



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 April 2023

From the Pastor...

I hope you enjoyed the email devotions over Lent as they traced themes that help shape our faith.

In late March, I was away from emails and computers and cell phones for eight full days at a Benedictine Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado. The silent prayer retreat was led by Contemplative Outreach of Colorado. I was one of 10 participants who entered a Deep Silence, which means no talking and no eye contact. But the deeper connection of spiritual awareness was quite amazing. God showed up at this 4,000-acre monastery high on the western slope of Colorado mountains (elevation 7,720). The weather was everything from sunshine to blizzard. Unfortunately, this monastery is slated for closure in three months, then the property will likely be sold. Too many aging monks and not enough young ones, institutional decline, rising expenses; this recurring theme was mentioned at the closing program by several retreatants from all over the country. One could sense a heavy quality, a kind of depression, as the remaining Monks continue their prayers but are uncertain about what the future holds, even as they grieve the loss of sixty years of thriving ministry as prayerful Benedictines who ran a cattle ranch. Other retreatants headed home to also face decline and even closures. Richard Rohr's theme of order, disorder, reorder, was all too palpable.

Holy Week also has that quality as Jesus enters triumphantly into Jerusalem (order), is then arrested and crucified (disorder), then is resurrected on that first Easter Day (reorder). This pattern is echoed throughout creation over the eons so it should be surprising, yet somehow it always seems abrupt when it's direct to our experience.

One thing Holy Week reminds us of is that we are Easter People, and our faith trusts this process because God is directly involved. Though we often cannot see what the outcome may be, faith helps us trust that there will be redemptive outcomes in some form, things that would not have been possible without the disorder. We'd love to jump from order to reorder without the disorder, but that's not how it works.

God be with you as the Lenten journey concludes. The Easter season begins. As Easter people, we trust that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy



Session summary
March 28th, 2023

After a worshipful opening the consent agenda was approved highlighted by misc building usage requests and pulpit supply.

A motion passed to enthusiastically receive new members as follows...

- Gary Jones by letter of transfer
- Kirsten Thompson and Donna Bricker by reaffirmation of faith

Building and Grounds discussion of door security. Re-key at the cost of \$600+ or a reminder campaign to lock doors for security. At this point we decided to emphasize "bearing" in mind to lock doors.

A list of spring cleanup items have been placed on a sign up board in the CE entrance. Jot your name (s) on a line and complete at your convenience. Many hands make light work.

Lynn Pietz provided the Deacon's report highlighted by...

- 59 lbs of food collected for the Food Bank, \$300 donated to the Teen center
- Thanks to Dave Sturgis for installing a new American flag!

Paula Vincent

Finance Summary

Total revenue received to date is on target; however, the monthly income in February fell short of the budget.

Expenses in February were also less than budgeted. Year to date expenses exceed the budget by about \$1,500.

Looking ahead, the annual per capita assessments will be paid in March. Additional donations totaling \$1,016 have been made to offset this budgeted expense of \$2,730.

Earth Care team is working on a partnership with local artists to create a mural on the south side of the building.

Pastor Andy's report

- The silent retreat was held in Aspen, Colorado and took place over 8 meditative days. See Pastor Andy's comments accordingly.
- Pastor Andy successfully requested and received a grant from Presbytery to offset some his families medical expenses. He has also submitted a grant request from the Board of Pensions assistance program for subsidy towards his upcoming Sabbatical, titled "Inspirational Author Tour".

Session agreed to resume normal (pre Covid) communion serving protocol (w/o gloves or mask).

Next session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th.

Respectfully submitted by

Don Helander, Clerk of Session

Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

April 2023

Stewardship Reflection: In a March 16, 2023 Lenten post on the Presbyterian Foundation website, Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor and Head of Staff of Westwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, makes the observation that stewardship and Holy Week aren't typically associated with one another. However, she invites us to consider that *"stewardship is everywhere in this sacred season: in our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice, our awe at God's incalculable blessings, and our commitment to a lifelong calling to service in the Spirit...Jesus' persistence to meet his followers wherever they are, in whatever form they need, urges us to consider how we offer our gifts as well. Rather than "one size fits all," there are many ways our offerings can be made. Rather than simply assess what amount of time or money we can offer, Jesus' model urges us to consider what gifts are most needed.* The form may change; the timing may shift; for in all things, the stewardship of our presence is offered not for our glory, but for the sake of the world that God so loves". *

In keeping with the idea of considering what gifts are most needed, Session approved an additional \$500 mission gift this year to the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest's "Building Towards Reconciliation" campaign to repair six churches on the Nez Perce Reservation in north-central Idaho. Information about this campaign notes that *the repair needs of the churches on the reservation, which is the ancestral home to the Nimiipuu people — formerly known, incorrectly, as Nez Perce — range from foundation work and sagging roofs to replacing flooring, repairing non-functioning plumbing, upgrading heating systems and installation of exterior lighting for safety concerns.*

Additional mission giving during the first quarter of this year included annual gifts of \$250 for the General Assembly and \$600 for Synod/Presbytery and the quarterly gift of \$300 for FPC Deacon's to distribute (see Deacon section of the Grapevine for details).

Finance Update: February's financial reports are complete with March reports pending.

Feb. Income	YTD Income through Mar. 19th	YTD Budget through March
\$8674	\$31,775	\$31,625

Feb. Expense	YTD Expense through Feb.	YTD Budget through Feb.
\$8533	\$22,517	\$21,083

Per Capita: In March, FPC made the annual per capita payment to the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. This year, the assessment is thirty-nine dollars (\$39) per member

Those wishing to help offset this expense may designate “per capita” on the check memo line, offering envelopes, etc. Through mid-March donations of \$1,016 had been made toward this budgeted expense for FPC of \$2,730.

2022 Audit: The audit committee members Judy Labrie, Judy McComish and Paula Vincent met with Financial Secretary, Susie Haskins and Treasurer, Natalie Miller to review internal financial processes and procedures on March 8th. Notes of this meeting are included with the Session materials. Additionally, representatives of the committee will meet with Kurt Hartvigsen from the Presbytery at Millwood Community Presbyterian Church in Spokane on June 6th for assistance in auditing the 2022 financials.

Memorial: It is with appreciation that we acknowledge receipt of a gift in memory of Phyllis Meagher.

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

*The full article can be found at this link: [Call to Gratitude at Easter](#) or Presbyterian foundation.org/Easter).

St Patrick's Day Dinner
March 2023

Many, many thanks to the folks who made the return of The St Patrick's Day Dinner a fabulous success last month. The list of members and friends of the church that contributed time and talent is long. It would not have been the same without Mary and Dave Sturgis, Sue and Don Helander, Judy McComish, Victoria Oliver, Wesley and Jim Dustman, Mary and Chuck Bauer, Dyno Wahl, Paula and Steve Vincent, Judy Labrie, Don and Patti Deters, Sharon Anderson, Millie Rinker, Carol Curtis, Dee Dreisbach, Gary Jones, Sally Moon, Judy Scott, Ken Knott, Lynn and Dave Pietz, Marilyn Robertson, Tamara Robertson and others who pitched in.

For the first time the ever, the dinner was co-hosted with the Sandpoint Area Seniors, Inc (SASI). SASI contributed by making colorful fliers, getting word out to the community in ads in the Reader newspaper plus a couple of local radio spots. It was also handy having the reservation list maintained by Arie, the receptionist there. SASI committee participants were Nikki Klein, board president; Judy McComish, board member; Matt Thompson, director of operations; and, Chef Brenda Curtis who cooked and delivered the whole dinner. Other helpers were Herbert Klein and Adele Martin.

The FPC volunteers did what they always do: clean, decorate the room, set beautiful tables, ready the kitchen and all. Instead of a buffet line, the food was plated in the kitchen and delivered to tables. The dinner was well attended with 76 initial reservations and 71 dinners actually being served. A lot of food was left over and 20 to-go boxed dinners were sold. The rest of the leftovers were delivered to the Bonner Gospel Mission in Ponderay to an enthusiastic reception.

Senior Center Chef Brenda made an excellent meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots plus dinner rolls. Comments from the diners were complementary with some saying it was the best corned beef ever.

The first priority was to offer a fun community gathering. As a fund-raiser for the Deacons Discretionary fund and SASI, each organization netted \$947.64. That's a win!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the warm, delightful evening. To quote Mary Sturgis, "It's good to have St Patrick's Day back!".

Sincerely,

The St Patrick's Day Committee

Fellowship

Our Fellowship Committee has set up a regularly scheduled after church gathering.

We started meeting on the 2nd Sunday of March and will continue on the 4th Sunday. We hope those who stopped to partake in a light snack and good conversation had an enjoyable time.

Please remember every 2nd & 4th Sunday near the ramp entering the sanctuary to continue Fellowship until further notice.

If you would like to contribute goodies and a little time, please contact me.

In Fellowship,

Sylvia, Elder

208-304-2995

Sign up board
located in the
Christian Ed
entrance.



**Spring '23 clean up tasks
Complete by end of April +/-**

Rake leaves, general cleanup alley and Alder sides 1+ people _____

Rake leaves, general cleanup 4th st side and courtyard 2+ people _____

Rake leaves, general cleanup and tend to raised beds South side 2+ people _____

Clean out yard storage (Alder side) 1 person _____

Wash windows (ground level) inside and out 2+ people _____

Maintenance Tasks (complete by end of May +/-)

Fix/replace window blinds and update curtains in fellowship hall. 2+ people _____

Clean out gutters and spray for moss on roof 2+ people _____

Bring in more bark and spread around large tree in courtyard 2+ people _____

Roto root downspout drains under sidewalk on Alder 2+ people _____

Misc exterior painting 2+ people _____

Service lawn mower (clean, change oil, sharpen blade) 1 person _____

Q/s contact Don Deters or Don Helander

We've discovered a door or two left unlocked in the past couple of months. One solution is to re-key all doors at the cost of \$600+. Or...heed this reminder to lock doors that you open. And bear in mind if you're the last one out "lock up for security".





Choir Practice Sunday's at 11:45

Music Conservatory Concert April 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Communion Sunday April 2 during worship

Leslie Linendoll Funeral April 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Deacon Meeting Sunday April 9, 2023 after worship

Bonner County Human Rights Task Force April 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Bonner County Human Rights Task Force April 15, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Session Meeting April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Highway Cleanup April 22, 2023 10:00 a.m.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April Birthdays

2 Bill Love

7 Anne Marie Casey

30 Andy Kennaly

30 Dave Pietz

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

Pastor Andy Kennaly

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

208-263-2047 office@fpcsandpoint.org

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

www.fpcsandpoint.org