



THE GRAPEVINE

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho
May 2025

From the Pastor...

When I was baptized in June of 1969 as a young baby, the Pastor who got me wet had moved from New York to Washington State. This vacated a position on the east coast that was then filled by the Rev. Eugene Peterson as his first call. I was glad to help him get his start in the ministry, but I didn't know it at the time. Later in life when I was a pastor in Montana, Eugene became my mentor and met with me every six weeks or so for Spiritual Direction. This offered shape and expression to my vocation, one which I continued live out, but always with a sense of hesitation or reluctance, like wearing a suit when you'd rather have on play clothes. The role of pastor serves a function, an office. But it is a holy calling.

The first time I led the Sacrament of Communion, I was 25 years old and a newly installed Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Clarkston, Washington. I bet Bondell P. was in the congregation that day. I didn't know at the time that she was Geri S.'s sister-in-law and that one day her niece, Dana S. would be a co-worker of mine on the other end of my professional clergy career of 30 years. In so many ways, Presbyterian circles tend to overlap.

I "officiated" that communion service because I was "official," having been recently ordained by the Inland Northwest Presbytery at a special ordination service the evening of October 16, 1994, in the church I grew up in, Northwood Presbyterian Church in Spokane,

Washington. That was an exciting season in the life of those congregations. I was the local boy, a success story who was proof that they made good on their promises shared at baptism to nurture a child in the faith and teach them the way of Christ Jesus. God's directive hand was at work.

But on that fall Sunday in 1994, standing on the chancel side of the communion table as an ordained minister, I knew something that the people in that church didn't know. This was all new to me. When it came to communion, I had never led that before until that very moment. The first time the Words of Institution came out of my mouth to talk about the breaking of the bread and pouring of the juice as the body and blood of Christ, was that morning in the liturgy. In seminary, the class called "Worship" was an elective, and with my interest in outdoor ministry and church camp administration, I figured I'd be a camp director rather than a pastor, so I never practiced communion, baptisms, funerals, and weddings.

When I was 25 and now in charge of church programs, I had never been to a funeral, let alone lead one. Thankfully, I worked with Pastor Rick Melin, the Senior Pastor in that church who showed me a few ways of doing things, most of them helpful. He had left town for vacation and was gone that Sunday I led my first communion as ordained clergy. There was a high level of trust, a patient approach from the people as my leadership skills developed, and an adventurous curiosity on my part to carry me through that day and the joys and challenges of the years.

Much has happened since that first communion Sunday. As I write this article, it is during the week that precedes what could be my last communion Sunday on the chancel side of the table. Retirement is coming up fast.

I am appreciative of the many places I've worked, but especially First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho, where 14 of those 30 years have been based. Same dynamics: trust, patience, curiosity, all a shared adventure and the living out of baptismal promises. Thank you for your support and encouragement over these years given to me and my family. There have been too many "once-in-a-lifetime-experiences" to count. Love's creativity and the dynamic nature of life have found many ways to express the depths of Wisdom that echoes for those with ears to hear it.

Though my pulpit ministry will conclude on Sunday, May 18, 2025, my words will continue to be shared through writing. I post my works of Spiritual Meditations, Journal Reflections, Poetry, and Notes through Substack, found online and the Substack App. The link is <https://andykennaly.substack.com/> and this subscription-based platform offers ways to support writers through various tiers of financial giving that offer different levels of access to materials. With more time, I hope to post more writing, and explore other forms of media through that site. Free subscriptions, weekly, monthly, or annual, are all available. But wait, there's more! Now until June 1 there is a 25 percent discount on the annual amount. Check it out!

While Presbytery has ethical requirements that limit contact of a former Pastor with the most recent congregation, there are no stipulations against becoming a reader or supporter through Substack. I hope you enjoy reading, and I appreciate the support and encouragement for this next adventure.



This is a QR Code that one can scan to open the same site, andykennaly.substack.com

I hope you forgive my infomercial, but I wanted everyone to be aware of this option going forward.

As we all continue with life-long learning and follow the leading of the Spirit, I'll see you around the campus of our communiversity (thanks Barney, I love that term).

Peace and All Good,

Andy Kennaly, Pastor



Pastor Andy Kennaly Retirement Party



Pastor Andy's Retirement Celebration
First Presbyterian Church - Sandpoint
Sunday, May 18, 2025 12:00-2:00 pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an open-house style retirement party. Come celebrate 14 years of friendship and pastoral care.

contact the church office if questions

208-263-2047, office@fpsandpoint.org

SESSION NOTES

We held a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 27, to formally dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Andy Kennaly and the First Presbyterian Church, Sandpoint. While that term sounds like a harsh way of ending an endearing 14-year relationship, we all look forward to celebrating Andy's retirement on Sunday, May 18. It will be a time to reflect upon our faith journey together.

As we desire a smooth transition, it is awkward to seek a new pastor during the same time we want to acknowledge Pastor Andy's many gifts to us. But as Presbyterians, we will do both in an orderly fashion.

The process to call an interim pastor began in March when Session met with Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, Presbytery Executive, and Becky Anderson, our Committee on Ministry Liaison. Speaking very frankly, they explained the challenges of churches, especially small ones, finding pastors. For example, seven of the almost 40 churches in the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest are currently seeking pastors.

After a thorough search, Sheryl sent us a list of one person who is interested in becoming our interim pastor.

Rev. Catherine Lyle has been serving as half-time pastor at the Sandpoint United Methodist Church since 2021. She and her husband, Kevin James, have two sons who are students at Washington Elementary School. Her education includes a bachelor and two masters degrees with one a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Divinity.

Can an ordained Methodist clergy pastor a Presbyterian church? That's good question and the answer is yes. However, it requires approval from the regional Methodist bishop, which has been agreed upon, as well as participating in Presbyterian interim pastor training.

Session interviewed Catherine on April 17, and both of us desire to continue the discussion. Catherine described it as "... an exploration stage for a one-year interim pastor." She also stressed that we move forward "... with prayer and calmness."

As we proceed with prayer and calmness, I will be glad to visit with you regarding any questions or comments you may have regarding calling an interim pastor.

In the meantime, let's celebrate the gifts and pastoral leadership that Pastor Andy and Shawna have shared with us for the past 14 years. We have all grown in faith and friendship together.

May we grow in faith to become the church that God calls us to be,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Finance Summary

Budget through April 30th **\$46,000**
Received through April 26th **\$51,883**
Expended through April 26th **\$49,134**

Per Capita Received: \$745
Per Capita Expended: \$2,379
 (\$39 dollars per member)

Special Offerings

The *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering totaled \$784.00 through April 27th

St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dinner resulted in distribution of the net proceeds equally between the FPC Mission Fund and Sandpoint Area Seniors of \$888.60 each

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| FPC TOTAL ASSETS | DEC. 2024 | APR. 2025 |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CD-1 | \$51,717 | \$54,325 |
| CD-2 | 25,000 | 26,264 |
| Savings | 26,572 | 26,579 |
| *Checking | 29,214 | 47,007 |
| Petty Cash | 61 | 61 |
| Prepays | 6,958 | -5,644 |
| Dec. 31/YTD Balance | \$139,162 | \$148,592 |

*Note: Checking includes the following restricted funds

| | |
|--|----------|
| Checking Restricted- <i>Building Fund</i> | \$14,742 |
| Checking Restricted- <i>Memorial Fund</i> | \$14,630 |
| Checking Restricted- <i>Peace Garden</i> | \$3,863 |
| Checking Restricted- <i>Mission/Care</i> | \$3,405 |

STEWARDSHIP AND MEMORIAL

Stewardship Reflection

It's that time of year when transitions abound...maybe a niece or nephew is graduating, or a friend or family member is planning a summer wedding, or perhaps you or someone you know is looking forward to retirement. Whatever transitions you may be anticipating now, have you also thought about future transitions?

May 4 is Legacy Giving Sunday in the PC(USA) and we are invited to think about our stewardship gifts beyond our lifetimes. Someday we will be finished with all those things we currently use. What are our plans for those assets?

With planning, our assets can make a game-changing gift that can have a huge impact on the causes we love. Attached to this newsletter are tips from the Presbyterian Foundation with ideas of ways your gifts can make a difference today and in the future. [../Finance/charitable_giving_plan_F_1.pdf](#)

Stewardship is about more than financial giving, however, and a few suggestions of ways to love God and reflect God's love in and around us today include the following:

***Pray.** Pray for Pastor Andy, FPC staff, the congregation, the community, and the world.

***Step up and show up.** Commit to showing up to worship. Become more active in the life of the church by finding ways to serve that use your talents.

***Write a note of thanks or care.** A letter or a card with a personalized note is a priceless way to show you care and to provide encouragement to others.

Thank you for all of your expressions of love!

Memorial

- FPC received two donations to the memorial fund in memory of Dee Dreisbach.
- The committee (Lexie De Fremery, Dave Sturgis, Paula Vincent) met informally in April and approved Session's request to allocate \$1625 for the purchase of an assistive listening system for use in the sanctuary.

PERSONNEL

We hope you will join us in celebrating Pastor Andy's retirement celebration on May 18th from noon to 2:00 PM. You have likely heard him say that he wishes to go out with a bang as May 18th is also the anniversary of the Mt. St. Helen's eruption of 1980. In addition to his retirement, Pastor Andy celebrates his 14th year at First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint on May 2nd!

Thank you for your service and leadership, Pastor Andy; we can't wait to see what you create/co-create in your next life phase!

Personnel Committee

Tim Cochran, Millie Rinker, Paula Vincent

MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter Sunday, along with Presbyterian Congregations around the world, our congregation participated in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Between March 30 and April 27, 2025, our congregation provided \$784 to support OGHS. Thank you for your generosity!

This offering supports three Presbyterian programs described below: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after devastating events such as natural disasters, human-caused disasters, and global support for refugees.
- Due to climate change, natural disasters are intensifying in frequency and scale. In 2023:
 - Nationally, grants supported recovery from wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes and storms in thirteen states. Some grants also addressed public violence, disaster preparedness and church property that was damaged due to disasters. National Recovery grants were given in fifteen states.
 - Internationally, grants supported humanitarian response to war/conflict in Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, Myanmar, Sudan, Ethiopia and more; earthquake response in Haiti, Syria, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Nepal; drought and famine in Angola, India, Malawi and Rwanda; flooding, hurricanes and storms in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ghana, Malawi and more.
- Receives 32% of OGHS funds raised.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation and systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.
- In 2023, PHP gave 84 grants totaling \$1.1 million, impacting 19 countries and a territory, including the U.S. and Puerto Rico.
- PHP also partnered with:
 - 12 Presbyterian Hunger Action Advocates,
 - 80 Hunger Action Congregations, and
 - 304 Earth Care Congregations across the U.S.
- Receives 36% of OGHS funds raised.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

- Invests in communities that are responding to experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.
- The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People works with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice.
- Projects focus on advocacy; youth-led initiatives; skills development; farming; refugee issues and capacity building. Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, projects in economically poor communities around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges.
- In 2023, National SDOP entered into partnership with a wide variety of projects in 13 states and Puerto Rico, and three countries in Central and South America.
- Receives 32% of OGHS funds raised.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy McComish

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

May 2025 will include worship in the sanctuary led by Pastor Andy for the first three Sundays, concluding with his last Sunday as our installed pastor (and choir member) on May 18. We look forward to the messages he will share with us, and having both he and Shawna with us in church and in choir. Reverend Becky Anderson will be providing pulpit supply coverage for us on May 25.

As I write this update, I'm not quite sure what our plans will include for the months of June – August, and beyond. Please be looking for more information as May begins. There will be many opportunities to share in worship together as we adjust to new pastoral leadership, and lean on the guidance of elders and church members. If you haven't been tapped to serve as an usher, live streamer, or worship assistant and you'd like to get involved, please give a call or email to be added to the schedule.

Blessings to all - Kirsten Thompson
503-816-6384 thompsonkj2019@gmail.com

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Spring has come! The sun has been shining and the weeds have been growing! Please see if you can come give a couple of hours of your time to **help clean up our church yard** so we look our best! We'll meet **this Friday, May 2nd at 10:00** for some yard work. Bring your garden gloves, a kneeling pad, a trowel and hand rake and any other tools you might like. Many hands will make light work and we'll be all spruced up, looking good for our community! I'll have cookies and lemonade to keep your energy going!!!!

Mary Sturgis
Building and Grounds Elder



LABYRINTH WORKSHOPS

Pastor Andy facilitated a workshop on April 12 called Entering Holy Week: A Labyrinth Workshop & Walk. The 12 participants learned how to draw two labyrinth patterns on plain paper and how to make a temporary labyrinth using painters tape on the carpet in the sanctuary. The workshop concluded with walking the church's canvas labyrinth in Fellowship Hall and the temporary labyrinth in the sanctuary. Feedback from the participants was very positive.

Pastor Andy will be leading another workshop on World Labyrinth Day this Saturday, May 3rd, from noon to 2:00 pm, entitled *A Planetary Pathway, World Labyrinth Day Event*. A much larger temporary labyrinth will be installed in the Community Peace Garden.

The idea this year for World Labyrinth Day is Walk as One at 1:00 where thousands of people around the world will be practicing a moving meditation for peace at 1:00 pm local time.

There are still a couple spots for this event at the church. Registration is required by emailing registration@fpcsandpoint.org or contact Judy Labrie. If you are unable to attend the workshop, feel free to walk the outdoor labyrinth at your convenience. It will remain on the lawn for several days.

It has been a joy to host these interesting opportunities for walking prayer and meditation. Pastor Andy is a knowledgeable, skilled and welcoming facilitator.

Blessings of the season,

Judy Labrie and the Retreat Team



EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies for the sanctuary were provided by the following people:

- * Sharon Anderson
- * Charles and Mary Bauer, *in memory of our great grandparents*
- * Judy Labrie, *in memory of the Labrie Family*
- * Dave and Mary Sturgis, *in memory of our family*
- * Kirsten Thompson, *in memory of Helen Thompson*
- * Dyno Wahl, *in memory of my parents Bud and Jeannine Bendix and my brother Mark Bendix*



Palm Sunday Brunch, April 13



Getting ready for worship on Easter Sunday, April 20



Easter toes



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.

This month we have two recipes from the collection of Virginia Ross. Virginia was a long-time member who loved to cook and quilt. She could always be found in the kitchen during a reception, and she also made the quilted table runners for the Communion table in the sanctuary, one for each liturgical color. We remember her fondly as we present her Chicken Enchiladas (perfect timing for Cinco de Mayo!) and Peanut Butter Crinkles.

Chicken Enchiladas

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 cup minced onion | 3 cups finely chopped chicken |
| 1/4 cup butter | 1 small can chopped green chilis |
| 1/4 cup flour | chili powder |
| 2 1/2 cups chicken broth | 1/3 cup red sweet pepper |
| 8 oz sour cream | 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided |
| Salt & pepper to taste | 8-8 inch flour tortillas |

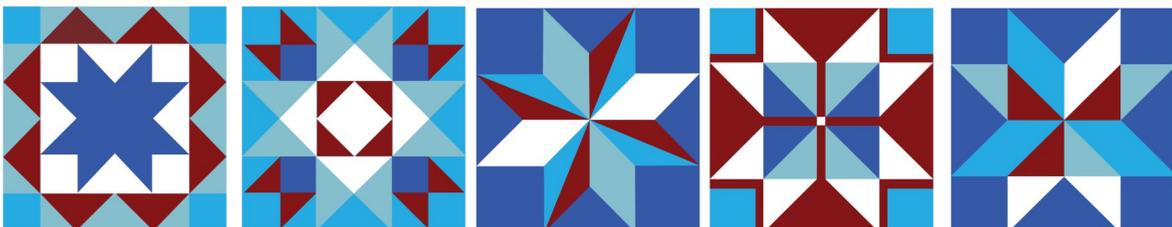
In a small saucepan, cook the onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour & chicken broth. Cook until thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream. In a large bowl combine chicken, chilis, chili powder and sweet red pepper. Add 1C sauce and 1C cheddar cheese. Mix well. Dip each tortilla in remaining sauce until softened. Fill each tortilla with chicken mix.

Roll up tortillas, place in a lightly oiled baking dish. Spoon over remaining cheese. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes until bubbly. Serve with additional sour cream if desired.

Peanut Butter Crinkles

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 3/4 cups flour | 1/2 cup soft margarine |
| 1 tsp soda | 1/2 cup peanut butter |
| 1/2 tsp salt | 1 egg |
| 1 tsp vanilla | 1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed |
| 1/2 cup white sugar | 48 chocolate candy kisses or stars |

Cream margarine, peanut butter, and sugars. Add rest of ingredients except candy. Mix well. Shaped into round balls about 1 inch in diameter. Roll in granulated sugar. Bake at 375 for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and top with candy. Makes 4 dozen.



UPCOMING

Events

- 5/3** **World Labyrinth Day workshop, 12:00-2:00**
- 5/11** **Mother's Day**
- 5/18** **Pastor Andy's Retirement Open House, 12:00-2:00**
Sandpoint Piano student recital
- 5/19** **Festival at Sandpoint Youth Orchestra concert**
- 5/21** **Session Meeting, 1:30 p.m.**
- 5/26** **Memorial Day**
- 5/27** **June Grapevine articles due, 9:00 a.m.**



May
Birthdays

5/1 Mary Bauer
5/2 Judy McComish
5/8 Jim Shirrell
5/9 Don Helander
5/18 Ted Farmin
5/30 Nancy Albanese

*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