

Happy Easter



THE GRAPEVINE

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho
April 2025

From the Pastor...

All the bees in the Slovenian A-Z hives of my beehouse died this winter. But I've cleaned out the boxes, which include covering the entrances to seal up the hives. I also ordered a couple of new packages of bees to start over in mid-April. The empty beehouse seems cold and stark. It could use some life again, the buzz of thousands doing what bees do.

Those future bees will collect nectar from flowers that have not yet grown and bring in pollen during a season of fertility that has yet to be revealed. But for now, we are in a season that is dark with a mixture of rain and very wet snow, and as it melts, the brown grasses and muddy fields look far from green and warm.

To walk through a labyrinth also has moments of distance. Just when you think you've reached the center, the meandering path turns to send you outward to the edge and this may feel disorienting. But with each step the path continues.

The Lenten journey is similar as we know Easter is not too far away, but there are still weeks and weeks to go, including Holy Week and Christ's Passion of the cross, the death of Jesus, and the stone rolled over the entrance to the tomb. This time of year has weight to the wait, a heaviness mixed in with our anticipation of the joy and renewal of new life.

I invite you to a Lenten Journey on a Labyrinth. There is a workshop and walk planned for Saturday, April 12, 2025. It will be held at the church from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and I will facilitate a presentation, host a labyrinth walk, and share instructions on how to draw a classic labyrinth.

Also mark your calendar for World Labyrinth Day, May 3, 2025, for another opportunity that links us with the global community for a planetary experience of contemplative faith and active, embodied prayer. For this event we will construct a temporary labyrinth to walk together.

We must be intentional to find our quiet center. The world is full of storms. Sheltered space and time set apart are helpful as we're reminded that we are more than people; we are embodied souls. As we experience endings, uncertainties, and the revealing of something new, it is our prayer that each step can be a prayerful one, and whether we feel disoriented or on the verge of discovery, the wholeness and healing of Christ in our midst emerges.

God be with you in this Lenten season.

Peace and All Good, Pastor Andy

From the Pastor... (cont.)

P.S. A reminder that my retirement from parish ministry takes place at the end of May. My last Sunday at FPC is May 18, 2025. I hope you can participate in-person as much as possible as it would be great to see you. There will be a special Congregational Meeting following the Earth-Care themed worship service on April 27, 2025, for the purpose of “dissolving the pastoral relationship” by vote, as it is the congregation that makes this action official. One step at a time.



STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE, MEMORIAL, AUDIT

Stewardship: Session approved an annual gift of \$250 for the General Assembly and \$600 for Synod/Presbytery which were distributed in March. Additionally, the quarterly gift of \$300 for local/regional missions has been moved to the Mission Fund for disbursement by the FPC Care Committee.

Per Capita: FPC also made the annual per capita payment to the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery in March. This assessment is paid based on church membership at the rate 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 mid-March, donations of \$628 have been received toward this budgeted expense of \$2,379.

Audit Committee

The FPC Audit Committee met on 29 January 2025 to review FPC financial procedures and safeguards.

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

Finance Committee

FPC financials through March 16, 2025 include:

Year to Date (YTD) Budget:	\$34,500
YTD Revenue:	\$43,920
YTD Expenses:	\$26,784

Total Church Assets: \$155,321

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee is pleased to welcome Mr. Dylan “Mo” Martin as the church custodian. Mr. Martin will typically be cleaning the building on Saturdays. Please let us know if you see items needing attention as we support Mr. Martin in carrying out this service.

This month marks the one-year work anniversary for office administrator, Dana Stockman. Please join us in congratulating her on a job well done. We appreciate all you do, Dana!

Respectfully submitted,

Millie Rinker, Paula Vincent, Dyno Wahl

SESSION NOTES

March 19, 2025

Our March session meeting consisted of two distinct segments.

We began by welcoming Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, Presbytery executive, and Becky Anderson, our Committee on Ministry liaison. They outlined the steps for first calling an interim pastor and then a permanent pastor. After all, we last navigated this process about sixteen years ago resulting in Andy Kennaly arriving as our pastor in 2011. Now with his pending retirement, it's time begin again.

Due to a shortage of seminary trained pastors being available of interim calls, Sheryl described changes in the past policy of replacing a pastor. Smaller churches like ours, with part-time pastors, find it difficult to call an interim while searching for a permanent pastor. Therefore, an interim can now remain in place to serve as permanent pastor. This differs from our last experience when Rev. Bob Burdett served as interim pastor for two years prior to Andy's arrival.

Sheryl anticipates sending us a list of potential interim pastors in early April. That should allow us time to have someone in place prior to Pastor Andy's retirement at the end of May.

As Presbyterians, we call ourselves a "connected church." It's times like this that we appreciate the support from Presbytery.

As Sheryl and Becky excused themselves, Pastor Andy walked-in to moderate our regular session meeting. Since the deadline for this issue of *The Grapevine* comes before the session minutes are completed, the following bullet points will list the highlights:

Following background and reference checks, Mr. Dylan "Mo" Martin is our new contractor for janitorial services. He replaces Ken Callison who moved to Post Falls. Thanks to Paula Vincent and Sue Helander for their efforts during this seamless transition.

Session approved hosting a group of 36 cyclists, *Bike the US for MS*, for two nights, August 6 and 7.

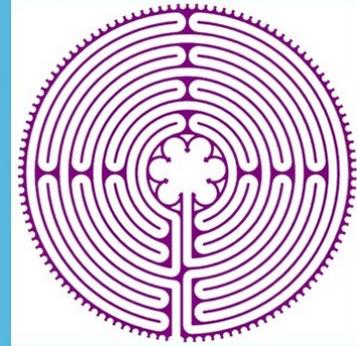
This is a different organization than *Bike and Build* that made annual visits to our church for many years. The current use of our facilities by multiple groups will require some juggling to accommodate the cyclists. However, we always enjoy listening to stories of their transcontinental bike ride while introducing visitors to the summertime pleasures of Sandpoint.

Lynne Stockman and David Harper (Dana Stockman's sister and brother-in-law) continue to create a new church website. The website committee, consisting of Judy Labrie, Dyno Wahl and Paula Vincent, compiled comments on the improvements and are reviewing existing content to ensure currency and accuracy.

As we proceed through Lent, Holy Week and the Easter season, please mark the dates on your calendar for the following activities: April 12 – "Entering Holy Week – A Labyrinth Workshop and Walk, April 17 — Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner and Service, April 20 – Easter Sunday, May 3 – World Labyrinth Day Walk.

Peace and God's continuing grace during this time of transition for our church,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session

Entering Holy Week: A Labyrinth Workshop & Walk



Saturday, April 12, 2025

10:15 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

417 N. Fourth Ave., Alder Street entrance
Sandpoint, Idaho



Claim the light within on the Lenten journey.

- ⇒ Introductory presentation
- ⇒ Experience a hand-held labyrinth
- ⇒ Walk a canvas labyrinth
- ⇒ Gain understanding in some history
- ⇒ Learn how to use this prayer tool
- ⇒ Make a temporary labyrinth design

Bring a desire to learn and try something new,
an openness to ancient wisdom,
and comfortable socks to walk without shoes, if able.

Registration required, space is limited, by donation.

Sign up via email: registration@fpcsandpoint.org

Or call 208-263-2047



Andy Kennaly, Labyrinth Facilitator
First Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

April will be a full month for us at First Presbyterian in Sandpoint. We continue our Lenten journey with the 5th Sunday of Lent on April 6, when communion will be celebrated. Palm Sunday is April 13. Maundy Thursday is April 17, and Easter is April 20. Earth Day will be acknowledged on April 27.

For each of us, the season of Lent and then Holy Week brings many memories and feelings. If you grew up attending Sunday School and participating in church music, there were the special preparations – extra rehearsals, decorations, and getting just the right outfit (including gloves and a hat for little girls!) for Easter Sunday. In the current moment, many of these types of preparations have fallen away, leaving the essence of the season to be experienced and savored. Whatever your Easter memories, here's hoping that this Lent, Holy Week, and Easter bring a sense of grounding in your faith and renewal in the retelling of the original story of Easter.

Is there a certain part of this season in the church that is particularly meaningful to you? I found myself wondering about "Maundy Thursday". In looking up the word Maundy, I found that alone it refers to the ceremony of Washing the Feet and the Last Supper. We will be celebrating with a bread and soup supper at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30 on Maundy Thursday.

As always, the church is in need of volunteers to help make our church services warm and welcoming. Please keep an eye out for the emails I send with schedule and opening to serve as Worship Assistant, Live Stream operator, or Usher. If you're not on the email list, please reach out to me, and I will add your name. All of these volunteer opportunities add to the feeling of belonging for the volunteers and for the congregation.

The Sunday after Easter, April 27, will be our local congregation's celebration of Earth Day (April 22), led by the Earth Care Committee and Pastor Andy. The Earth Care Committee is looking at the many ways we at FPC can do our part to care for the Earth that is our beloved home. Interested? Please contact Lexie de Fremery or Marilyn Robertson who are sharing leadership of the Team. There are educational opportunities sponsored by the Presbyterian denomination's Presbyterian Action Team coming up in April. A Zoom meeting on April 14 to find out more about what's going on around the larger church would be a good introduction.

And, of course, the choir will be providing special music through the season of Lent and Easter. If you like to sing, and would like to be a part of the choir, please contact Dana Stockman by emailing the church office, or just chat with her after a service. Our choir is small, but mighty. We can always use more singers!

Best of the season to all -
Kirsten Thompson 503-816-6384, thompsonkj2019@gmail.com

EARTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Earth Care Committee reminds us that Earth Day is April 22. The following Sunday, April 27, will have an Earth Care theme as we worship together in a simple service of lessons, carols, and reflections.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special Congregational Meeting is called for April 27, 2025, immediately following worship, to do what is referred to as “dissolve the Pastoral relationship.” This is the only item for that meeting, so it should be brief. Pastor Andy is retiring from parish ministry, and this vote is a formal step in this process. His last Sunday in the pulpit is May 18, 2025, followed by vacation days that lead to the formal conclusion on May 31, 2025.

SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday is during what is often called Holy Week. On April 17, 2025, we will gather for a soup and bread supper, followed by worship. The meal is at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Worship is at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Then, the next worship service is on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



The Passion of the Earth: Living into the New Creation Story

A retreat at the Center for Benedictine Life at the Monastery of Saint Gertrude

Cottonwood, Idaho

April 25-27, 2025

To register: <https://stgertrudes.org/retreats/2092/the-passion-of-the-earth-living-into-the-new-creation-story/>

For additional information: Call (208) 962-2000, or email wendy_weiger14@achormaine.com

We humans are part of a vast web of creation that sustains all life. But we're unraveling the web.

We are standing on a cusp. The choices we make will determine the course of our planet for thousands—even millions—of years to come. What will we choose? Will we join in God's dance of hope, healing, and new creation? Or will we continue down our current path of destruction?

We will consider these questions through the lens of the Passion of the Earth, a project of artwork and poetry that integrates scientific and Biblical understanding of the story of our universe. And on the springtime grounds of the monastery, we will rejoice in the miracles of nature that surround us, practicing mindfulness techniques that engage all our senses, deepening our personal connection with the Earth.

Retreat Leader: Dr. Wendy Weiger

Wendy's early career was in medical research. Twenty years ago, she left the halls of academe for the wilds of northern Maine, where she has become a nature writer and guide. She currently divides her time between Maine and Idaho, where she is in discernment for the newly forming cohousing community at the Monastery of Saint Gertrude. She serves on the Care of Creation Committee of the Center for Benedictine Life.

FAMILY FAVORITES

Do you have a treasured (non-copyrighted!) family recipe that you'd like to share with the church family? Drop them off in the church office or email them to Dana at Office@fpcsandpoint.org. Please share a little info about the person who created the recipe, if you can.

Thank you, Millie, for tracking down Dee's Brownie Cake recipe for us!



Dee's Brownie Cake

1 c. margarine	2 c. sugar
1/4 c. cocoa	2 c. flour
1 c. water	1 tsp. baking soda
	1/2 tsp. salt
	1/2 c. buttermilk
	2 eggs, beaten
	1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bring the margarine, cocoa, and water to a boil and pour over the rest of the ingredients in a large bowl, stirring to combine well. Pour into a greased 11x16 jelly roll pan and bake for 20 minutes. Spread frosting on hot cake.

Frosting

1/4 c. cocoa	4 c. powdered sugar
1/2 c. margarine	1 tsp. vanilla
1/3 c. milk	1/2 c. chopped nuts

Boil and add to the powdered sugar and 1 vanilla. Stir in the chopped nuts and pour over hot cake.

Be sure to do as Dee always did: cut them on the diagonal to make diamonds instead of squares for a more elegant presentation!



Upcoming Events

- 4/13 Palm Sunday**
- 4/13 Songs of Mourning, Songs of Joy Handbell Concert, 4:30 pm**
- 4/16 Session meeting 1:30**
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday: Soup supper 5:30, Worship service 6:30**
- 4/20 Easter Sunday**
- 4/22 Earth Day**
- 4/27 Congregational Meeting, after worship**
- 4/29 May Grapevine articles due by 9:00 a.m.**



Caring for God's Creation



APRIL

birthdays

4/2 Bill Love
4/7 Anne Marie Casey
4/20 Kirsten Thompson
4/30 Andy Kennaly
4/30 Dave Pietz

*Did we miss your birthday or get the date wrong?
Email the office and let us know!
office@fpcsandpoint.org*

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, In-Person and Livestream (<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyteriansandpoint>)
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Monday-Saturday

- 7:00 a.m. AA meeting

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. TOPS meeting (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
- 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

Tuesday

- 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Wednesday

- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Choir practice in sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rainbow Soup Kitchen community meal
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting



First Presbyterian Church

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

208-263-2047

office@fpcsandpoint.org

www.fpcsandpoint.org

Ministers

Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

Office hours

Tuesday 9:00-12:00

Wednesday 9:00-11:00