



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 May 2023

From the Pastor...

The last six years have involved a few things that they never talked about or taught me in seminary. Almost thirty years ago, email was just catching on, and I received my first computer (a Mac Classic hardwired to a dot matrix printer) as a graduation gift from college (thanks, Mom & Dad!). That computer helped me get a master's degree, but now it is in the closet. It stays in there because it can't keep up with technological advances of the internet and software programs. In many ways, society grows more complex, and there aren't many signs of simplicity. This means that to simplify, one needs to make intentional, often counter-cultural choices.

If you would have looked at me in the eye when I was in seminary and told me that someday I would be living in North Idaho through a global pandemic, serving a church while preaching to an empty sanctuary for months while using a cell phone camera to connect with Facebook Live, I would not have had any frame of reference to what that would involve. The pandemic has pushed many people into very significant changes, along with the mental and emotional strains of navigating steep learning curves of the unknown. It has also brought out trends that were hidden, such as institutional decline, fragmentation of society, and political polarization.

Genesis opens with creation narratives, and after six days of labor, God rests on the seventh. Sabbath reflects this divine rest after a time of prolonged effort. May 2, 2023 is the start of a three-month

rest from regular patterns and responsibilities. Special focus involves reading through Jean Gebser's book, *The Ever-Present Origin* (feel free to read along this summer if you get a copy), daily journaling to emphasize the discipline of writing, and three "inspirational author tours" that include Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, especially related to Sigurd Olson and Henry David Thoreau. We will also see old friends and visit relatives along the way.

The first step is often the most crucial and sets the tone for what follows. Our first step involves planting a tree. The approved Presbyterian Board of Pensions Sabbath Support grant of 5,000 dollars includes the purchase of a Fuji Apple Tree. Shawna and I will plant this in our yard (I call our property Honey Frame Place) and it will grow to share blossoms with future beehives. We then travel to the Redwoods of northern California and walk among ancient groves. This will invite awareness, root us in the grounding Presence of God as the living Christ is celebrated. A great way to begin the Sabbath journey, like a call to worship for a pilgrimage!

Blessings on your summer, and I hope you find ways to simplify, stay grounded in Presence, and enjoy the beauty of the Earth as more than tourists, but as participants, pilgrims on a spiritual journey to learn lessons of experience that only active rest can teach.

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy



Session Summary

Present: Pastor Andy Kennaly (Moderator), Don Helander (Clerk), Bill Love, Don Deters, Sylvia Humes, Judy Labrie, Paula Vincent, and Mary Sturgis (Deacon). Absent: Sharon Anderson

Approved the following events: Church adult Sunday school (and others) venturing out on May 7 following worship to walk the Pine Street Woods as an awareness walk; host and participate in One Hundred Thousand Poets for Change in the Peace Garden on Saturday, September 23.

Summer worship time was approved from June 4th—September 3rd at 9:30am.

The following tentative format and scheduling via Worship and Music committee was approved during Pastor Kennaly's sabbatical.

Recommended Monthly Format:

- First Sunday of the Month: Traditional service with communion
- Last Sunday of the Month: Simple Service
- Middle Sundays of the Month: TBD – Combination of ordained clergy and church members/local lay leaders.

Special Music:

- Schedule when available.

Recommended Outdoor Services:

- No Sandpoint City Beach service.
- Conduct Simple Services (June 25, July 30) outdoors in the Peace Garden. Include Fellowship with outdoor services: June 25 – ice cream social; July 30 – potluck brunch.

Sabbatical updates - Pastor Andy gave a brief itinerary of his upcoming sabbatical

It was decided to discontinue being a Collection sight for Jerry Kingery's Bible foundation

Finance Report: March income \$9,299, Expenses \$14,064. 1st Qtr summary Income \$35,000, Expenses \$36,659.

Pastor's Report - Board of Pensions assistance grant received was upped from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Cell phone vouchers were approved for reimbursement during Sabbatical time (\$50.22 per month, as budgeted). Pastor Andy performed the funeral on April 5th, 2023 for Leslie Linnendoll (passed away March 18th, 2023).

Judy Labrie provided the following game plan for sabbatical logistics.

Between vacation time and sabbatical, Pastor Andy will be away from **April 25 - August 15 (or 16).**

Pastor's email - Pastor Andy's email is on Vacation Mode with an announcement that no one will be checking his email while he is away. emails are not accepted at all.

Pastor's Phone - The friends and members of the church will refrain from calling or texting Pastor Andy while he is away on vacation /sabbatical. Unless there is an emergency at which time call and leave a voice mail message.

Church telephone messages - Ramona catches the phone messages on Wednesday mornings. Otherwise, someone should check messages on Sunday mornings and Tuesdays. Perhaps get the code for remote access to phone messages.

USPS Mailbox - Susie and Ramona check the mail.

Bulletins for Worship - should be in to Ramona by Wednesday mornings so she can put words to the songs in the bulletin and record the License Agreement. Sue Helander tidies the pews and sanctuary. Ramona prints the bulletin for the Worship Assistant with yellow highlights and puts it in the Pastor's mailbox for Sunday.

Grapevine Newsletters -

May - Pastor Andy submits a *From the Pastor* article for May with an overview of his sabbatical. June / July / August submitted by lay leadership

Session Meetings -

The Book of Order states the session should meet at least quarterly. Pastor Andy will be available to moderate all the session meetings:

Next meeting is September 19; Pastor Andy moderates (returns Aug 20)

In the meantime, session can do business via emails adding the outcomes to the September consent agenda so the issues can be recorded. If a special session meeting with a moderator must be held, the topic must be limited to the issue of concern.

Leadership huddles - If Elders and Deacons want to brainstorm topics without formal meeting minutes, Leadership huddles can be held and topic recorded via September consent agenda.

Building Uses - Cleaning

The building is normally cleaned on Ken's personal schedule. He cleans once a week before Sunday Worship. He's paid for 1 / week cleaning; anything else is extra.

For events, he will clean before each use so the church is ready and does the normal cleaning afterward for the church.

The church calendar in the office has a green asterisk next to the event to let Ken know that he needs to clean before it. Ramona reminds Ken when he should clean for an event. Ken is not always in town to see when the building is being used and he needs to be told about events.

Sanctuary Thermostats -

Pastor Andy will set both thermostats in the sanctuary on the best schedule for summer. If the temperature needs to be adjusted, do this:

Change the temperature by using the Arrow Up or Arrow Down to the setting desired then press the HOLD Temp button

Change back to the preset schedule by pressing the Run Program or Run Schedule button

Don Deters led a discussion of insurance coverage regarding umbrella, stain glass, and musical instruments to include Bells. He will report back with options.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, September 19th, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Don Helander, Clerk of Session

Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

May 2023

Financial Update

Mar. Income	<i>Monthly Budget</i>	YTD Income through Mar. 31	<i>YTD Budget through March</i>
\$9299	\$10,542	\$35,000	\$31,625

Mar. Expense	<i>Monthly Budget</i>	YTD Expense through Mar.	<i>YTD Budget through Mar.</i>
\$14,064	\$10,542	\$36,659	\$31,625

Budget Notes

Total revenue received in March lagged the estimated monthly income while year-to-date income remains ahead of the anticipated budget.

Expenses in March exceeded the estimated monthly budget; however, the additional expense can be attributed to several annual mission related gifts.

\$530.00 was disbursed from the Christmas Joy Special offering

\$500.00 was donated to the “Building Towards Reconciliation” campaign for repair of the churches of the Nimiipuu

The annual per capita assessment of \$39.00 per member for a total of \$2730.00 was paid in March. Year to date, FPC members and friends have donated \$1,367.00 to offset this expense .

An additional gift of \$600.00 was sent to the Synod/Presbytery and an additional \$250.00 was gifted to the General Assembly.

First Quarter Notes

FPC ended the first quarter with an expense/revenue shortfall of \$1659.00. This is mostly a deficit related to several larger annual expenses occurring in the first quarter.

At the end of the first quarter, FPC has a combined checking and savings account balance of \$105,536. This is an anticipated decrease of about \$5000 from 2022 as the accumulated pastor study leave funds from prior years have now been expended.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vincent, Elder Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

Easter Lilies

Carol Curtis	In Memory of Beverly Dunn
Carol Curtis	In Memory of Les Linendoll
Dyno Wahl Bendix	In Memory of my Parents Bud & Jeannine Bendix & Brother Mark
Sue & Don Helander	Our Parents, Marge & Paul Helander, Bob & Rosa Hutsell
Judy Labrie	In Memory of the Labrie Family
Mary & Chuck Bauer	In Memory of Our Parents & Grandparents
Kirsten Thompson	In Memory of Helen Thompson
Judy Scott	In Memory of AJ & Norma Joynes
Gary Jones	In Memory of Elaine Jones
Cynthia Dalsing	In Memory of my Sister Claudia Dalsing Dideum
Sharon Anderson	In Memory of my Mother & Father
Judy McComish	In Memory of my Husband Philip McComish & my Parents
Paula Vincent	In Memory of Parents Loyal & Vesta Vincent
Paula Vincent	In Memory of Parents Paul & LaVone Schnaithman
Cathy Eastwood	In Memory of my Husband Robert A Eastwood
Cathy Eastwood	In Memory of Parents Floyd & Margaret Eastwood, Delbert & Louise Conner
Bart Casey	In Memory of my Brother Brian Casey
Mary Sturgis	In Memory of my Parents



Choir Practice Sunday's at 11:45

Bella Note' May 7, 2023 at 2:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Deacon Meeting Sunday May, 2023 after worship

Bonner County Human Rights Task Force May 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Suzuki Concert May 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May Birthdays

- 1 Mary Bauer**
- 2 Judy McComish**
- 8 Jim Shirrell**
- 9 Don Helander**
- 16 Jack Parker**
- 18 Ted Farmin**
- 30 Nancy Albanese**

Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Livestream
Adult Christian Formation Class 9:00 a.m.*

Choir Practice every Sunday 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Monday - Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Contemplative Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. to 2p.m.

Book Study Group 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. PFLAG

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon on Zoom

Thursday - 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

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