



From the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been named, organized, and has rolled up its proverbial sleeves to seek an installed pastor for FPC Sandpoint. Thanks to Clerk of Session Bill L., the following folks have been selected, and approved by the congregation to serve on the PNC: Lex de F., Kathleen H., Bill L., Mickey H., Paula V., and Kirsten T. The committee members met with the Presbytery's executive Presbyter Sheryl Kinder-Pyle on June 7, and elected Kirsten T. as chairperson, Mickey H. as IT/Database/Computer person, Kathleen H. and Paula V. to serve as scribes, and Bill L. to continue in his role as Clerk of Session / Liaison to Presbytery. Reverend Becky Anderson will serve on the PNC in her role as liaison to Presbytery from the Committee on Ministry.

The PNC will meet weekly for the first couple of months as we complete organizational tasks required to accurately describe FPC Sandpoint to prospective ministerial candidates, as well as to describe the needs, priorities, and vision for the future of FPC Sandpoint. Much of the groundwork for this effort has been over the past few years in the Visioning Task Force work in 2022, the Ezra 3 Project which began in 2025, and the FPC Mission Statement developed under the guidance of our interim Pastor Catherine Lyle. The Committee will take this information, which was compiled quite recently, and complete the forms that have been supplied to us by the Presbytery as we continue on this interim journey.

In the PNC's orientation process with Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, she reinforced to the committee that its deliberations about any specific candidates, as well as the committee meetings, are confidential. Given the task before us, this makes sense. We will honor our duty to keep our proceedings confidential, while keeping our church family apprised of our general progress.

We're off to a good start on our work as we move forward with the PNC. We'll be meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 during this natural pause in the church calendar during summer. Be looking and listening for updates from the committee in the coming weeks. We cherish your prayers, support, and wisdom as we move forward. We hope that you will join our committee in praying that we find the right pastor for the position who is hopefully looking for us as well!

Peace and blessings—

Kirsten T.



Session Notes June 17, 2026

What do students, teachers and the Session at First Presbyterian Church – Sandpoint share in common this time of the year? SUMMER VACATION!

We usually forego our monthly session meetings during July and August. That's not to suggest, however, that we neglect the important affairs of running a church. We remain connected via email and informally approve routine matters on-line that will be formally ratified during our September meeting. Should something important come-up, we will call a special in-person meeting.

In looking forward to not meeting for a couple of months, we packed our May agenda with several important items that I will briefly summarize.

Session approved renewing Pastor Catherine's contract for one year beginning June 1, 2026. By the way, we look forward to joining the Sandpoint Methodist Church on August 2 at 12:30 PM to celebrate Catherine's ordination and installation as a United Methodist pastor.

We approved a slate of prospective church members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee to call a permanent pastor. A congregation meeting scheduled for June 7, 2026, will vote to approve the composition of the PNC. (See related article on page one in this issue of *The Grapevine*.)

Judy M. updated session on the proposed Ezra 3 Project grant of \$10,000 to construct an additional accessible/unisex/restroom in Fellowship Hall.

Due to increased use of facilities by non-church activities, our staff often has difficulties parking in the alley. We will designate three parking spaces reserved for staff.

On Sunday, July 5, we will worship outdoors in the Peace Garden. It will be followed by a BBQ luncheon.

The last agenda item was a reminder by Dana S. of the June 22 deadline to submit our articles for the July/August edition of the Grapevine.

Miss S., please give me credit for getting my assignment turned in on-time ... perhaps for the first time ever!

Peace as we enjoy the summer and continue to gather for Sunday worship.

Bill Love, Clerk of Session

Worship and Music

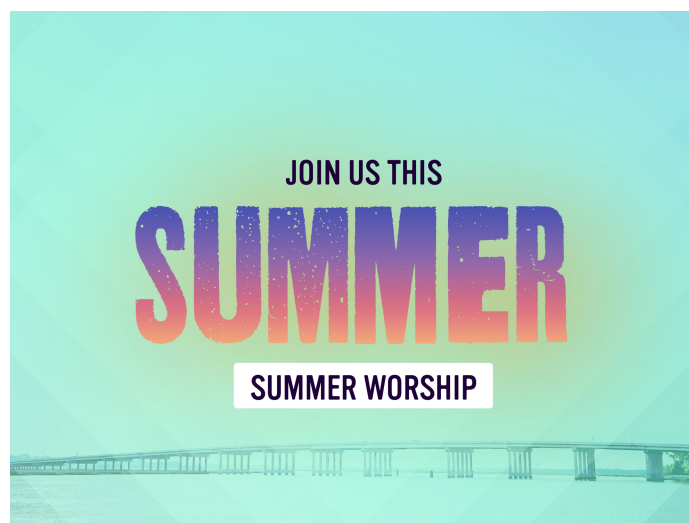
Summer days of hot weather and long evenings have definitely arrived. With their arrival comes a break in the usual pattern of things... no school for the kids in the community, vacation time for working adults (except for camp counselors and recreational workers), and a pause in Sunday school. During this pause in the regular schedule, I find that the routine of worship in church and fellowship is a great way to keep grounded, and restart the week with a fresh perspective.

Do you feel the same way? Does the routine of worship provide a moment of refreshment, and a spiritual pick-me-up for your week? I hope that is a true for all of us at FPC.

I know that one of the ways we set the tone for our time of prayer, meditation, and music is in the way that we are greeted as we enter worship physically, or virtually if we are joining on YouTube. Many thanks to you faithful ushers, worship assistants and live streamers for your volunteerism throughout the year. Kudos to Annie W. for her joy-filled piano playing. And many thanks to Pastor Catherine for her weekly leadership, and to others from within the congregation and Presbytery who lead in worship when Pastor Catherine has some well-deserved time away.

See you on Sunday! Be ready with your calendars if a sign-up clipboard goes around 😊

Blessings – Kirsten T.



Earth Care Team

Earth Care Tidbits July 2026

Two days before June 19 – Juneteenth – I was swept away by a Living on Earth podcast featuring Black Americans and their contributions to the betterment of human life through stewardship of the earth. For instance, Dr. George Washington Carver is associated with peanuts, and he indeed showed poor farmers how planting legumes could restore soil that was simply lifeless from the demands of cotton crops. He discovered other sustainable farming practices that improved soil as they improved the lives of farmers dependent on the land. He even created recipes for the previously unknown peanut: peanut punch, mock chicken, and, yes, coffee bean extender. In testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, he showed how nutrition could be improved through farming practices, citing the nutritional blast of combining peanuts and sweet potatoes. As Director of the Tuskegee Institute’s Department of Agriculture, Dr. Carver spent time in the field teaching Alabama farmers, black and white, helping to break down some of the forces of racial tension.

The second half of the podcast featured plant biologist Dr. Beronda L. Montgomery, whose new book, *When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America’s Black Botanical Legacy*, explores the history of Black American slaves and how their lives intertwined with trees. Imagine, for instance, how the breath of her ancestors was recorded in wood produced during photosynthesis – the exchange of human-exhaled carbon dioxide and oxygen released by the tree. Part memoir, science, and history, this book reveals profound truths about the witnessing power of ancient trees. She shares how the malicious cutting down of a willow tree in 2019 near the site of the Elaine Massacre of 1919 connected her with her late grandfather, who, at five years of age, lived through the Massacre.

We are rolling through Juneteenth, Summer Solstice, and the 250th anniversary of our country. For me, it is a good time to reflect on how historical events shaped our present time. May you be well.

Submitted by Lex de F. for the FPC Earth Care Team



Missions

Ezra 3 Project Update – June 2026

Overview of Ezra 3

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest (PINW) received a grant from the Lilly Endowment: *Thriving Congregations Initiative*, entitled the Ezra 3 Project. Through the Ezra 3 Project, the Presbytery is exploring how we can steward our land and buildings for community impact in a way that aligns with the mission of the church – how we can use our buildings in ways that help the community flourish. Each church can write a proposal for funding for a church-specific project for up to \$10,000.

In August 2025, our church joined Cohort 2 of this project which will continue through 2026. Churches with 100 or fewer members are included in Cohort 2, which includes Bethany, Post Falls, Sandpoint, Washtucna, and Whitworth. The FPC design team for this project is Rev. Catherine Lyle, Paula Vincent, Mary Sturgis, and Judy McComish.

FPC has been very busy over the past nine months. Our congregation, along with the design team, has completed online surveys, engaged in interviews both with members of the congregation and with others who are actively involved in our church, explored our neighborhood (I Spy) to “see” our community in a new way, met with community leaders and a consultant team from Partners for Sacred Places (Community Conversation, November 2025). All of these activities were focused on identifying needs in the community and ideas for ways we can use our building to help meet those needs. In early January 2026, we received the report from the Partners for Sacred Places that summarized the needs identified in the Community Conversation and made recommendations for moving forward. Copies of this report are available in the church office.

At the January 29, 2026, Cohort meeting, our design team developed a Property Mission Statement that was presented to and approved at a special meeting of Session on February 1, 2026. The Property Mission Statement builds on the FPC Mission Statement and will be used to guide our thinking as we go forward. The complete text of the FPC Mission Statement and the Property Mission Statement are available in the church office.

Strengths of our church: We are a church that welcomes everyone, is engaged in building community, and committed to taking the love of Christ into the world. Our Vision is: Living, Loving, and Learning the Joy of Faith. Music is and has always been an important avenue for expressing our faith within the community.

The needs and challenges identified in the Community Conversation Report were consistent with those identified by our design team and congregation (see p. 7 of PSP Report).

Needs:

- Affordable meeting space
- Affordable preschool/childcare
- Affordable housing
- Desire to stave off the loneliness epidemic

Challenges:

- Lack of accessible restrooms
- Lack of temperature regulation
- Lack of parking

Missions

To be able to increase use of our church space by members of the community we must first address the challenges that were identified. **In collaboration with the congregation, the challenge that the design team has decided to address with the Ezra Project is accessibility. We will do this by creating a restroom that is available to all people, family friendly, and wheelchair accessible.**

In May, our design team presented our idea for the restroom project at the Ezra Cohort meeting in Spokane and received support to move forward with our idea. Following that, FPC's Session approved us to move forward with approaching builders to obtain a cost estimate.

On June 10, 2026, our design team met with Dustin Lutz, of Red Dog Construction to look at our space and share ideas about what area(s) of the church would be the best option for a new restroom. Together, we explored areas of the educational wing that can potentially be used, considering the plumbing and cost issues we may encounter. Another meeting is scheduled with Mr. Lutz and a plumber on June 24. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Respectfully submitted,

Ezra Design Team

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



Bonner Community Food Bank News

As summer arrives in Bonner County, our gardens are growing, school is letting out, and the need for food assistance remains steady for many of our neighbors. It is a season of abundance, and at Bonner Community Food Bank, we're grateful for the volunteers, donors, and community partners who help ensure that everyone has access to food throughout the year.

While we're enjoying the fresh flavors of the season, we're also looking ahead to one of our favorite events of the year.

Please mark your calendars for **Ending Hunger Bite by Bite**, our signature fundraising event, taking place **Saturday, October 10, 2026, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** This fun & impactful evening will bring together local food and beverage vendors, community members, and supporters for a celebration of great food, give aways, silent & live auctions, paddle raise, and a shared commitment to ending hunger in Bonner County.

More details, ticket information, and sponsorship opportunities will be coming soon. We hope you'll save the date and join us for an evening that truly makes a difference—one bite at a time.



Seed 2 Snack Returns for a Second Summer!

BCFB is excited to partner once again with the Lake Pend Oreille School District Summer Meal Program for our second year of Seed 2 Snack. We are calling on backyard gardeners, hobby farmers, and local producers to help nourish the children of Bonner County by donating excess harvest from their gardens and fields, especially snack-friendly fruits and vegetables that can be easily tucked into lunch bags.

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bonner Community Food Bank. Please be sure to mention Seed 2 Snack when dropping off your produce if you would like it directed to the summer meal program. Produce that can't be used by the school kitchens will be shares through our food bank market, ensuring that fresh food reaches families throughout our community.

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.

If you were at fellowship on June 21, chances are you enjoyed this fabulous Rhubarb Coffee Cake that Sue H. brought. It was delicious!! She said that several people asked for the recipe, so "Ask and ye shall receive."

Rhubarb Coffee Cake

<i>Cake</i>	<i>Crumble Topping</i>
2 eggs	1 cup white or brown sugar (Sue used 3/4)
1 1/4 cups white sugar	1/4 cup flour
1 tsp baking soda	1/4 cup butter
1/2 tsp salt	1 Tbsp cinnamon
2 cups all purpose flour	Tip: Use frozen butter, using a box grater
1 cup sour cream	
2 cups fresh rhubarb, cut in 1/2" pieces	

Preheat the oven to 350; spray the 9x13 pan with non-stick cooking spray.

In a large bowl, add all the ingredients, except for the rhubarb. Using an electric hand mixer or stand mixer, mix for 1 minute, then fold in the rhubarb. Pour into the baking pan.

In a medium bowl, mix the topping ingredients, and sprinkle over the batter.

Bake for 45-50 minutes or until the cake tester comes out clean.





7/3	Annie W.
7/9	Don D.
7/31	Chuck B.
8/10	Darcy T.
8/17	Lex de F.
8/18	Patti D.
8/22	Susie H.
8/27	Shirley P.

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



7/4	Fourth of July
7/5	Outdoor service and BBQ
7/18	Music Bridges Borders concert, 6:00 p.m.
8/16	Pastor Catherine at Saint Gertrude's Monastery, Cottonwood
8/24	September Grapevine articles due, 9:00 a.m.

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