



**THE GRAPEVINE**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO**  
 April 2024

**From the Pastor...**

People often ask me how things are going as a part-time pastor, and specifically, “how are the bees?” Mid-April, I once again become a beekeeper after having taken a year off. I’ve ordered two “packages” of bees, each about three pounds and consisting of around 5,000 European Honeybees of the Carniolan variety, plus a mated Queen for each group. The subspecies *Apis mellifera carnica* (the Latin name) originates from the Carnica subregion of Slovenia. Because they are now part of the beekeeping scene in North America, the actual bees I get are trucked up from California.

There is a process for installing them into the hive boxes of my Bee House (A-Z Hives from Slovenia). The packages (see photo of past arrivals) keep the Queen separate from the colony. They need time to accept her as their Queen, which is usually a couple of days. After that, she is released from her protective cage and she searches for wax cells to lay eggs, up to 1,500 per day. Life in the hive is very busy!

Beekeeping has many aspects and there is always more to learn. It has taken me many years to get to the point of a hobby beekeeper with a bee house. I still don’t feel like I know exactly what I’m doing, which is humbling and helps keeps an open mind to learn more. It is (mostly) enjoyable, though I don’t like getting stung, once or twice a year on average. I always look forward to harvesting fresh, raw honey that flows with golden wonderment. Slovenian hives make a premium grade that is

delicious.

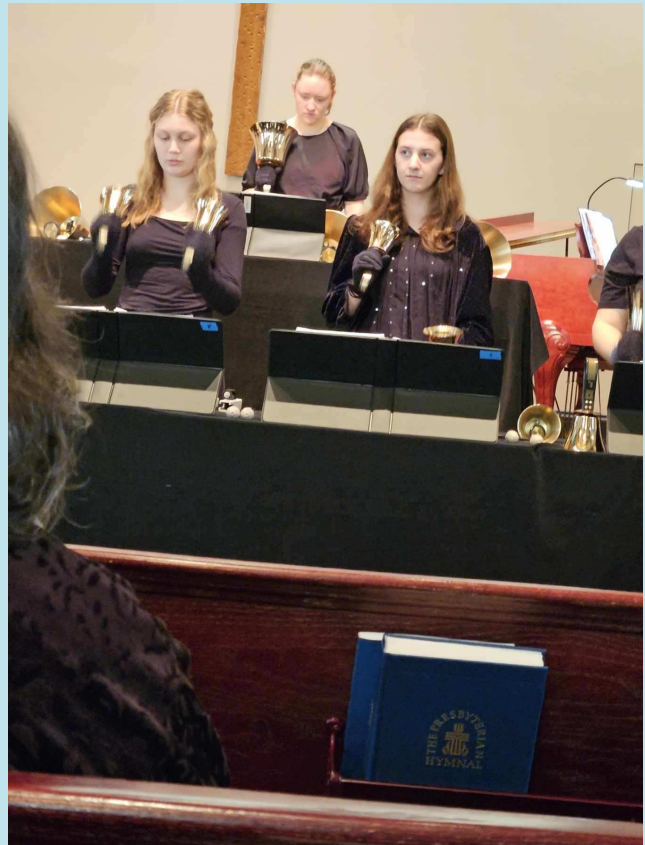
I also enjoy writing about the spirituality of bee keeping, among other topics. More recently I’ve started a Substack site to post my writing online. There is a Substack website and an app to access my profile and read the material, with the option to support that work through a subscription. Here is a link: <https://andykennaly.substack.com/>

It’s only been about a month, but almost 50 people have signed up to receive a subscription, most of them free but some paid, and there have been almost a thousand views so far. This is a great place to post my sermons each week as Spiritual Reflections. There is also a Poetry section, and soon, a Spirituality of Beekeeping page.

Like most things, writing on Substack involves a learning curve. It also takes courage to put one’s thoughts, feelings, and spiritual discoveries into public realms on the internet. But I’m continually amazed at how the words resonate with people, and their comments and emails to me indicate how helpful the writing is at key points in their life.

So, I will continue to practice beekeeping, and practice writing. Both involve moments of anxiety, not knowing how things will go, and opportunities for meditation as I relax into the amazement of it all. Life happens in that mix, so maybe in small ways we can help change the world for the better.

Peace and All Good,  
 Pastor Andy



## Session Summary

The March meeting of the Session occurred on March 19, 2024, with Pastor Andy moderating. In attendance were Sharon Anderson, Sue Helander, Sylvia Humes, Judy McComish, Judy Labrie, Mary Sturgis, Paula Vincent, and Kirsten Thompson.

Kirsten Thompson was appointed to serve as Stated Clerk of the session. The minutes from the January 16 and February 20 meetings were approved.

Mary Sturgis agreed to take the lead on getting Easter lilies and spring flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Thank you, Mary!

Session discussed the current webpage and Facebook access. The livestream on Facebook goes through Pastor Andy's personal Facebook page which can cause technical issues. Some updates to both services will be investigated, and an effort to move livestream from Facebook to YouTube will be considered. Some members of the congregation find it difficult to hear in the sanctuary, and assistive listening devices might be helpful. Kirsten Thompson and Sue Helander will follow up on these issues.

Pastor Andy will be on vacation April 1-7. The Session approved a simple service for April 7. Sharon Anderson and the Adult Sunday School Group will lead the service, and Dana Stockman will lead a hymn sing. Pastor Andy reported that Communion would be observed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter, instead of April 7, facilitating the simple service format. Many thanks to Sharon and Dana for helping lead worship while Pastor Andy enjoys a well-deserved Sunday off.

The Highway cleanup day is scheduled for May 2024. Volunteers will meet at 10 a.m. at the Westmond store/gas station. Expect more details to come about this event.

Judy Labrie reported that the St. Patrick's Day Dinner held on March 15, 2024, in which First Presbyterian partnered with the Sandpoint Area Senior, Inc. was a great success. The traditional Irish dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and rolls served 82 diners with leftovers to spare. After deduction of expenses, the church and senior center each raised \$1,208.88 from a combination of donations for dinner, raffle ticket sale, and the lively auction of special desserts. Special music and entertainment rounded out a fun evening. There were many volunteers from SASI and the church who made this event very special indeed.

Session discussed and approved the additional use of the church facility for an AA group that had previously met at the Gardenia Center. AA groups pay a donation fee for use of the facility.

The church wedding policy was reviewed and updated to reflect more current costs and the time impacts on Pastor Andy's work with a half-time pastoral schedule. The session approved the use of the church for couple who is planning their wedding for January 2025, and has requested that Pastor Andy officiate at the church.

Paula Vincent reported that 2024 expenses and income are tracking as expected. Per capita and other expenses come out in March. Paula reported that two CD's have now been rolled over so as to maximize interest at this time, and the Session discussed some ideas about recruitment for a person to fill this position when it becomes vacant.

The session decided to move their regular monthly meetings to the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The next session meeting will be Wednesday April 17, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Andy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted – Kirsten Thompson, Clerk of Session

## April Grapevine Thanks - St Patrick's Day Dinner, March 2024

The St Patrick's Day dinner held on Friday, March 15, was another big success! The list of members and friends of the church who contributed time and talent is long. It would not have been the same without Mary Sturgis, Sue and Don Helander, Judy McComish, Pastor Andy and Shawna, Kirsten Thompson, Sigrid Brannan, Wesley and Jim Dustman, Mary and Chuck Bauer, Dyno Wahl, Paula Vincent, Judy Labrie, Don and Patti Deters, Nova Dodd, Millie Rinker, Shirley Parker, Dee Dreisbach, Sally Moon, Lynn and Dave Pietz, Marilyn Robertson, Tamara Robertson, Jane Fritz and others who pitched in and donated desserts.

This is the second time 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 local radio spots. It was helpful having the reservation list maintained by Arie, the receptionist there. SASI committee participants were board members Nikki Klein, Judy McComish, Sue Poppino; Matt Thompson, director of operations; and Chef Brenda Curtis who cooked and delivered the delicious dinner. Other helpers were Herbert Klein, Loris Michael, Adele Martin and Nova Dodd.

The FPC volunteers cleaned, decorated the room, set beautiful tables and got the kitchen ready. The table service of last year was not efficient and required many servers. This year tables were "released" to 2 buffet tables with 3 servers each to plate the food. It was much faster getting the hot food to the guests. The dinner was well attended with about 82 dinners being served. Even though the amount of food was less than last year there was still food left over so 20 to-go boxed dinners were sold and given to volunteers.

Chef Brenda made an excellent meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, onions and carrots. Dinner rolls with butter were set on the tables. Again, comments from the diners were complimentary.

The first priority was to offer a fun community gathering. As a fund-raiser for the church mission fund and SASI, each organization netted \$1,223.86 which is \$276.22 more than last year. That's a big win!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the evening warm and welcoming.

Sincerely,

The St Patrick's Day Committee





On April 27th we will be having our bi-annual highway pickup. We meet at the Westmond Store at 10:00. It usually only takes about 1 1/2 - 2 hours to complete. After, if you desire, you are invited to our home for lunch. There will be a sign up in the Sunday bulletin or you can call me at (208)304-2995.



### **Building and Ground**

Many thanks go to those who helped with clean up and set-up for the St Patrick's Day event. Chuck Bauer washed the windows in the Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall, inside and out. Don Helander and Chuck setup tables and chairs, as well as vacuumed the chairs prior to shampooing the soiled ones. Mary Sturgis knocked down cobwebs along the baseboards and walls. We swept, mopped, and dusted the windowsills in entryways. Judy Labrie created a welcoming entrance for guests, and Sally Moon tackled (I mean used some real elbow grease) cleaning the wooden doors, thresholds, bathrooms and janitorial closet. Big efforts that paid off.

Sue Helander





# Grapevine

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

### April 2024

#### Stewardship Reflection

I couldn't resist digging in the dirt this week even though the likelihood of a late frost is still possible. There is something hopeful about the season that lured me to the dormant flower beds to see if any new growth was peeking through the last of the melting snow. I was delighted to see a few vibrant crocus blooms and the promise of daffodils not far behind.

Some of my readings this Easter season also reminded me that these welcome harbingers of spring can reassure us that Christ is still risen! As stated by the Rev. Laura Baumgartner, "Creation is still waking up and we can each continue the flow of hopeful beauty through our own reflection on the difference Easter has made, is making and will make in our lives."

Perhaps even more importantly, however, is realizing the joy and positive impact we have when we join together as a community to live life in a way that honors all of creation. I am inspired by the many ways I observe our community at FPC supporting each other and making choices to live in ways that make our community and world a better place. Thanks to all for choosing to be a part of the FPC community and for the many gifts and talents you so generously share!

#### Memorial

The approved work to rebalance the sanctuary piano action has been completed. Mr. Munson applied a discount to the bill resulting in a cost to the Memorial Fund of \$1250.00.

#### Finance Summary

**Budgeted** through March 31: \$33,000

**Received** through March 31: \$35,311

**Per Capita:** \$2,496 budgeted (\$39/member)

**Received** to offset this expense: \$965

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent, Elder Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

Rev. Laura Baumgartner, Seattle, WA (ancestral homelands of the Duwamish and Coast Salish peoples), is an elder in the Pacific Northwest Conference, serving Haller Lake United Methodist Church.



Music Conservatory Concert April 12, 2024, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Session Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Passover Dinner Thursday April 25, 2024 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



**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.*

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

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

*Wednesday - 11:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Choir practice*

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

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

*7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous*



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