



# THE GRAPEVINE

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO**  
**January/February 2019**

From the Pastor...

Have you ever noticed that at any given time, water is visible? Look outside in our area and you see rivers, lakes, puddles, and precipitation either as snow, sleet, rain, grolple, or hail. Inside, turn on the shower or tub faucet, fill the kitchen sink, or water a house plant. If you're really baffled as to where to look, hold out your hand and admire, for the human body is over 80 percent water. Water is a basic part of life, essential to our daily needs, filling us at a cellular level. But not all water is created equal. Most of the water on the planet is salt water. Only one percent of water on earth is in fresh water form, and most of that is ice, although even this delicate balance is rapidly changing.

In some conditions, water is fluid, a liquid that fills a space and flows down with gravity's influence. In oceans, this influence creates the tide. In other conditions, water is in the form of vapor, as steam or cloud develops as evaporation draws the liquid form into a gas, especially if heat is applied, such as a tea kettle. One reason the Mid-West and Eastern flooding are getting worse is because the Gulf of Mexico is warming up, causing more evaporation, creating more dense, moisture-laden clouds which blow north as stormy weather. Some conditions exist, however, that trap water in a solid form known as ice. Technically, this is a crystal, or rock. In this solid form, water is still able to flow with gravity, but very slowly, like glaciers. Water, in all of its forms, is at the core of life as we experience it.

Yet as essential and dynamic as water is, we tend to ignore it, or worse, pollute or waste it. Do you have a low-flow shower head? Do you minimize your dishwasher or laundry days? Do you take short showers? Are you willing to not have a lush lawn? These are questions of usage, but what about attitude? When you fill a glass of water for drinking, do you look at it, pause, and say to the water, Thank You? Do you view rivers as having an inherent right to life worthy of legal protection? Is water an object to be used, or a living "thing" we are in relationship with? My hunch is that most people in our culture, most of the time, tend to use water but don't think much about it. Once they get thirsty, then they look for it, otherwise, it gets ignored, except when we use it as a "natural resource" for our own purposes.

If you were to equate your faith with water, what form would describe it? Is your experience of the spiritual realms static, slowly, if ever changing? Is faith elusive, like mist, and hard to define? Is it pulsing with life, flowing and dynamic? Do you feel God at work in your life, helping you change and grow, like the boy, Jesus, who grew in "wisdom and stature, and in divine and human favor," as Luke describes in his Gospel during this time after Christmas?

Much like we spend money and attention to engineer systems to provide fresh, clean water for daily needs, so too, spiritual disciplines help us nourish faith.

Prayer, scripture reading, worship, fasting, tithing, silence; there are many ways to open ourselves to the flow of the Holy Spirit and show God how intentional we want to be. Hopefully 2019 will be a year of intention in your life. Create the conditions your faith needs to grow, flow, change, deepen, so the Living God wells up in you like springs of Living Water. Pray for the desire to desire, inviting God to give you a thirst for righteousness, justice, and love. More than a New Year's Resolution, inner transformation through divine Presence helps us critique the bad by practicing the better. More than a Happy New Year, may the wholeness of God's love embrace you like mist on a mountain top, like a plunge off the dock into the refreshing lake on a hot summer afternoon in the bright sunshine, with a power that shapes mountains and valleys through patience and persistence. May the Peace of Christ be with you, in 2019, and always!

Peace and All Good,  
Pastor Andy



### **POETRY EXHIBIT**

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to celebrate the Season of Epiphany through a Poetry Exhibit. During his sermon on Epiphany Sunday (January 6), Pastor Andy invited the congregation to celebrate "God with us" by cultivating awareness of God's Presence in everyday life, then putting those observations to words in poetry form. The due date for submissions is Sunday, January 27, 2019, at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. All poems will be arranged into an exhibition for people to share, like an art show, helping people see God in the neighborhood.

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place following worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019 to receive the Annual Report. This is a celebration of the mission and ministry of Christ through the life of this congregation.

### **PFLAG MEETING**

Beginning in January, on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings, the Fellowship Hall will be utilized by PFLAG as a meeting space. PFLAG stands for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, which is a support group. First Presbyterian Church partners with Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous, and makes the building available for concerts, recitals, and other uses. As a church providing welcome and hospitality, this added partnership helps PFLAG meet their growing need for space. Welcome, PFLAG!

### ***PRESBYTERY PRAYERBOOK***

**For the December 23, 2018 Presbytery Prayerbook article we offer this prayer:**

May the blessing of joy abide WITHIN you...  
 May the blessing of peace rest UPON you...  
 May the blessing of love flow out THROUGH you...  
 May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year.

Christmas Blessings to all of you!

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### **NEW BIBLE CLASS BEGINS**

A new Sunday morning Bible study class will begin on February 3, 2019, and will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Retreat Room across from the office. We'll delve into the Book of James, including the history of the times, explanation for some of the words used in the original Greek, review of the best meaning out of various possible meanings for some of the verses, and look at other areas of interest.

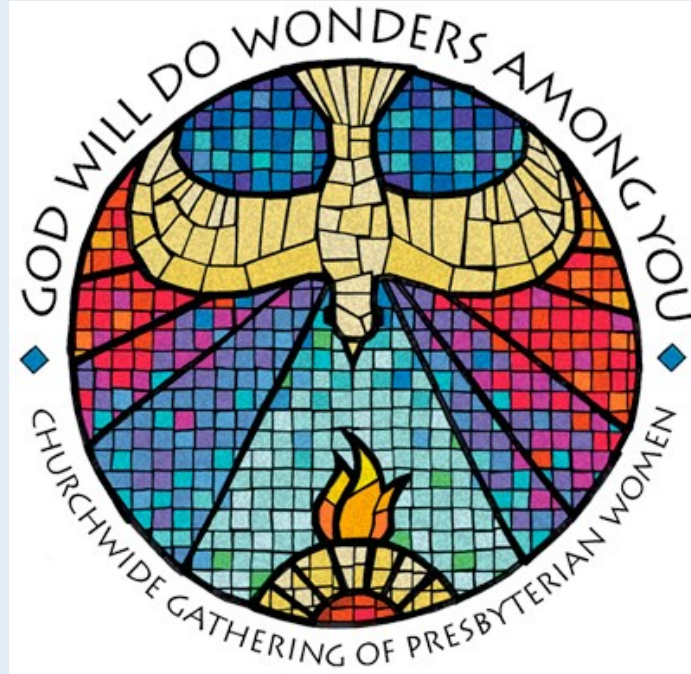
Why James and not an epistle of Paul's or a gospel? James was slow to be accepted by the church and did not start to be quoted by church scholars until around 300 years after it was written. Martin Luther in the early 1500's referred to it as an epistle of straw. In reality, the Book of James is a roadmap for believers to act in accordance with their faith. As time has gone on, some have even called it a necessary read for all Christians. There is a lot of useful, relevant information for us today in this little "epistle of straw."

Feel free to try the class with no obligation. Hopefully, you'll find that you want to continue.

Anna Bates

Clarification: Sunday mornings will have two classes. This Bible class is in addition to the Issues Class which meets in the Fireside Room at 9:00 a.m.

- Pastor Andy



### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

PW had a good Christmas potluck, carol sing and meeting. A big thank you to Annie Welle for piano playing for us.

January 15th, 10 a.m. is Kitchen Cleanup. All help will be appreciated – this is the annual event.

The February 12th program will be a presentation by the Panhandle Animal Shelter director and the book study will be Chapter 6.

PW used the funds for Together in Service with \$250 going to the church front entryway project. In addition \$250 was sent to the Sandpoint Teen Center. This money was earned from the rummage sale.

It was decided to continue purchasing Upper Room devotionals and to place a few in the Narthex in addition to the ones by the church office. Suggested donation will remain \$1 per booklet.

The November Thank Offering totaled \$146 and was sent in.

Next meeting date is February 12th at 11:45 a.m. All women are welcome to attend.

Barbara Rolph

You are invited to a new event hosted by  
Sandpoint's Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby :

### The Big Carbon Fix: An evening with climate scientist Dr. Steve Ghan

Discussing latest climate data and addressing common misconceptions about climate change, including the human role and feasibility of solutions, to move towards viable action.

January 16, 2019 @ 6pm Sandpoint High School Auditorium Free admission

Most people here in North Idaho now agree that climate change is real, and that it's happening right here at home: they point to the worrisome increase in local fires and smoke as real-time examples of global warming.

Despite the recent release of two alarming reports (the international IPCC report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/>) and our own National Climate Assessment - (<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/>) which urged immediate climate action before it's too late, misconceptions about climate science and solutions persist.

On January 16th, the Sandpoint chapter of the non-partisan Citizens' Climate Lobby is sponsoring The Big Carbon Fix: An Evening with World-Renown Climate Scientist Dr. Steve Ghan. Dr. Ghan will address these misconceptions and explore how we can move beyond them to find common-ground solutions. 50 high-school students will compete for a \$1,000 reward generously provided by Idaho Forest Group for the best research poster.

We hope to see you at 6pm on January 16th at the Sandpoint High School auditorium to support our students and join the discussion. Admission is free, but we do expect a full house so please arrive early to secure your seat. Learn more at [www.TheBigCarbonFix.org](http://www.TheBigCarbonFix.org).

## EARTH CARE UPDATES

As a church, and as individuals, we continue to learn about care and stewardship of the Earth. Since the challenges we considered last Earth Day, in April, several people have mentioned increased efforts at home to use less plastic, decrease car trips, and recycle more items. The potential for recycling is easier in town than in the county, because of Single Stream curbside pickup. In the county many items can be recycled at Pacific Steel, but not plastic and glass. The only county access to “Single Stream” is at the Dufort Road site. An after-holiday reminder: They do not want garlands, foil paper, bubble wrap, styrofoam, plastic bags, or shredded paper. Thanks to the Deacons, church items, including office paper, are routinely recycled (an estimated 220 pounds in 2018); compostable kitchen waste is utilized for Pastor Andy’s garden. Paper towel supplies and bathroom tissue in the church are made from recycled paper. (We encourage individuals to select their home-use paper products made from recycled paper also.)

Thank you to coordinator Anna Bates, and the many members who provide items for the efforts to “Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle” that accomplish both environmental and mission goals. During 2018 we sent to the Bible Foundation: 221 Bibles, 20 New Testaments, 2 Old Testaments, 1 copy of The Psalms. We gave to North Idaho Computer Users 1 computer, 1 monitor, 1 mouse, and 1 printer. Contributions to Help Line from Verizons were: 4 cell phones, 3 cases, 1 charger, & 1 phone charger. We sent 109 pounds of books and literature to Christian Resources International.

Coffee supplies in the church kitchen are now from “Equal Exchange,” a Presbyterian sponsored program that features organic coffee, fair trade practices, and a portion of funds designated to a hunger relief program.

Here is something we may wish to learn more about for 2019: A group called 4 Ocean is making major efforts to clean plastic and other trash out of the oceans. Information is at [4ocean.com](http://4ocean.com). This effort claims to be working to clear plastic from bays and coastlines in 27 countries. In other “good news,” Costa Rica is working to become plastic-free and carbon-free by 2021. Fishermen in India are “catching” plastic, and using it to build roads. Hi-Fly airlines has stated a goal of being plastic-free by the end of 2019.

**Happy New Year, and happy new efforts for Earth Care, from Marilyn Robertson and the Earth Care Team.**



### **January Birthdays**

<b>2</b>	<b>Shawna Kennaly</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Kelsey Windju</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mary Sturgis</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Mickey Quinn</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Robert Eastwood</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Dave Sturgis</b>

### **February Birthdays**

<b>1</b>	<b>Vicki Oliver</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sarah Casey</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Kathy Campbell</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Gary Pietsch</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Dyno Wahl</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Dawn Linendoll</b>

## Calendar Announcements

### January

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | Membership & Outreach meeting after Worship      |
| 8  | Presbyterian Women—11:45 a.m.                    |
| 13 | Deacons Meeting—8:00 a.m.                        |
| 13 | Earth Care Team Meeting—during coffee hour       |
| 15 | Session Meeting—6:30 p.m.                        |
| 21 | Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday               |
| 27 | Annual Meeting after Worship, Poetry Submissions |

### February

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3  | Souper Bowl of Caring     |
| 12 | PW Meeting—11:45 a.m.     |
| 14 | Valentine's Day           |
| 18 | Presidents' Day           |
| 19 | Session Meeting—6:30 p.m. |

## Regular Monthly Events

**Sunday Worship**—10:30 a.m.

**Adult Christian Education**—We are reading a book published by the Center for Action and Contemplation, the Richard Rohr group, called *Oneing – Anger*

**New Bible Class**—9:00 a.m. in the Retreat Room. We will delve into the Book of James

**Monday** 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon

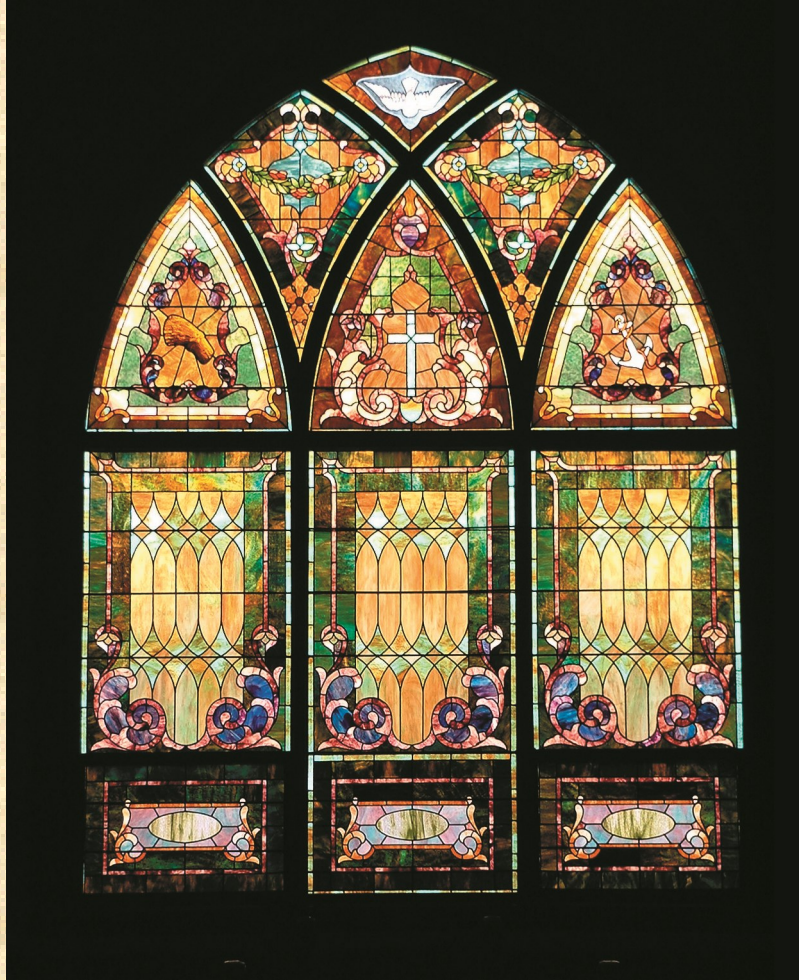
**Tuesday** Book Study Group—1:30 p.m.  
Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m.

Choir Practice—5:30 p.m.

PFLAG—6:00-7:30 P.M. on second & fourth Tuesdays

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





**First Presbyterian Church**

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