



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 November 2023

From the Pastor...

The leaves are piled along the boulevard, that space between the street and the sidewalk. Yellow hues of birch and maple, dry and fluffy under the smokey, inversion haze of filtered sunlight. The rain is coming, but so is the city crew for the annual cleanup. Behind the scenes, Chuck Bauer has checked with the city and been assured they will collect them this year, and Don Helander will push them into the street just prior to that day.

These are a couple of actions among many that take place behind the scenes to keep the church building, ministry, and outreach active. Yesterday there was a roofing company on their annual inspection. A few hours of clump, clump, clump, they stepped along doing repairs and replacing sealant. The roof is in good shape going into winter, and the leaves have been cleared from the gutters and drains (another Don Helander contribution).

There are many who give of themselves in various capacities. The Ruling Elders on Session, the

Deacons, and other leaders each help coordinate such things as Fellowship, Worship & Music, Buildings & Grounds, Membership and Mission, and ways to support other groups in our community such as the senior center, food bank, and Freedom House which is kitty-corner from the church building. This is just to name a few.

When I opened a card of appreciation, there were many names signed inside. Thank you to everyone for the good wishes of Pastor's Appreciation Month, and the gifts paid forward on my behalf. It is great to know that people will receive, for example, a flock of chickens through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Thank you so much!

As we continue in November, much is focused on Thanksgiving. We are encouraged to "count our blessings" and be thankful for the many ways generosity has a way of multiplying as acts of kindness ripple outward. This is both for the receiving and the giving, for there is joy in both.

Thank you everyone for sharing your joy!
 Blessings to you!

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy

SABBATICAL MOMENT (and Advent Journeys)

To share stories from the Sabbatical, and to focus on the Advent Journey, three devotionals are scheduled for December which feature a travelogue and reflections by me (Pastor Andy) regarding three phases of the Sabbath Time away.

The first part of the Sabbatical involved a road trip to the Redwood Forest of northern California, with a focus on getting grounded, rooted, and intentional about interconnections of relationship. Labyrinths were walked along the way, plus forest paths through ancient groves. For inspirational authors, Shakespeare was celebrated by plays in Ashland, Oregon, and a stay in the Edward Gorey room of an Air B n' B had a mysterious interest based on this Manhattan eccentric artist.

The second part was a focus on wilderness and the ancient waters of the Upper Midwest and a visit to Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. Flow, stillness, and dedication to purpose were explored by visiting The Listening Point Foundation in Ely, Minnesota and the cabin, home, and writer's shack of Sigurd Olson.

A third chapter to the Sabbatical was an east coast saunter to Walden Pond and the area in and around Concord, Massachusetts, where Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau had lived in the emergence of Transcendentalism. The art of wildness where you are, and awareness of divine Presence are enhanced by readings from Jean Gebser.

Photos will be shared as the travelogue merges with Advent themes. Tuesday evenings, December 5, 12, and 19 from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, plus (hopefully) a Zoom link for participants from a distance.

Advent is just around the corner. See you soon.

Pastor Andy



Minutes of Session October 17, 2023

Present Pastor Kennaly, Don Helander, Bill Love, Sharon Anderson, Sylvia Humes, Judy McComish, Judy Labrie, Paula Vincent and Deacon rep Carol Curtis. Absent Don Deters

Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting: Regular Session Meeting, September 19, 2023

Approved the BCHRTF request, sanctuary and fellowship hall for Sunday, October 22, 3:00 - 10:00 pm for a presentation to the community called Cure for Hate.

Approved Pulpit Supply Barbara Rolph November 26, 2023; remove Phyllis Harris Townsend from the Active Membership Roll as she virtually participates online as a member of Mountain View Presbyterian Church of Scottsdale, Arizona and does not intend to be active at FPC in Sandpoint.

Approved statement of recognition for local Tribal Nations in the form of plaques. Design and locations as determined by future "Decor Committee."

Approved formation of Church Décor Committee to help decide if/where donated artwork and other facility design, improvements can be made.

Approved joint luncheon with the Methodists on October 29th after worship, at FPC to kick off the Food Bank Fundraiser.

Deacon's reported assisting with the soup luncheon to kick off Food Bank Fund Raiser partnered with the Methodist congregation on October 29th after worship at FPC.

Session made approval that the building administrator (currently Judy Labrie) is not required to get session approval for "all" building use requests. The position is empowered to only request session approval for new or potentially impactful requests.

Finance - 2023 income and expenses continue to track close to budget.

- o Income YTD: \$96,964
- o Expense YTD: \$95,811
- o Budget YTD was projected at \$94,875

Paula Vincent added that the new VOIP phone system is in place, working well and will save monthly over a land line. Also, the change in bank to Washington Trust is complete.

Personnel reviews are in the process of being scheduled.

Graveside service for Jack Parker was September 26th.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Don Helander, Clerk

Building Use Partnerships

If you stop in to the church kitchen, between breakfast and lunch Mon-Thur, you may meet Jessica Prentice of the new Nova High School. The FPC and the High School have entered into a month-to-month agreement for them to use the kitchen in the mornings and sometimes fellowship hall.

The Nova High is a new school for teens being taught in the Waldorf tradition. The students (about 11-12 of them) are from the homeschool academy, local Waldorf school and similar Waldorf schools from outside the area. It is impressive the level of attention and teaching the kids get around forming respectful community spaces, learning life skills, reverence for all life in addition to academic pursuits. The staff-to-student ratio is much higher than public high schools.

Currently the school has rented a large office space for their classroom in the Belwood Building just down the street from the church. Jessica and other staff will be prepping food at the church in the mornings to take to the classroom and eventually, some days, students and staff will walk to the church and eat lunch together in Fellowship Hall. In the future Jessica hopes to teach the students culinary skills. She has extensive experience working in community kitchens and expresses particular appreciation and gratitude for use of a church kitchen.

Plans are fluid and the building use schedule will come together and be posted in time. In the kitchen, the second **refrigerator (on the right) has been turned on specifically for the use of the school.** A lower cabinet space has been cleared out so the school can store some supplies in the kitchen.

It will be exciting to have the life and vitality of staff and students in the FPC building at times it is usually vacant. If your paths cross and you have the opportunity, say hi to Jessica and others from the school.

Since summer, other building use partnerships include the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force for 100,000 Poets for Change and “Cure for Hate” movie screening and presentation, Bella Noté Music School recital, and the Suzuki String Academy rehearsal and concert. The usual on-going meetings include AA and Al-Anon Family Groups.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings of the season,
Judy Labrie
Elder - Building Use Administration

Harvest Food Challenge-

Let's commit to helping our neighbors this fall by continuing our efforts to stock the shelves of our local food bank. Donation requests from the food bank are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. If you choose to provide financial assistance, please make sure and write the check out to Bonner Community Food Bank. We have two opportunities to involve the community in our quest to stock the shelves at the Food Bank. A \$2.00 donation = 1 pd of food.

We have two afternoon dates for Super One Food Store, November 17th, 12:00 to 4:00PM and December 15th, same time. During these hours, we can offer shoppers an opportunity to purchase items that the food bank is requesting. I'm hoping we can volunteer for 1 hour time slots, it's fun to have a buddy too! The food bank will bring their van and pick up all the food that we collect. If you're available to help on Friday, November the 17th for an hour, please let me know and I'll put you on my schedule.

Sue



Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

Stewardship Reflections

Finding God Through the Autumn Leaves

It is autumn. The leaves have changed, and the wind has a slight chill, reminding us of what will come. Autumn is God's way of calling us to attention: *Wake up! Stay awake! Be prepared!* Let us claim the colors of autumn in our lives. Brown holds for us stability, protection, endurance, and simplicity. Red holds for us passion, determination, love, and adventure. Orange holds balance, warmth, and freedom from our inner prisons, and magenta holds harmony. Finally, purple in autumn leaves prompts our vast imaginations, depths of spirituality, transformation, and wisdom. The new colors of the autumn leaves are but a glimpse into the richness and diversity of the loving life moments God has in store for us. They remind us to stay awake by being mindful of what is right in front of us. It is so easy to forget to give thanks for the gift of a new day. But that new day is a chance to reach out to those we love and even those who might need to know they are loved. It is a chance to enjoy and give thanks. So stay awake, and be present to all that really matters.

-selected excerpts from reflections by Vivian Ame,
contributing writer for *Living Faith* at Creighton University

Finance Committee

Along with observing the changing seasons, Session is also working toward the changing budget years and preparing for 2024. As you know, part of the budget development process includes information gained from the annual stewardship drive. **Thank you** to those that have already pledged. If you haven't done so, please consider a pledge by November 15th to aid in projecting the budget for next year.

Goal: \$100,000 **Pledged through November 1: \$60,000**

Memorial Committee

Memorial gifts have been received in memory of Jack Parker and Sally Nye.

2023 Budget Notes:

FPC 2023 Budget (9 months)	Income (9 months)	Expenses (9 months)
\$95,000	\$103,000	\$96,000

Income received and expenses paid year-to-date are close to budget

The newly established CD at Washington Trust has yielded \$900 in interest since June

The generosity of FPC members and friends continues to be a blessing

Year End Giving

Many of you consider additional giving as we approach the end of the year. The Presbyterian Foundation reminds us of several common giving strategies which are listed below.

Please note that FPC will credit all gifts received by Saturday December 30th on your 2023 giving statement.

CASH-*When you itemize your tax deductions, gifts of cash may be used to eliminate federal income tax on up to 60% of your adjusted gross income. You may be eligible for both federal and state income tax savings.*

RETIREMENT PLANS-*Donors age 70 ½ or older can make a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** up to \$100,000, directly from their IRA to the church or other qualified charity. It's generally a nontaxable distribution made by the IRA trustee directly to the charitable organization. QCDs can lead to tax benefits such as having the amount of the gift count towards an individual's **required minimum distribution (RMD)** while being excluded from income for federal income tax purposes.*

APPRECIATED SECURITIES-*Using long-term appreciated securities for your charitable giving, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, can provide you with additional tax savings. Donors do not realize long-term capital gains upon making these gifts. Market value at the time of the gift, rather than your cost basis, may be reported as an itemized deduction.*

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

2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Thank you for your support of the ministries and mission of FPC of Sandpoint. We believe God calls us to be generous and joyful givers of our time, talents and resources.

To aid in budget development, it would be helpful to receive this pledge form by November 15, 2023. Pledges and gifts may be mailed, placed in the secure drop box or placed in the Sunday offering plate at First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, 417 N 4th Ave., Sandpoint, Idaho 83864. Alternatively, you may give online <https://www.fpcsandpoint.org/give/#stewardship> or email this info to Susie Haskins, Financial Secretary: willandsoozie@gmail.com

\$ _____ total annual gift

I wish to pay \$ _____ per (week month quarter year). *Please circle one.*

Per Capita Information. Each year, FPC sends dollars as requested to support the

General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. The current assessment is thirty-nine dollars (\$39) per member. For members and friends wishing to make an extra gift to offset this expense, please write “per capita” on the designation line of checks, offering envelopes, etc.

In addition to financial support, we welcome gifts of time and talent. Please indicate areas in which you have an interest (check all that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and grounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian education	<input type="checkbox"/> Retreats
<input type="checkbox"/> Earth care	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/> Visioning Task Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	Other: _____

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



Sacrament of Communion Sunday November 5, 2023 during worship

Time Change November 5, 2023 “Fall Back” the clock one hour

Marge Pietsch Funeral November 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Deacon Meeting Sunday November 12, 2023 after worship

Worship and Music Committee Meeting November 15, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

Session Meeting November 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.



November Birthdays

1 Dayna Maddox
1 Lynn Pietz
2 Jim Dustman
3 Jane Clark
14 Kelly Curtis
14 Paula Vincent
16 Esther Inselman
26 Tim Cochran

Regular Monthly Events



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

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

*Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. to
3:00 p.m.*

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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