



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 March 2024

From the Pastor...

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. That is a saying I learned as a child. The snow and wind of this week certainly meet the lion description as March unveils. At the end of the month, the very last day, we have Easter Sunday on the 31st. We celebrate the Lamb of God for Christ is risen! In that sense, March does not go out like a lamb, but goes out *with* the Lamb as resurrection faith takes shape in daily living.

But even as the season shifts from winter to spring, this points out a pattern: storms happen, and constant change is part of reality. While we may yearn for stability, chaos is more to the point. Somehow the Spirit of God brings order out of chaos, and we can learn to trust this, even if it is difficult to see, like the mountains obscured in battleship gray clouds spitting snow that sticks to pussy-willow buds on branches.

The Lenten journey continues through the entire month, a season to renew our mind and open our heart as Jesus, the Lamb of God, journeys toward the cross, the tomb, and beyond an empty grave. Right in the middle of the month (March 15) we have a dinner to celebrate Saint Patrick and enjoy traditional foods and song. This also benefits the church mission and the Sandpoint Area Seniors organization.

A few years ago, that Irish supper was cancelled due to Covid pandemic restrictions. We had just decorated Fellowship Hall with green, and calling off the meal was a last-minute plunge into a series of what we called, “new normals.” Learning curves were steep throughout ministry and society, and what we thought would be a few weeks went on for a couple years. More recently, as my recent Covid test was negative, this third round of virus for me was a reminder that we always face new normals, and the only certainty is uncertainty and change.

*But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?
 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:24-25, NIV)*

Spiritual disciplines and God’s gift of the deep peace of Christ help develop a capacity to live grace-filled lives amid change. In contemplation, we face challenges and struggles but have inner glimpses of a larger reality infused with love. We can invite conscious awareness to what our soul already knows: connection with Divine Presence.

As March marches on, may each day help us notice change that happens, and learn to trust the creative process at work in and through who we are and what we do, individually and as a community. Starting with our own shadow, inner work holds toward the vision of the lion and the lamb who rest together, and no one is harmed on God’s holy mountain.

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy

First Presbyterian Church Session of Sandpoint, Idaho

FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 6PM

Moderator, Pastor Andy Kennaly via Zoom

Present: Sue Helander, Judy McComish, Judy Labrie, Mary Sturgis, Kirsten Thompson, Paula Vincent

Zoom: Sharon Anderson, Sylvia Humes

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS; PRAYER; OFFERING OF WORSHIPFUL WORK

CLERK'S REPORT

Appoint Session Stated Clerk – Temporarily Sue Helander to cover this meeting

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Regular Session Meeting, January 16, 2024 (tabled until next session meeting)

Motion to approve the CONSENT AGENDA: Approve Pastor's Vacation and Continuing Education schedule for 2024; Ratify the email approval listed here: luncheon at FPC to celebrate our successful food drive with the Methodists on February 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Also approve these additional items: Bella Noté church usage May tbd, 2024; Receive Annual Statistical Report.

Motion was made to approve and seconded with unanimous vote in favor.

CURRENT REPORTS FOR ACTION

Christian Education:

Sunday school mission project/study–Sharon Anderson reached Presbytery and spoke to Katie Stark regarding the Lily Foundation's grant to smaller congregations. We were advised to check-in the fall of 2024 to submit an application. Adult Sunday School is studying Matthew 25:26-41, contemplation for Lent, on ways to serve our elderly neighbors and congregation.

Fellowship:

Maundy Thursday, St. Pats celebration, Highway pick-up April 27th

Plans are underway for Maundy Thursday Soup Supper at 5:30, followed by service at 6:00 p.m. Promotion of St. Patrick dinner will be in March's Grapevine, additional announcements in Reader and Daily Bee.

Motion made to approve Highway Garbage Pick-up, 4/27/24, seconded and unanimous vote in favor.

Finance Report:

Approve Memorial Committee recommendation to accept the quote of \$1,300.00 to rebalance the action mechanism on the sanctuary piano. Motion made, seconded with unanimous vote in favor.

Approve reinvestment of \$50,000 dollars with WT Bank when the current CD matures. Rates on February 15th were at 4.5% for a 9-month term or 4.65 for a 6-month term. Motion made and seconded with unanimous vote in favor.

Additional \$25,000 in savings acct was recommended to go into another CD. One of the CD's will expire in 6 months and the other will be 9 months. Rebalance savings account to \$25,000 with remainder in checking (about \$25,000). Motion made and seconded with unanimous vote in favor.

Affirm 2024 bank signatories: Clerk of Session (TBD) Don Helander (immediate past Clerk of Session), Paula Vincent (Finance Elder), Natalie Miller (Treasurer); Judy Labrie and view only access for Susan Haskins (Finance Secretary). Bill Love is also a current signatory.

Paula Vincent commends Susie Haskins, Financial Secretary and Natalie Miller, Treasurer, for their diligence and attention to detail...with reference to the successful annual church audit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS NEEDED

Personnel Report:

Ramona Jewett, our Church Secretary, has given her notice. She will work with us until we can find a replacement. Personnel will review the job description and update if necessary.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Andy thanked Sharon Anderson for filling the pulpit on 2/11, when he was ill.

ADOPTION OF REPORTS/OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER OF RELEASE AND BLESSING-

Kirsten Thompson closed the meeting with prayer.

-Motion to Adjourn, next regular meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Helander, temporary acting Clerk of Session

FELLOWSHIP

First, I would like to thank all the wonderful folks who came to our Ash Wednesday soup supper. Thank you to all who provided soups, bread and dessert. We were blessed with the presence of members of the Methodist Church which even made it more special. The sign up for soup, etc. will be coming out starting March 10th for Maundy Thursday. You are welcome to email me if you wish. Our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held again this year with the Senior Center. Please reserve March 15th for that annual funfest, held at FPC. Maundy Thursday is on March 28th, supper at 5:30 and worship at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you at all of these gatherings. Blessings to all! Sylvia Humes, Fellowship Elder poppy3942@gmail.com

GROUP CLEAN UP, MARCH 13TH, NOON-3:00

We have several areas that need some TLC. We will have a portable upholstery cleaner to clean the padded green chairs of Fellowship Hall. We will also be tidying up the kitchen and entryways in preparation for our St. Patrick Day event on Friday the 15th. Bring a sack lunch and we can have a bite to eat together before tackling our chores. Don't worry about leaving early, if needed. The more hands the faster the work will go. If you have any questions, contact me.

Sue Helander



Reminder EVERYONE needs to register for the St Patrick's Day Dinner by calling the Senior Center at 208-263-6860. Also, if you would like to help in any way by donating a dessert or something else to raffle and/or if you can help setup, cleanup, serve dinner or participate in a skit or reading, contact Mary Sturgis at 208-304-3009.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS
FAMILY FUN(DRAISER) NIGHT

*BENEFITTING THE SANDPOINT AREA SENIOR CENTER
AND CHURCH MISSIONS*



*DOORS OPEN AT
5:30
DINNER SERVED
AT 6:00*

*WEAR SOMETHING GREEN
AND JOIN US!!*

*TRADITIONAL
CORNED BEEF
AND CABBAGE
DINNER
BY DONATION
AT THE DOOR*

*TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PLEASE CALL 208-263-6860
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED*



FOOD  *FELLOWSHIP*  *FUN*
LIVE AUCTION AND RAFFLE



STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL, MEMORIAL

March 2024

Stewardship Reflection:

“(S)tewardship 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”.- Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor/Head of Staff of Westwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles

Stewardship: Session approved an annual gift of \$250 for the General Assembly and \$600 for Synod/Presbytery which will be distributed this month. Additionally, the quarterly gift of \$300 for local/regional missions has been made to the Deacon’s fund for disbursement by the newly formed FPC Care Committee.

Per Capita: FPC also makes the annual per capita payment to the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery this month based on an assessment of 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 February, donations of \$386 have been made toward this budgeted expense of \$2,496.

Audit Committee

The FPC Audit Committee met on January 31, 2024 to review financial procedures and end of year statements

The committee concluded that the church has reasonable practices, safeguards and segregation of duties for financial matters and thanks Susie Haskins and Natalie Miller for their exemplary work on behalf of FPC

Memorial Committee

The Memorial committee met in February and recommended use of the Memorial Fund (former estate gift in memory of Jane Evans) to cover the estimated cost of \$1300 dollars to rebalance the sanctuary piano

This expense was approved by Session with thanks to Annie Welle for her care of the piano and sharing of her musical talents with the congregation

Finance Summary

February gifts and expenses were still pending at the time of this note; January info follows:

Budgeted through January 31:	\$11,000
Received through January 31:	\$14,376 (includes \$3881 prepay)
Expense through January 31:	\$12,740

The CD with Washington Trust renews on February 29th and yielded \$1622.00 through January

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



Sacrament of Communion Sunday March 3, 2024 during worship, 10:30 a.m.

Church Clean up Wednesday March 13, 2024, noon to 3 p.m.

St Patrick's Dinner Friday March 15, 2024, door opens 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6

Session Meeting Tuesday March 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

The will be no adult Sunday school on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

*Music Conservatory Bell Concert Sunday March 24, 2024, 4:30 p.m. in sanctuary

*Notice the bells are going to play on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, March 24. The Music Conservatory is please to borrow the FPC handbells and as a thank you will share a concert that afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at FPC.



March Birthdays
1 Kathleen Huntley
13 Chuck Humes
23 Dee Dreisbach
25 Dick Sandall
28 Cathy Eastwood

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.

*Tuesday Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group 10:30
a.m. to 12:00 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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