



## THE GRAPEVINE—SPECIAL EDITION

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho, June 2025

### From the Pastor...

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint,

My name is Rev. Catherine Lyle and I am looking forward to meeting with you all, worshipping together, healing, and creating a safe space to dream holy dreams again. I have been praying for your congregation, for Pastor Andy and his growing family, and the Sandpoint Community these past months. Full disclosure, I never thought I would be serving you all as an interim pastor but I did overhear some whisperings of maybe someday doing more together because we enjoy each other. Our two churches partner in many ways and our hearts call to very similar inclusive ministries, food distribution, and spirituality rather than just Bible thumping. While a spark of Creative Spirit flickers in the air, it can be hard to envision what comes next, until you know the people you care for are being cared for. Pastor Andy loved you all and I can imagine this being a hard time for you and him. I will do my best to help calm the waters buuuuuut my real gift is movement based. I am mildly successful at helping people clean out their spirits by releasing back to God that which harms us, leaning into our gifts, and being brave enough to try something new.

So, I propose the following for the year to come. First, we all have as much fun this summer in community getting to know each other and collecting vitamin D from the sun. In the fall we prioritize paperwork kind of stuff. Come the holidays (which at this rate might be hard on our neighbors financially)

we work together offering meaningful worship traditions and fellowship to fill our empty cups. Then, well, maybe come January we begin asking harder questions for what kind of pastor you all need to get you to where God wants you to serve. Aiding this effort in January, people naturally try to reprioritize health and budgets. So, for us it will be homing in on the bigger questions and making real strides. I think this is a good plan but too many times I make plans and God gives me a different path, so we shall call this a good-hearted path with the best of intentions (but we will leave an ample supply of cookie dough ice cream in the freezer should we completely fail).

I was asked to share some about myself and my family and here is my quick story: I was born into a German/Irish/Scottish family that struggles with addiction, abuse, and poverty. I had a rough childhood and lived in at least 30+ different homes and places growing up. I went to many churches and tried many activities to feel connected to others and feel good about myself. I love my family, we made some very interesting campfire worthy stories, and I see more strength and love than the other stuff but I practice strong boundaries with them. I sometimes get sad or triggered, particularly with child safety. I have been in therapy most of my life and I encourage others to always seek professional help and not be ashamed. The scariest person in the world is not a self-aware person in therapy. No, the wounded animal, afraid to be vulnerable and honest, causes much more damage to themselves and the community. I tend to be a half glass full person, live in the moment and preach a loving God beyond our understanding. I love stories,

crafting (upcycling old things into something new), time with friends on the water or walking our dogs, time alone reading and listening to music, and most of all being with my family. My husband (Kevin James) has been my best friend since I was 20. He is a computer nerd, has a dry English sense of humor and goes along with most my antics. Our boys are my sunshine every morning. My oldest Braeden James (10) can be shy but loyal. He plays the violin, loves to ski and likes board games or video games. My youngest is Rowan and he was born an extrovert. He plays the piano (hates practicing), is always seeing some idea in his head through, and is fun to try new food or restaurants with. We have 3 dogs, 2 cats, and some dead plants in our garden. We are a close family and I am unhealthily plotting ways to freeze time and keep things as they are.

I feel like I should leave you all with a scripture. I don't want to, we will get to scripture on Sundays, so here is my closing quote I offer for you all to ponder.

“There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after.” -Thorin Oakenshield in the The Hobbit by J.R.R.Tolkein

See you all in June,  
Rev. Catherine Lyle



## Regular Monthly Events



### ***Sunday***

- 11:00 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 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*

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### *Ministers*

Members and Friends

Pastor Catherine Lyle

Pastor cell phone: 509-570-3938

### *Office hours*

Monday 9:00-12:00

Wednesday 9:00-12:00