



THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
July/August 2018

FROM THE PASTOR...

It seems like summer just started, and June is already over! I was working in my garden the other day, doing some transplanting of flowers and vegetable plants I had started in my greenhouse a few weeks ago. Taking the outdoor soil and preparing a spot, carefully removing the seedling from the greenhouse pot, putting it in the new location, watering it in and hoping it grows well is a process that involves gentleness. Some of those plants were started in paper egg cartons, and the roots had interwoven into the fiber of the carton. It helped to get it wet to soften it up, then tearing the paper to open up the roots so they can dig deep into the new soil was somewhat tedious. If you tear too much, the roots get ripped up. If you don't tear enough, the roots get bound up and don't expand in the garden. Gentle handling and careful placement was needed.

God knows our spiritual lives are similar. Nurturing spiritual growth and doing inner work is a process that, at times, may seem like we're being uprooted from the certainty we've known before. But if we are not challenged, stretched, or humbled, then we can get stifled and our lives miss out on the fullness of joy. Moving from the small pots of our little lives into the larger creativity of God's garden we discover we are rooted and grounded in Christ. Faith is nourished through God's loving grace, and we're reminded of the Apostle Paul's words that *in Christ we are new creations!*

This summer, look for some creative outlets and notice some of the subtle complexities involved. Try not to judge them as good or bad, or critique your performance. Just hold the moments lightly and let God reveal deeper lessons. Maybe it's gardening, or admiring the abundance of the Farmer's Market as you slowly marvel at the fruits of other peoples' labor, or painting, or photography, or just look out a window and quiet your mind to soak up the moment.

As I stood back and admired the small little seedlings in their new spots among a larger world, I was ready for them to be big so I could pick the veggies and fruit. But it just takes time. Some things cannot be rushed, and yet changes do come. In a few months those plants will have run their course and summer will sigh away. In the meantime, there are other lessons to learn as we experience God's creative power, goodness, and love.

PS: Feel free to stop by sometime and see the garden. 156 Shiras Drive, just one mile west of town off Baldy Mountain Road.

Peace,

Pastor Andy

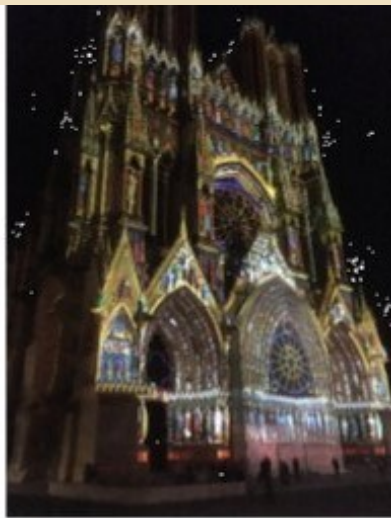
SABBATICAL SPOTLIGHT

On the way from England to Germany, Shawna and I (Pastor Andy) were travelling with our friends, the Powell Family. There were six of us, plus all our luggage stuffed into their Land Rover. Crossing the English Channel involved a very expensive ferry boat ride, which landed us in France. We stayed overnight in Reims, France. Arriving in the evening and working through complications with our hotel reservation, we finally walked down the street to go out for supper at a restaurant with seating in a plaza by a flowing fountain. It was a classic French experience, dining outside late in the evening at a popular place with delicious French cuisine.

The spotlight event took place after supper. We walked through the local neighborhood to the Notre-Dame Cathedral of Reims. This large, gray concrete and stone building loomed tall in that town, and featured lots of statues all around the outside. One statue is of a smiling angel, and is fairly popular as a unique aspect of that church. It seems most angels don't smile, but this one does. Especially when the gray monochrome stone lights up at night by a laser light show that displays vivid colors and animation, all set to music. The statues come to life.

Over a half hour of music and lights, with one motif phasing into another, and video animations providing displays that tell tales, such as the construction process of that cathedral, portraying masons and carpenters at work. This was Shawna's favorite experience from the Sabbatical travels, and it was rather unplanned and spontaneous. Also, the next day we went back to that church before heading out of town so we could see the three large stained glass windows designed by the artist, Marc Chagall. Our friends took a picture of Shawna and I sitting on a step in the filtered light as we enjoyed those windows.

That region is called the Champaign Region, famous for the bubbly wine of that name. Vineyards are all around, and we made sure to pick up a bottle to enjoy once we got back to our friend's home in Germany.



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE UPDATES

You most likely received a second quarter Giving Statement from Financial Secretary, Susie Haskins. A letter from Pastor Andy was included. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of them or the church office. Celebrating a culture of generosity, thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church as we love, live, and learn the joy of faith.

PEACE GARDEN GRANT RECEIVED

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest awarded a grant of \$5,000 to the Peace Garden of First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint in June. Judy Labrie drafted the grant proposal, and others helped fine tune it. It highlights the activities of the congregation over the last year, and the intended missional focus of this project as a way to connect with the neighborhood. This grant will be used in the landscaping the south end of the Peace Garden, including a stone gravel pathway, two pear trees, garden beds, finishing the catering patio, installing the Little Free Library, and purchasing round picnic tables. Related to this project, the Rotary of Sandpoint is still planning on finishing the roof of the gazebo by installing cedar shakes. Also, at the recent Session meeting, the status of the Birch Tree was discussed. With his forestry knowledge, Bill Love mentioned that the birch tree is long past it's natural life span, shows dead branches in the crown due to beetle infestation, and is a bit hazardous in terms of shedding branches even if the wind is calm. This is becoming a safety issue, especially when adding picnic tables and benches. Bids are being gathered for tree work. For the Peace Garden project, coordinating with a landscaper and possible tree work will soon lead to the completion of the southern phase of the garden. In the future, the northern phase will include installation of a prayer labyrinth, a new sign, rain garden, renovation of the flower bed with added drainage for storm water, and a sprinkler system. To donate toward the Peace Garden, make out a check to First Presbyterian Church and memo it with Peace Garden, or give online through the church website, selecting Peace Garden in the menu. May Peace Prevail on Earth.

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER – A RETREAT

There is an ecumenical opportunity coming up in Spokane at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in July. The details are listed below, or you can register online at this link:

<http://ihrc.net/events/silent-retreat-on-centering-prayer>

July 29, 2018, 6:00 PM - July 31, 2018, 1:00 PM

Silent Retreat on Centering Prayer

Introduction to Centering Prayer

Rt. Rev. Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, Ph.D. (Episcopalian, the Bishop in this region)

Centering prayer is a type of contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer, in the words of Fr. Thomas Keating – a Trappist monk and priest, is the opening of mind and heart to God, beyond thoughts and words and emotions. We open our awareness to the God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Centering Prayer is one method, not the only method, of contemplative prayer. Centering Prayer never meant to replace other types of prayer; it simply adds to our prayer life and invites us into a form of prayer where we can be still and be with God in silence and listening.

\$196 per person, \$302 couples, \$110 commuters

DISASTER UPDATES

One of the ways the Bonner County agencies coordinate is through an email and cell phone text alert system called, "NIXLE." This is a free service, and if there is something that may affect the health and safety of the community an alert goes out. Signing up is easy in any of three different ways: text your zip code to 888777, sign up online at www.nixle.com, and download the mobile app. Alerts include crime incidents, police activity in an area, road closures, accidents, severe weather, and keeps you informed. Some people sign up for more than one zip code, so they receive alerts from neighboring counties as well. In addition to having a "go bag," extra food and water and other supplies, a family response plan, and other measures in the event of a local disaster, Nixle alerts are a good first step to staying informed and prepared.

WORSHIP IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

We have two opportunities to worship in the great outdoors this summer. On Sunday, July 22 we gather in the beauty of God's creation at City Beach, and have a special blessing of the bicycles to celebrate God's goodness and care! Gather at the City Beach "beach house pavilion" for singing, prayer, and scripture at 9:30 a.m., then converge at water's edge at 10:15 a.m. for a special blessing of the bicycles. Ride on the bike path. Enjoy a potluck lunch. Bring your own bike. Ride safely: helmets encouraged.

The other outdoor service is on Sunday, August 19th on the church lawn. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year to gather outside in the Peace Garden at 9:30 a.m.

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

Be(e) Keeping: A Journey Into Contemplative Faith is the title of a sermon series I (Pastor Andy) am developing as the summer goes along. Each week we look at a specific aspect of this, and so far have learned how it is important to 1) be honest, 2) be aware, 3) be humble, and 4) be patient. Yet to come, we'll focus on being quiet, thankful, loving, and finally, just be.

Remember, if you can't make it on Sunday you can find a printed sermon archive at our newly updated church website at www.fpcsandpoint.org and clicking on the Worship tab, then All Sermons to see the listing. But more than virtual reality or digital reading, this sermon series may be a great reason to bring a friend on Sunday and participate directly in the larger worship experience as we love, live, and learn the joy of faith.



EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

IS DUFORT ROAD TOO FAR?

If you live in the County, and are trying to recycle mixed items, including glass, you may be frustrated by needing to drive 7 miles from town to Dufort Road collection site. Some folks say they save their items until a trip to Coeur d'Alene is planned, & drop off the recycling on that trip. Another combined trip option, if you would enjoy a change of scene, and a walk in the woods: drive another 2 miles on Dufort, and check out the nature trails at Round Lake State Park. The Stewardship Trail has a nicer walking surface, but the "Swamp Tromp" had more birds when I walked it. I was rewarded with Swainson's Thrush, Chickadee, Stellar's Jay, Bald Eagle & Song Sparrow. Syringas were in bloom. Both trails have very informative signs. You will need \$5, (state park fee/per car) and mosquito spray.

Marilyn Robertson

That's the Last Straw!

The Earth Care Team recently became aware that plastic straws are an environmental problem that has often been ignored. A few facts that startled some of us: A straw is manufactured in one minute, but takes 100 years to decompose. Straws have endangered many seabirds, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish; they become part of the major plastic waste that pollutes our oceans. (If we keep discarding all types of plastic at our present rate, by 2050, there will be more pieces of plastic in the oceans than fish.) Could we avoid using plastic straws at home, and when ordering a beverage, in a café, say "No Straw"? If you are a "regular" at a café or restaurant, maybe you could suggest that they not put straws on the tables, unless one is requested. These are small efforts, but they can be meaningful.

A BICYCLE SUMMER

Someone once told me that things tend to happen in threes. It seems that way this summer when it comes to bicycles. First Presbyterian Church enjoys hosting the Bike n' Build group in August as these cyclists journey across the northern tier of the country promoting affordable housing. We are also having a Blessing of the Bicycles at the worship service at City Beach on Sunday, July 22. Also, following a recent request by another cycling group, the church building will be used. July 25 & 26, Bike the US for MS is a fund-raising group cycling the northern tier of the country raising awareness for Multiple Sclerosis. So we now have two cycling groups and one blessing Sunday. For this group in July, we simply provide space for them to stay. For the group in August, we provide a meal and shower shuttles. I suppose we are all encouraged to pull out our bicycles, pump up the tires, and get out there to enjoy a ride in the sunshine.



KID'S ALIVE SUMMER DAY CAMP 2018

July 23-26

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

for kids entering k-6

suggested donations of \$10 per camper

Located at First Lutheran Church

526 S. Olive Avenue Sandpoint, ID 83864

Join us as we learn who Jesus is and how He speaks life!

Hosted by Lutherhaven Ministries

In Partnership with First Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church,
Sandpoint United Methodist Church, & Luther Park in Sandpoint

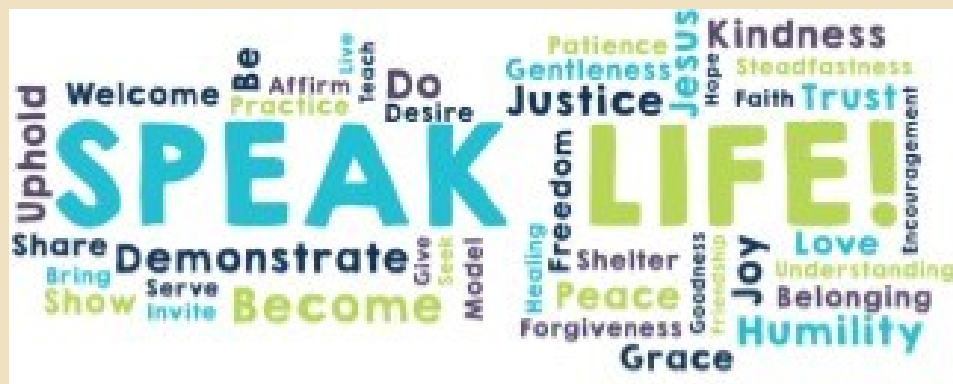
More Information & Registration:

Contact First Lutheran Church

(208) 263-2048

<http://www.firstlutheransandpoint.org/kids-alive>

First Presbyterian Church is responsible for Monday – snacks and volunteers for registration for Kids Alive Day Camp. Donations for snacks and feeding staff (3) would be appreciated. See Mary Sturgis, Pastor Andy, Barbara Rolph or Jim Bellotty if you can help.



July 22nd 9:30 A.M. SANDPOINT CITY BEACH SERVICE / BLESSING OF THE BICYCLES

We will add a new activity to our annual Sandpoint City Beach Worship Service – **A Blessing of the Bicycles**. This blessing will promote the health and energy conservation benefits of cycling while emphasizing the safety for all cyclists. We will also draw attention to the transcontinental journey of the Bike and Build cyclists, raising an awareness for affordable housing, who will be staying in our church later in the summer.

This special setting for a worship service reminds us, an Earth Care Congregation, of the beauty and splendor of God's great creation. May it also remind us of our commitment to be good stewards of all natural resources and to be ever mindful for those who don't share in this abundance.

Bill Love
Worship and Music Team





Photo: Photo by Unknown Author/Unsplash under CC0

JULY 22, 2018
BLESSING OF THE BICYCLES!

City Beach Worship & Blessing of Bicycles
Worship in the beauty of God's creation and have a special blessing of the bicycles to celebrate God's goodness and care! Gather at City Beach for singing, prayer, and scripture at 9:30 a.m., then converge at water's edge at 10:15 a.m. for a special blessing of the bicycles. Ride on the bike path. Enjoy a potluck lunch. Bring your own bike. Ride safely: helmets encouraged.



First
Presbyterian
Church of Sandpoint

City Beach
Sandpoint, ID

Blessing of the Bicycles

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint

9:30 Worship
10:15 Blessing of Bicycles

Meet at City Beach picnic shelter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
417 N. Fourth Ave.
Sandpoint ID 83864
208.263.2047
www.fpcsandpoint.org
July 22, 9:30 worship and
10:15 Blessing of Bicycles

BIKE AND BUILD PROJECT- AUGUST 2018

The Bike and Build Group which has been coming to FPC for several years, will arrive this year Wednesday August 15th in the afternoon, staying at the church that evening staying during the day, Thursday August 16, staying Thursday evening and leaving on Friday morning August 17th. During the day on Thursday August 16th, they will be working with Bonner Homeless Transitions to help with local homeless projects. The Bike and Build group will consist of 27 bikers this year.

Besides a place to sleep, The church will need to provide an evening meal for the bikers on Wednesday evening when they arrive and Breakfast Friday morning when they leave. The bikers will be shuttled to SWAC for showers when they arrive which have been offered graciously by the Helanders.

There will be sign up sheets for volunteers needed, distributed with the Sunday church service bulletins as the event gets closer.

Dave Pietz
Mission Chairman

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) meet September thru May on the second Tuesday of the month. In September we will start a book study using "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. The books have been ordered and when they arrive Susie Haskins will contact those who ordered books. Our next PW meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

PW – FALL RUMMAGE SALE – October 5th & 6th. Time to start sorting and saving to donate. Household items sell better than clothes – all will be appreciated.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For 2018, FPC GAVE \$935 FOR THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING.

Of particular interest to me was the part of the mission in Myanmar (formerly Burma). My son works for a non-profit there and we visited him in February of this year.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Hunger Program works to address root causes of poverty and hunger with seed programs throughout Southeast Asia, including Myanmar. In Myanmar, current work is having an impact on 300 communities and over 1,400 people through seed ministry built around 4 important truths:

1. A rich diversity of underutilized vegetable species function within the rural farming communities in Myanmar and form the background of their locally-adapted food systems;
2. Many of these culturally and economically valuable crop species are at risk, facing threats from encroachment, development and neglect;
3. Currently, little is being done to identify, conserve or disseminate these important at-risk, indigenous species; and,
4. To strengthen and improve the sustainability of this informal seed system and the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers who depend upon it, steps need to be taken to enhance the conservation, utilization and marketing of these valuable seed resources.

Poverty is closely linked to hunger and malnutrition. All of the target villages in Myanmar are facing soil degradation, loss of farmland, loss of natural resources and increased vulnerability to climate change, especially in the form of flooding and soil salinization. These threaten traditional paddy-based farming systems and the production of rice and cash crops, leaving indigenous small holder farmers in a very vulnerable position with regard to food security.

Seeds are a fundamental agricultural input, and access to locally-adapted, quality seed is essential for sustainable crop production. In much of Southeast Asia, informal seed systems are important sources of seeds for smallholder farms. Large regions of Southeast Asia have been identified as “biodiversity hotspots” and represent a valuable resource for the development and improvement of crop species locally, regionally and globally. Improved understanding of the local existing seed systems will enable horticulturists and extension worker to have more effective collaboration with farmers.

Through the work supported by OGHS, Presbyterians join in providing low-input, low-cost and high impact relevant seed saving technologies and seed banks, creating 2 appropriate operational seed banks in this most recent phase (2017).

Dave Pietz

July Birthdays

3	Chuck Scott
7	Alexandra Krames
8	Marian Ruyle
15	Barry Gage
18	Enid Thompson
21	Bob Maricle
25	Anna Bates
31	Chuck Bauer

August Birthdays

3	Bill Bissell
4	Shelley Wogman Bellotty
6	Dan Murphy
7	Samantha Bissell
9	Jill Murphy
10	Darcy Taylor
17	Vern Fleisher
22	Terrin Dustman, Susie Haskins
27	Shirley Parker
30	Phyllis Meagher



Calendar Announcements

July

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Independence Day Brunch after Worship |
| 22 | City Beach Worship & Blessing of Bicycles at 9:30 a.m.
Followed by Potluck |
| 23-26 | Kids Alive Day Camp |

August

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 19 | Outdoor Worship at 9:30 a.m. |
| 15-17 | Bike & Build |

Regular Monthly Events

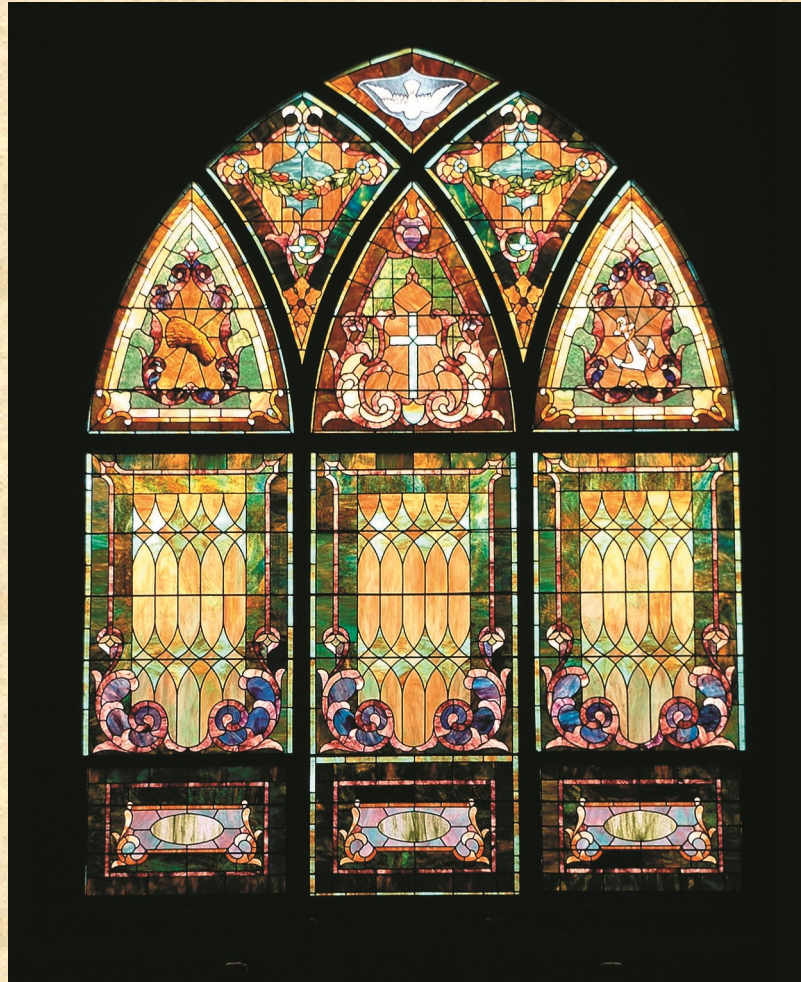
Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m. Fellowship, following service

Monday 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday Book Study Group—1:30 p.m.
Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m.
Choir Practices will resume in the fall

Wednesday
Church Breakfast— Will resume in the fall

Thursday 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

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Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

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