



From the pastor

Our Summer Worship Series for June and July is “Re-Shaped: What we're made for.” It is a lighthearted series using playdough to illuminate the scriptures reminding us to change with the Spirit of God to meet the cultures and needs of God's most vulnerable. We hope the concentrated series will allow you to harken back to the days when a tub of Play-Doh could spark your imagination and all things felt possible! As we age, somehow the Play-Doh of our Lives gets cracked and dry and less malleable. We become suspicious of change as we start to believe that “the way things are” is the safest choice. But often “what is” starts to crumble and if we look closely at what the Creator set in motion, we find that change is actually the most constant part of life. Change is inevitable and actually necessary for animating our spirits as we find renewed purpose throughout life. Worship with us Sundays at 11am! To watch a quick clip or invite friends click: [Re-Shaped Worship Series about Change - Ordinary Time - YouTube](#)

Ways to help with our series.

1. Do you have a cool piece of pottery you are able to donate to the church for June and July to decorate our church sanctuary? Nothing too valuable; let's not tempt the fairies with sticky fingers. Ultimately, we would love our worship space to reflect the imagination and wonder of our worshippers on Sunday. Please bring your pottery to Pastor Catherine or the church office by May 27th.
2. Do you like to make Play-Dough? Pastor Catherine is hoping to get volunteers to make Play-dough (little bags for 30ish people) for Sundays June 7, June 14, July 5, and July 12. We will use the Play-dough in worship together and what we don't use we'd like to disperse in lending libraries around town for our kids to play with this summer! Email Pastor Catherine if you're up for making Play-dough challenge. Cflyle@gmail.com





You are invited to an Ordination Service Celebration with Rev. Catherine Lyle & Boys!

The Ordination Service will be held on Thursday, June 25th at 10:30am within the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church located at 115 N. Raymond Rd. *It is highly encouraged to come early and/or carpool as it is expected to be a full church during the service.*



We have reserved the Longhorn Barbecue banquet room at 12:30pm located at 2315 N. Argonne RD, Spokane Valley for a buffet lunch celebration. Suggested donation to cover the buffet food is \$20. Please RSVP by June 18 via email (Cflyle@gmail.com) if you would like to join us for lunch. If you cannot afford to cover your meal please come and RSVP anyway, we are happy to cover it for you because life is better with all of you!

Session Notes May 20, 2026

Session meetings often come to order a smidgeon after 1:30 PM, however, they always adjourn slightly before or promptly at 3:00 o'clock. That's because Pastor Catherine shifts from church duties to her parental obligations. This schedule disciplines us to stay on task to complete our agenda about the same time the school bell rings. Now for the business of the church that we tackled within the allotted time period.

Session approved a request from The Ezra 3 Design Team to apply the \$10,000 grant this project awards toward constructing an accessible/unisex restroom in the former nursery room. This addition will greatly improve our ability to comfortably host more activities in our facilities.

In the Building and Grounds report, Mary S. announced a clean-up day for the Peace Garden on June 6. (NOTE: This date was changed to Friday, June 5.) Mary also reported that Chris L. will take over custodian duties while Mo M. is on temporary leave. Also, a roofer will replace the missing shingles on the sanctuary roof within the next couple of weeks.

Look for designated striped spaces coming soon in the alley to reserve parking for church staff. Arby's has offered to loan their parking lot striper.

Session approved for Judy L., elder for Building Use/Adult Christian Education/Workshops/Retreats, to purchase small, portable public address system. It will be ideal for small groups instead of using our large system, which is time-consuming to set-up.

Bill L., representing the Earth Care Team, reported on the successful Earth Care Sunday worship service, participation in the Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration at the East Bonner County Library and the planting of two shrubs in the Peace Garden in memory of Marilyn R. and Dave P.

It's hard to believe that Pastor Catherine has been our interim pastor for almost one year. Session will be updating the pastor's terms of call for the next twelve months. At the same time, we will embark on appointing a Pastor Nominating Committee to call a permanent pastor. Kirsten T., Paula V., Lex de F., and Bill L. have agreed to serve, and we are seeking a fifth member to fill out the committee. Any volunteers?

Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, will attend our Sunday worship service on June 7. Following the service, she will explain the process of calling a permanent pastor. Please plan to attend this important activity.

Even with this busy agenda, we adjourned at 3:00 PM. Thanks, Catherine, for keeping us on schedule!

Bill L., Clerk of Session

Worship and Music

Greetings –

As we round the curve towards the end of May, the world outside is green and full of life. Gardens are getting started. Our local robins are busy and vocal. Soon we'll be seeing fawns tiptoeing out into the big world. What does all this life mean? No simple answers, of course, but this circle of the seasons in our environment is a reminder to all of us that we are connected to the world around us, and to each other through the natural world.

The Church has its own seasons as well. May 17 was the seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24 was Pentecost, May 31 was Trinity Sunday, and each Sunday from June until November 22 – Christ the King Sunday – are counted as Sundays after Pentecost. These church related seasons ground us in our faith walk just as the seasons of the earth ground us in the world of life that surrounds us. This summer, we'll celebrate the beauty of our church with an outdoor service on July 5.

I use the PCUSA planning calendar to learn a bit more about the church calendar. All of this information is available online with a lot more depth and many resources at <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/life-witness/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/church-calendar>

Many thanks to all of you who faithfully check your calendars against the sign-up calendar which I circulate online and in church to participate in the life of the church as ushers, live streamers, and worship assistants. We keep the rhythms of the church moving forward.

Many blessings – Kirsten T.



Bonner Community Food Bank

Bonner Community Food Bank has reached an exciting milestone. On April 6th, they closed on a new location at 900 Kootenai Cut Off Road in Ponderay. This much-needed space will double their current capacity, allowing them to better serve our community now and for generations to come. There is much to do in order to prepare the new location, and they anticipate being open in the new location late in the fall of 2026. Meanwhile they'll be serving our community from their shop on 1707 Culvers Drive!

April Numbers:

- 10,650 pounds of food purchased
- 3,216 neighbors supported
- 1,066 volunteer hours donated



Fellowship

On July 5th we will be having our service on the lawn. We believe this would be a great time to have a BBQ. In the belief that "many hands make light work", toward the end of June I will be sending around a signup for: setting up, cleaning up and/or providing a side dish. We will provide burgers, drinks, etc. Let's add to our prayer list, good weather. Hope to see a nice large crowd.

Thank you for everyone who has been signing up to do the weekly Fellowship. Everyone seems to enjoy the chance to interact and use the opportunity to get to know each other better.

As a reminder, I am still collecting aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. There is a collections spot outside the church office.

Blessings!

Sylvia H., Fellowship Elder



Earth Care Team

How to Properly Take Care of Your Lawn

Roots grow where the water is, if you water deeply, the plant will develop a strong root system. On the other hand, if you only sprinkle the surface of the soil, the plant will create a shallow root system. On average, lawns require about an inch of water per week. However, soil type affects the amount of water a lawn needs. Of the three soil types (clay, loam and sand), clay soil retains the most water and thus needs watering less often. Because water seeps into clay soil more slowly, it must be applied at lower rates over a longer period of time. Sandy soil retains less water than clay soil, but less water is needed to properly wet sandy soil. Therefore, watering sandy soil takes less time than watering clay soil but must be done more frequently. Loam soil lies between clay and sandy soil in its ability to hold water. Loam retains a moderate amount of water following irrigation and requires a moderate amount of water.

Water moves very slowly into some soil, especially fine-textured clay and loam. If a sprinkler head applies water faster than water can seep into the soil, significant water can be lost to run-off. To avoid this problem, use sprinklers with low application rates and/or irrigate to a point just before run-off. Then stop watering. Let the surface dry and then begin watering again. Repeat this process until the soil is wet to the desired depth.

Water in the early morning. The grass plants will be active and will absorb the water they need. Any extra water will evaporate, keeping grass blades dry and preventing disease. Watering during the middle of the day is not recommended since much of the water you apply will evaporate before the plants absorb it. Watering in the evening is not recommended since the lawn will stay wet all night, leading to disease.

Mow properly. This makes a big difference. Mow tall, no shorter than three inches, and let the grass clippings fall. Tall turf naturally develops a deeper root system. The tall grass blades and the grass clippings will shade the soil, keeping it cooler and conserving moisture. The first lawns that turn yellow in a neighborhood are lawns that are cut short and clippings were collected.

Monitor your automatic timer. These “set and forget it” systems are convenient but sometimes irrigate the lawn when it’s not needed. Only irrigate when the lawn is dry. Don’t irrigate when it’s raining or when rain is expected. Rain sensors and soil moisture sensors are available that prevent irrigation systems from running when rain is falling or when the soil is moist.

Improve your soil. Adding organic matter can help. The next time you aerate the lawn, fill in the holes with some compost or peat moss. In clay soils, this organic matter will open the soil, helping water infiltrate rather than run off. In sandy soils this organic matter will help the soil hold water before it drains away.

Use the natural alternative. You have the option of not watering your lawn at all. Your lawn will turn yellow gradually and go dormant. Going dormant under intense heat is natural for lawns. Lawn will turn green again in the fall when temperatures cool.

Whether you irrigate your lawn or not, you can have a healthy lawn without breaking your bank account. Irrigate only when needed and make every drop count.

Gail B., Earth Care Team

Earth Care Team

Earth Care Team Activities

Earth Care Close to Home was the theme for both the April 19, 2026, simple service at FPC and the Earth Day / Arbor Day event at the Sandpoint Library on April 25, 2026. Following the opening of the simple service and the reading of the land acknowledgement, Bill Love explained the history of our Earth Care Team, which is in its 11th year. Lex de F., Jane F., Gail B., and Kathleen H. read psalms from First Nations Version; Jane F. and Kirsten T. read the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address; and the songs “Morning Has Broken,” “For the Beauty of the Earth,” and “All Creatures of Our God and King,” from a St. Francis poem, were sung. Congregants were invited to Fellowship Hall to view a display of earth-friendly tips.

Those items and handouts were also on display at our tables in the parking lot next to the Library Garden on April 25. We were part of a diverse group of participants: the University of Idaho Master Gardeners, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Dark Sky International, Idaho Conservation League, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Trout Unlimited, Bonner County Gardeners Association, OOHLALA (arborists) and the Bonner County Food Bank. Visitors to our tables showed interest in solutions for reducing single-use plastic, composting, pollinator-friendly outdoor lighting, recycling opportunities, and tips on shopping. FPC was represented by Jane F., Julie S., Star F., Bill L., and Lex de F. The Earth Care Team is most grateful for the beautiful banner with the Earth Care Congregation logo image that was so generously provided by Carol C. and which graced our table. We’re also grateful for Carol’s gift of a 2’ x 6’ banner showing the logo, name of our church, and the cross image. You’re a star, Carol!

Much praise is due to Brian T. for transporting tables and chairs and helping to set up, and to Bill L. for breaking down and returning the tables and chairs. Thank you!

Submitted by Lex de F.



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.

Looking for an easy-to-transport dessert to take to a BBQ or potluck? Or maybe you need to mail a care package to someone? Try Geri S.'s chocolate chip bar cookies. They're easy to make, easy to take, and easy to pack into a box to mail. And they are very tasty! Dana S. has been eating and making them since she was a kid, helping her mom and her grandma in the kitchen.

Chocolate Chip Bar Cookies

1 cup shortening
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 Tbsp water
2 eggs
2 1/4 cups flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
1 cup chocolate chips (double if you're not using nuts)
1 cup chopped nuts (optional, not everybody likes 'em!)

Cream shortening, sugars, and vanilla. Beat in eggs and water. Sift flour, salt, and soda. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Spread thick batter in greased 10x15 cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for about 15 minutes. Cut in bars while warm. Cool in pan on rack.

The length of time in the oven will vary depending on your cookie sheet and oven.





6/9 Cynthia D.
6/11 Dana S.
6/14 Sue H.
6/19 Bart C.
6/22 Jackie W.
6/25 Millie R.
6/29 Sharon A.

Did we miss your birthday or get the date wrong? Please let the office know at office@fpcsandpoint.org.



6/3 Choir potluck, 12:30 p.m., director's house
6/5 Church clean-up, 9:00 a.m., Bring your work gloves!
6/17 Session, Fireside Room, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
6/18 Bonner County Human Rights Task Force meeting
6/21 Father's Day
6/22 July/August Grapevine articles due, 9:00 a.m.
6/22-25 Pastor Catherine in Spokane for annual conference
6/25 Pastor Catherine's Ordination Service, 10:30 a.m.
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
6/28-7/2 Pastor Catherine at Twinlow Camp

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. 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
- 12:00 p.m. Church choir practice (on break until September)
- 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