



# THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO  
March 2019

## FROM THE PASTOR...

Baking Soda is fairly inert. It does a great job working, just by sitting there. It absorbs odors from the refrigerator or other spaces. As an ingredient it helps foods like Irish Soda Bread turn into delicious sources of energy and nutrition. Baking Soda has a long shelf life, and it's something that resides in almost every pantry or kitchen. It doesn't cost very much either. You can buy it in a box, or from a bulk bin, and it's readily available. If you spill it, no worries, for it is easily cleaned up and replaced with a fresh batch.

Baking Soda would be considered a natural ingredient. It is not made up of synthetic chemicals or other cancer-causing substances that warrant a warning on the label. But it does have an active side. Part of Baking Soda's personality only comes out when conditions call for it to behave a certain way.

Got a hair clog? Is your drain stopping up or getting slow? Before you reach for the expensive chemical fix, or call a plumber, try asking your inert, nice friend, Soda, for some help. If you sprinkle a little baking soda down the drain, it acts like it always does. It just sits there. So you will need to introduce it to another friend, Vinegar. When they dance, it's amazing!

Vinegar is another ingredient that is a key part of dressings, marinades, and sauces. It adds flavor and helps maintain health; it's really zesty. Vinegar is a liquid, inexpensive, fairly

inert, and is easy to clean up, without worry, if it spills.

These two substances each work well in their separate lives, and are seemingly harmless. But when they mix together, watch out! If you put Baking Soda in your drain and then dump a little vinegar in, a chemical reaction takes place and you will hear sizzling and see foam form. The two ingredients mix together and in their catalyst-dance they clean out the drain. Flush it with hot water and it is a natural way to deal with a clog.

The life of the Church is similar. How? Most of the time things just hum along: we get comfortable in tradition, go through the motions of religious life, and follow the bulletin each Sunday. But every once in a while, some situation comes along which reminds us that sometimes God calls upon us to remember that LOVE is an action and not a noun. Our Essence gets stirred and we become the catalyst we are created to be. The advocacy which results has effects, both in the situation, and in changing us.

Our congregation, for example, has an energy to it, a Presence that lives through us, and Christ is among us. Happy Epiphany, as we celebrate God with us! Several people responded to my invitation to write poetry.

The poems shared are now posted in Fellowship Hall as we artistically look for ways God is at work in the neighborhood. The front entry project (Stairway to Heaven) is underway and has a good momentum with financial gifts coming in, and a vision for the benefits of this new improvement as we renovate the steps, railings, and awning. The Advocacy portion of our Earth Care Congregation designation has some important opportunities for participation in the immediate future as we act both locally and globally to protect our earth. And we are on the verge of the Lenten Season, preparing our hearts and minds for Easter as we give thanks to God for Resurrection faith. Special devotions, worship, and soup suppers are planned

Our congregation is connected to the larger Body of Christ. When the Holy Spirit stirs in the hearts of Christians, the Living Christ is expressed and deeper love is the result. If we're comfortable, then we're probably not responding as we could, choosing to remain inert.

I try to practice what I preach. Let me share some of my actions with you. For example, I continue in the spiritual discipline of Centering Prayer, (almost) daily, actively participating in raising the level of Christ-Consciousness in the world. Some of those Epiphany poems posted on the bulletin board are written by me, sharing personal reflections. (If you don't have one up there yet, feel free to add it). At our recent Session meeting, in front of the Ruling Elders, I wrote a check for \$1,000 to put towards the Front Entry/Stairway to Heaven project. This improvement is one of those facility improvements that, once it's done, we'll be glad. I encouraged the Ruling Elders to also be generous, which they are. I plan on speaking on March 13 as public comments are formally taken by the United States Coast Guard, asking them to consider all the environmental risks associated with rail traffic through our community. I'll be speaking even though that process makes me physically nervous and my voice quivers.

But it's important to give voice to nature through this human forum. I'll be leading Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and special devotions during the Lenten Season.

I list these as an invitation to explore how your life can also be active to share Love. As a professional clergy, they are part of my calling as a Pastor. But deeper than that, I'm a Christian called to love the world and not just sit around, inert. The world would love it if the Church stayed shelved. But contemplation leads to action. If I die with a full pantry, then by some measures I'm not living very well. Christians, as salt and light, are a catalyst. We are sent to make a difference. I hope we are all encouraged to follow Jesus on the path of descent as we give ourselves for others through God's unifying and sustaining LOVE.

How is God stirring in your life?

Peace and All Good,  
Pastor Andy



## PRESBYTERY OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST

FEBRUARY 2019



The Blanket Exercise is a way for us to participate in the listening and reconciliation journey with our Nez Perce brothers and sisters

Thanks to all who came to the Presbytery Summit in CDA on Saturday, 2/2! There were over 100 of us present as we participated in the Blanket Exercise.

Below, you'll find a reflection written by Pastor Steve Lympus, describing his thoughts after the Blanket Exercise, experienced at the Presbytery Summit on February 2nd.

I couldn't stop looking at the swath of blankets – "Turtle Island" – and the people circled around it. The blankets represented the land once inhabited by Native Americans; we represented them.

We walked onto the blankets, then walked through centuries of history – hard history, including violent Church decrees: the Doctrine of Discovery shouted in the name of Christ. As we remembered the slaughters, land-grabs, broken treaties, diseases, kids taken from families and abused in boarding schools – and much more – people slowly walked off the blankets.

I've heard this history before, but watching my friends walk off the Island, seeing the shores of our blankets rolled up behind us as the land got ever smaller...this I felt.

Nine of us were left at the end.

How do we reconcile our history, and the privileges we enjoy bought with the lives of our Native sisters and brothers? Can this be atoned for?

We rolled the blankets out again and stepped back onto the Island. We're all in this together. And we have a long way to go. Lord help us.

Here is a link to a Facebook video showing the exercise:

<https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryInlandNW/videos/316727145639365/>



### **A LIFE WELL LIVED**

Marian Ruyle lived in Sandpoint for decades, teaching many through her career as an educator and musician, and her family was very special to her. She was an active Presbyterian, and participated in the life of the church in dynamic ways. She died on February 19, completing her baptism. A celebration of her life in the Service of the Resurrection will take place on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. Contact Dee Dreisbach, as she coordinates this Deacons reception, if you'd like to help provide desserts for this time together.

### **STEWARDSHIP TECHNIQUE**

Are you retired?

Do you receive investment income as a Required Minimum Disbursement (RMD)?

Are you looking for a way to lower your taxable income?

Would you like to support mission and ministry directly?

Donating to the church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can help.

Your Financial Planner would send the RMD directly to the church. By donating directly from investment to charity, you don't count it as income, and this lowers your taxable income.

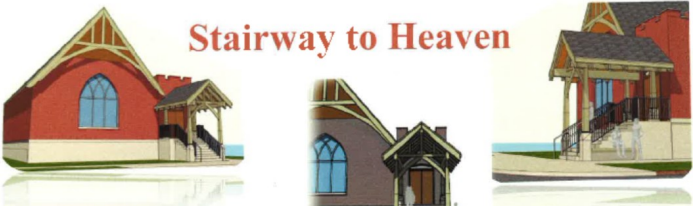
The investment firm may need the church's EIN identification number. It is 82-0222168.

The financial planner can send a check, or the church can provide account information if they prefer an electronic transfer or direct deposit. Contact Pastor Andy, or Financial Secretary, Susie Haskins, or the church office for more information.

Thank you for your generous support of mission and ministry through the church, and for seeking a proper stewardship of the gifts we have to share!



## Stairway to Heaven



**Steps to completion**

◊ <b>Design (done)</b>	\$50,000
◊ <b>Permits and approval (ongoing)</b>	\$45,000
◊ <b>Demo the stairs (Feb/March)</b>	\$40,000
◊ <b>Construct new steps (March/April)</b>	\$35,000
◊ <b>Build the Timberframe Entrance (April-June)</b>	\$30,000
◊ <b>Celebrate</b>	\$25,000
	\$20,000
	\$15,000
	\$10,000
	\$5,000

First Presbyterian Church

### Stairway to Heaven

#### Front Entryway



First Presbyterian Church



**FAMILY  
FUN (DRAISER)  
NIGHT**  
For Deacon Missions

from 5:30-7:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall

All are Welcome to gather for  
Fellowship · Irish Songs · Skits  
CAKE AUCTION & RAFFLE  
Recommended Donation  
\$5/person  
or \$15/family  
For more information  
208.263.2047



Come one. come all to our St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 15! Come join us for a fun evening where we share our talents, have lots of comradery, have a chance to win amazing cakes and have lots of laughs! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on an evening where everyone is Irish! All proceeds will support our "Stairway to Heaven" (front entry project) so bring lots of gold! Dinner will be a traditional Irish dinner of course, of corned beef and cabbage and all the trimmings, followed by dessert that you can win!

### **ACTION ALERT**

The Session, at its meeting on February 19, endorsed “Action” recommendations of the Earth Care Team, on two topics. In a recent e-mail, the Earth Care Team outlined the goals and related lobbying efforts of the Citizen’s Climate Lobby (CCL). CCL is convinced that carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels are primary causes of climate change. They endorse legislation that would gradually encourage energy producers to switch from coal, oil, and gas to renewable resources. There is current legislation in Congress with this intent-HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This bill would place a fee on carbon emissions, at their sources, or when imported. Predictions about this law, if implemented, are that it would reduce fossil fuel emissions by 40% in 12 years. The fees would start at \$15 per metric ton of carbon emissions, increasing by \$10 in each succeeding year. Letters, endorsing this bill, to our U.S. Senators and Congressman would be timely. Also, phone calls to their offices would show citizen interest. Not only were actions such as these endorsed by our Session, there has been endorsement of this type of law by General Assembly, our Presbyterian governing body at the national level. Citizens Climate Lobby provides an easy way for citizens to provide input to Congress. Their Web Site includes a “Take Action” option, with a form letter, which you can expand and personalize, print and mail to Congressmen, with addresses also provided by the Web Site. Spending a little time on this input could mean a cleaner, healthier future.

### **ANOTHER ACTION ALERT**

The Earth Care Team also shared our expanding knowledge about the goals and concerns of Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper with members and the Session. Their mission is to “protect the water quality of Lake Pend Oreille and its connected waterways so that they remain swimmable, fishable, and drinkable for future generations through education, community engagement, and advocacy.” The Earth Care Team and Session also adopted this goal as appropriate for our Earth Care Congregation.

The current main concern of the Waterkeeper group is the plan of the Burlington Northern, Santa Fe Railroad to construct three more bridges in and near Sandpoint. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for studying the impacts of these bridges as part of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Coast Guard recently released a tentative Environmental Assessment; their conclusion was that “the proposed project will pose no significant impacts on the human and natural environments.” The Waterkeeper group disagrees with that conclusion; They, Idaho Conservation League, and many individuals have requested a more thorough study-an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public comments will be accepted on this issue until March 25, and Public Hearings will take statements on March 13, at 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. at the Ponderay Events Center. After the Hearings and comment period, the Coast Guard will either finalize their conclusion of “no significant impacts”, or authorize an EIS. You may submit on-line comments by using this link:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2018-1085-0001>

Then click on Comment Now. There will be an informative workshop to help prepare citizens to write comments or to testify; the workshop is sponsored by Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper and Idaho Conservation League, and will be held from 5 to 8 P.M. on March 7. (location to be announced) We are trying to find a MAILING address for those who are more comfortable using a letter format to offer input.

Submitted by Marilyn Robertson for the Earth Care Team

## MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Membership and Outreach committee does have some fun and exciting events coming up! We hope you will get involved and enjoy them! Here is a preview for your planners:

Weather permitting, Saturday, May 4, will be the first choice for highway clean-up day with May 11 as a back-up date. The highway clean-up volunteers enjoy getting out and picking up a mile, both sides, of Highway 95 in the Westmond area. Anyone can join in. Sylvia and Chuck Humes host a lovely lunch at their home afterwards. Contact Sylvia if you have any questions.

Saturday, May 18th, hearty souls will operate two coffee carts for the Lost in the 50s pre-show in Sandpoint. The car enthusiasts do love their early morning coffee while they are getting their cars into position for the public. Church volunteers are out bright and early and the regular show participants really appreciate, and look for, the coffee carts. If you would like to be involved this year, please contact Sylvia Humes. We can use cart operators and runners to keep them supplied.

On Saturday, June 22, we will be hosting a Peace Market on the church lawn. Part flea-market, part yard sale, it is an opportunity for folks in the community to simplify, downsize, and perhaps make a little cash. We will rent 10 ft. x 10 ft. spaces for 'vendors' and the church will have some tables of items to sell. We'll be offering drinks, muffins, and a BBQ lunch for sale, too. The residents in our neighborhood will be invited to have their own yard sales that day to maximize the fun. Maybe it will have a block-party feel. If you have items you would like to donate to the Peace Market, please contact Judy and she will make arrangements to pick them up. There is an area in a room to the west, off the choir room downstairs that is set aside to store items for sale. Funds raised will likely be shared between the Peace Garden and Entry Way projects. If you would like to know more or volunteer to help out, please contact Judy Labrie.

We have recently been informed that we've been approved for a \$3,000 Missional Initiative grant from our Presbytery of the Inland Northwest Strategic committee. It will go towards hosting a summer retreat and purchasing a portable labyrinth. On Friday, July 26, and Saturday, July 27, we will be offering a retreat on Christian mystic, Hildegard of Bingen. Our retreat experience tells us that people are hungry for contemplative Christianity and they want to explore the mystical aspects of faith beyond a Sunday worship service. Pastor Andy met Robin Garner, retreat facilitator, while he was on sabbatical in Ireland and she was there deepening her own experience. A conversation has continued since on how to bring about this retreat. Ms. Garner lives in South Carolina and is an expert on the life and music of Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179. As a child, Hildegard was given to the church as a tithe and she became a renown spiritual adviser to religious and political leaders of the time. She continues to be an inspiration to Christians today through her musical compositions and chants, visions, connection with the earth that contributed to her medical knowledge, sermons, and her leadership as a woman in her time. Ms. Garner has requested access to a labyrinth as part of the Hildegard retreat experience. Owning a portable labyrinth will be beneficial by using it within our own community for retreats, peace gatherings and church leadership and discernment workshops as well as developing labyrinth retreats to present at other churches and organizations. We are very grateful to be awarded this grant!

And September will offer some peace making opportunities that are being explored by the committee. More will be revealed as plans develop.

Blessings on the journey,  
Judy Labrie, Membership and Outreach Committee Moderator



## **SHARING MORE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

As 2019 began, your Earth Care Team began to focus on learning more about potentials for advocacy. We have been focused, since we formed as a team in 2015, primarily on the learning process, including Earth Care topics in Worship and Education, and actions such as wise use of resources, recycling, etc. We have spoken out on some local issues of concern, including the Pine Street Woods and Scotchman Peaks. In order to broaden and deepen our knowledge, we are now learning about the goals and methods of six selected advocacy organizations. These are: Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper, Sandpoint 350, Idaho Conservation League, Rock Creek Alliance, and Citizens' Against Newport Silicon Smelter. We provided summaries of the first three groups in a recent e-mail, and will now share highlights of the other three, for your information.

Idaho Conservation League's major goals for 2019 and beyond are: saving wild salmon and steelhead, making a regional impact on climate change by convincing Avista to end its use of power produced by the Colstrip coal-fired plant, opposing the Newport Smelter through applying the Clean Air Act, and protecting Idaho's wild places.

Rock Creek Alliance is a small nonprofit group working to protect the water quality of the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille watershed and the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area from the proposed Rock Creek Mine. Their goal is to prevent the mine's construction. They are challenging permitting decisions and approvals by the U.S. Forest Service, The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Montana's DRNC. They also support the Montana DEQ decision to enforce the state's Bad Actor Law against Hecla and its CEO.

Citizens against Newport Silicon Smelter has the stated mission of "Stop the HiTest silicon smelter from being built in our dense rural-residential area." We realize that in Bonner County we are "downwinders", although as Idaho residents we have no official voice in the permitting process. The facility is predicted to emit an estimated 320,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year. The Kalispel Tribe opposes the smelter; their consultant has predicted that potential emission of nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide could contribute to smog and acid rain. There are lawsuits pending at this time.

Submitted by Marilyn Robertson, for the Earth Care Team



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The February PW meeting was cancelled due to snow. The next meeting will be **March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Note the date change. The March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will involve a dress rehearsal for the Biblical Fashion show. March 10<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Celebrate Women Sunday. This will be a non-traditional service lifting up the various women found in the Bible. It will be a delightful and informative worship service.

Book study will have to be compressed to accommodate missed meeting. Shirley Parker will lead a short summary of Chapter 6, and Victoria Oliver will do the same for Chapter 7.

Thanks to all who helped with the January kitchen clean up – some old cobwebs were destroyed.

## **MAY RETREAT - SCOTIA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER**

We are invited to a retreat called *Encountering God, A Christian Contemplative Retreat in Nature*. FPC member, Sharon Anderson, is one of the facilitators.

When: Friday, May 3, at 4:00 pm to Sunday, May 5, at noon.

Where: Scotia House west of Newport

What: A retreat weekend where we will encounter God through contemplative practices in nature. It will include contemplative silence, lectio divina, journaling, meditative walk, and mindful eating. The retreat is open to men and women.

Cost: \$50 plus Friday potluck; other meals provided

Facilitators: Sharon Anderson, Deborah Dickerson and Sandee Meade

Call Sandee Meade directly to register: 509-447-2693 or 509-671-6267

## REACH OUT AND SPREAD THE JOY!

Imagine being in line in a store, and the person ahead of you pays for your purchase. You don't know that person, you don't have a financial need, and you are perplexed but joyful. Why would he/she do that, you wonder. This person could be working in a "Gift Economy" mode, with the "pay it forward" idea. How does it make you feel? Special? Do you in turn want to do something for someone else?

Membership & Outreach Committee idea:

GIFT CULTURE, GIFT ECONOMY, GIFT EXCHANGE: Giving without expecting something in return--a way to follow Christ's example.

It is this idea that the Membership and Outreach Committee (M&O) wants to plant in your mind for the future. How can you celebrate the existence of a person or persons without expecting something in return?

We are appreciative of the diverse groups that regularly meet at First Presbyterian Church: AA, Al-Anon, PFLAG; and those that sometimes meet at our church: The Conservatory in their performances, and the Jewish congregation with their Hanukkah and Passover celebrations. We offer the space in return for a small amount of rent.

The M&O group has thought about some things we could do to show the groups we value them and are glad they are at our church:

- Bring muffins or some kind of refreshment for a meeting.
- Contribute a dish for a potluck a group is having; one could stay for the meeting, or not.
- Pay the fee to the church for one meeting of a group (Contact the church office for the amount). This must be given to the church, and the church would let the group know that a meeting on a particular evening had already been paid by a church member. Note: AA and Al-anon are groups that wish to be self-supporting so they expect to pay for their meeting space.

There might be other ways we could help these groups feel appreciated.

Most of all, the sharing that would happen with this could ripple out and spread joy!

Food for thought---

Lynn Pietz

Membership & Outreach Committee





<b>1</b>	<b>Kathleen Huntley</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Jim Bellotty and Chuck Humes</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Jim Rolph</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Dee Dreisbach</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Dick Sandall</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Cathy Eastwood</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Tiffany Windju</b>

## Calendar Announcements

### March

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 5           | PW Meeting at 11:45 a.m.  |
| 6           | Ash Wednesday—5:30 p.m.—Soup, Bread, & Dessert Dinner, followed by Worship at 6:30 p.m. |
| 10          | PW Special Service—Celebrating the Gifts of Women                                       |
| 10          | Deacons Meeting after Worship   |
| 10          | Daylight Savings Time Begins—Spring Forward   |
| 12, 19, 26, | Lenten Devotionals—5:00 p.m.  |
| 13          | Membership & Outreach Meeting—10:00 a.m.  |
| 15          | St. Patrick's Day Dinner—5:30-7:30 p.m.   |
| 19          | Session Meeting—6:30 p.m.   |

### April

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2, 9 | Lenten Devotionals—5:00 p.m.  |
| 14   | Palm Sunday—Brunch after Worship  |
| 16   | <b>Maundy Thursday</b> —Soup supper (soup & bread) at 5:30, service at 6:30 |
| 23   | Easter  |

## 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*

In addition, at 9:00 a.m. Anna Bates is leading a class to delve into the Book of James, including the history of the times, explanation of the original Greek, and looking at other areas of interest, using William Barkley's study.

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

**Tuesday** Book Study Group—1:30 p.m.

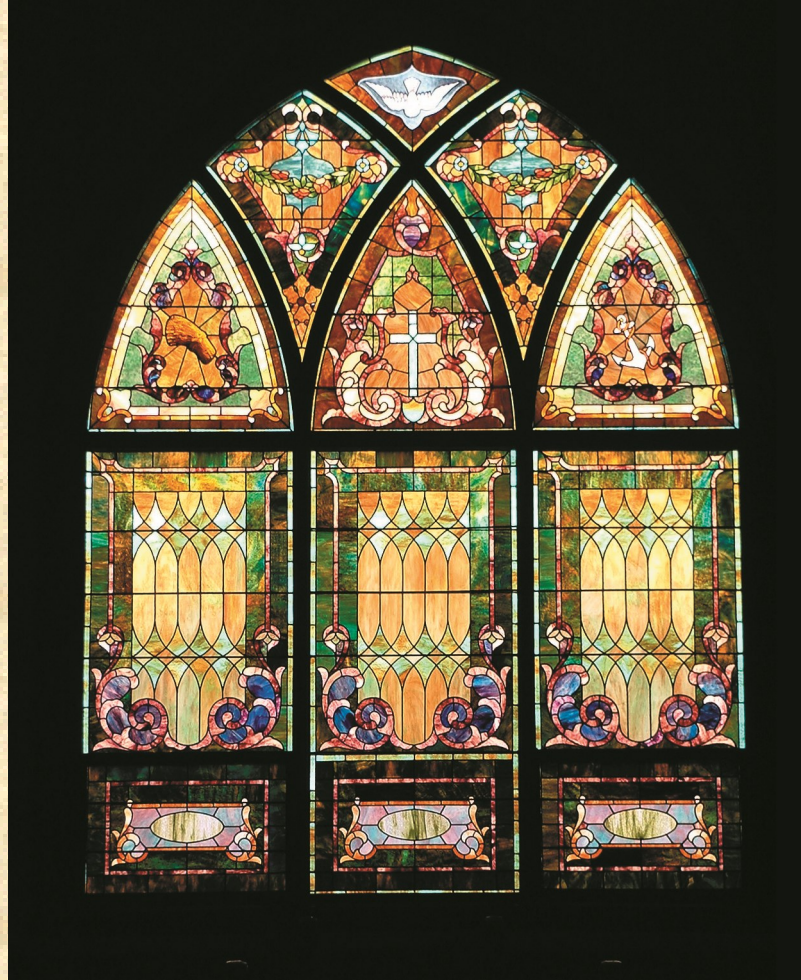
Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m.

Choir Practice—5:30 p.m.

PFLAG—Second & Fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**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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