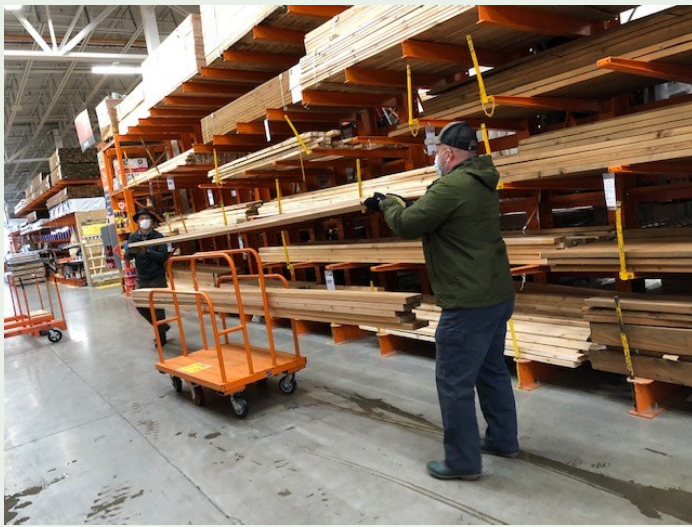
This spring, the leaders of the Earth Care Team met to discuss this topic. Pastor Andy showed us the area where he could imagine raised garden beds, outside the south wall of the kitchen and Fireside Room. We invited Michele to see it the next week. She was impressed with the area and shared ideas on how it could work. The Earth Care Committee later voted to coordinate with Michele to build some raised garden beds.

But the project would need funding. This request was brought to the Deacons’ meeting, and they voted to support it with up to \$1600 from their Discretionary Fund. When final plans were made, and we realized the current cost of cedar, we also applied for further funding from the church’s Memorial Fund. Session has been supportive as this process unfolds.

After the Deacons pledged support, Marilyn Robertson and Lynn Pietz met with Michele and her husband, Dion that next Friday, with pages of diagrams and figures for costs based on what would be needed. The following Monday, March 22, Lynn Pietz and Pastor Andy met with

Michele and Dion at Home Depot, and cedar boards were purchased. Dion used his truck to deliver the wood to Bonner County Justice Services (Juvenile Community Services) where youth are building two 8'x 4', and three 4' x 4' garden frames, in the style of other local Community Gardens. These will be delivered to the Community Peace Garden at the church before the April 18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Service, when they will be dedicated, along with a newly planted flowering plum tree.

Michele and Dion's expertise from past gardens, along with their enthusiasm, have helped ease the development of First Presbyterian's Community Garden. As we coordinate with community partners, experiencing God at work through this process strikes all of us as amazing. Pastor Andy and the Earth Care Team continue to bring this project to completion so food can grow and get shared. Thanks to everyone for your support!



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

It is a joy to experience the many ways the FPC Sandpoint congregation works together to share generosity through gifts of time, talent, and finances. Here are a few highlights of financial support through March 14th:

- Budget needs are met through pledges, donations, and other income
- o Income received to date: \$45,707.00, or 31% of the budget
- Expenses are also on track
- o Projected expense of \$37,000 through March, or 25% of budget
- FPC Sandpoint provides support for Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly through a payment each March of thirty-six dollars per member; all are encouraged to contribute toward this “per capita” expense.
- o \$2,140 dollars received; \$560 dollars still needed to meet budget  
(editor’s note: as of newsletter publication, \$2,356 received, \$344 still needed)

With appreciation,  
Paula Vincent, Finance Elder

## EARTH DAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> is the Sunday before Earth Day (Thursday, April 22). The Earth Care Congregation Committee is planning a simple service for worship that Sunday, celebrating our call as Christians to care for God’s creation. The 10:30 a.m. worship will conclude by going outside into the Community Peace Gardens, with plans to officially “Bless!” the new raised garden beds and plant a flowering plum tree along North Fourth Avenue to replace one that was damaged during a windstorm. Come celebrate God’s goodness!



## PASTOR'S TAKING A HIKE, COME ALONG!

Pastor Andy here... One of my goals is to hike up Scotchman Peak. After 10 years of living in Sandpoint, I still haven't done this yet, so have committed to a date to help bring this to reality. Because I want this hike to go well, I plan on training. Come along if you want to join me! It's not for the faint of heart. It will be strenuous. But it will also be fun, and a great time to connect with each other and enjoy the beauty of the Earth. Here are some dates to keep in mind. Let me know if you're interested.

1) Saturday, May 15, 8:00 a.m. meet at the NEW trailhead parking lot to hike HAYES GULCH up to Gold Hill. The new parking area is on the right, shortly after crossing the railroad tracks on Bottle Bay Road, heading east. There is a vault pit toilet there, so it is an obvious parking lot.

2) Saturday, June 12, 7:00 a.m. meet at the trailhead lot to hike the Mickinnick Trail. This is a strenuous hike, very rugged, but excellent training.

3) Saturday, June 26, 6:00 a.m. hit the trail for Scotchman Peak. We can coordinate early morning carpools, but we will get an early start on this popular trail.

4) But wait, there's more! Train now and we'll also throw in the steep hike up Goat Peak, Saturday, July 10 at 6:30 a.m. This trail is harder than Scotchman Peak, from what I hear. These hikes will take place rain or shine. Thunder and lightning would be the only deterrent. If you have any suggestions, let me know. Let me know if you want to participate.





## BOECK MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held to celebrate Christ's Resurrection and honor the life of Joyce Boeck, who died on the first day of spring, March 20, 2021. The service is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Elk's Lodge in Ponderay at 11:00 a.m. with a lunch reception to follow.

## FRANKIE CLOUSE

In the early morning hours of March 23, 2021, Frankie Clouse died in her sleep. She was 103. Although she did not want a funeral, she shared a poem that was special to her. Pastor Andy read the poem as part of the worship service on Sunday, March 28. It's posted in the online sermon archive, both in print and video format. But here it is in print:

### A Living Faith

I've dreamed many dreams that never came true.  
I've seen them vanish at dawn,  
But I've realized enough of my dreams, thank God,  
To make me want to dream on.

I've prayed many prayers when no answer came,  
Though I waited patiently and long.  
But answers have come to enough of my prayers,  
To make me keep trusting on.

I've sown many seeds that feel by the way,  
For the birds to feed upon.  
But I've held enough golden sheaves in my hand  
To keep me sowing on.

I've drained the cup of disappointment and pain,  
And gone many days without song.  
But I've sipped enough nectar from the roses of life,  
To make me want to live on.

I haven't accomplished every goal in my life,  
As the years have come and gone.  
But I've experienced enough success in my work,  
To make me want to work on.

Author Unknown

# APRIL



## April Birthdays

**2 Bill Love**

**7 Anne Marie Casey**

**12 Lani McQuilkin**

**30 Andy Kennaly**

**30 Dave Pietz**

## Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday School 9:00 a.m. on Zoom*

*Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. and Facebook*

*Monday - Al-Anon TBD*

*Tuesday Book Study Group-1:30 p.m. to 3:00p.m. on Zoom*

*Contemplative Prayer Group-1:30 p.m. to 3:00p.m. on Zoom*

*Choir Practice - postponed*

*PFLAG - TBD*

*Wednesday - Al-Anon TBD*

*Thursday - Al-Anon TBD*

*Alcoholics Anonymous TBD*



***Ministers: Members and Friends***

***Pastor Andy Kennaly***

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