



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
April 2019

From the Pastor...

The snow is melting. At my place, it started over the Trans-Canada pipeline. Two high pressure lines are buried between Canada and California, with a 100 foot easement through about a third of my property. The movement of billions of cubic feet of compressed natural gas every day creates heat which warms the ground around the pipelines. This geothermal effect melts the snow in a long, ground-colored line for hundreds of miles while the surrounding pastures stay snow covered for a few more weeks.

There is an effect from this geothermal heating. The geese hone in on the open ground, visiting every day as they claim their turf, warding off other rivals by squawky battles and posturing. The deer find relief by the easier walking and potential grazing as they look for anything edible in a stark time of year. I even have my greenhouse patched together over the pipeline so my growing season is extended just a bit, and the nighttime frosts don't sway things as much.

In the rest of the yard, the snow is starting to melt, also revealing the brown ground beneath, along with various other finds. By my compost zone, I found a few more plastic compost bins from the church kitchen, tossed over that way on some Sunday afternoons when the wind was howling and the snow covered them up for the remaining weeks of winter. There are also pine cones and branches blown down from the violent wind storms as those Nor-easters

brought Arctic blasts our way. The ground that is now appearing as the snow melts also has a fuzzy look to it as the molds claim the moisture as an advantage in the process of decay. Mud season is quite a mess.

This gets us to Lent. A season that has it's own qualities of life's mix. Lent is an intentional time of reflection and practices that help our faith grow. Sometimes Lenten practices help reveal aspects of our life that surprise us, or have been buried and forgotten, and as they are rediscovered they can be painful. But like the moldy ground of spring, this is an essential aspect of healthier life, leading to summer's growth. In churchy language we call this "repentance." We awaken to God's loving Presence, renew our focus, and shed that which binds us or distracts us from experiencing love.

As we celebrate Easter, Resurrection's reality continues to shape the world's processes. This newsletter shares aspects of living into the joys of faith. God bless you in this season of renewal! Peace and All Good!

Pastor Andy



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) reflects the call of Isaiah to become repairers of the breach, opening doors to become the church with all the people we see. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world — sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills

Received during the season of Lent, Presbyterians worldwide join in sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
- Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10
- or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit www.pcusa.org/oghs

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Susan Bristol is retiring and will finish her position as Office Administrator on May 9, 2019. We are thankful for her many years of dedicated service and sharing her friendly, welcoming smile with the community. She will help during a time of transition by providing training for a new person. Beginning April 9, Ramona Jewett will be a new presence in the front office. She and her husband moved to the area from Western Montana in order to be closer to her children's family, bringing with her a solid resume and exceptional experience. She is excited to serve as the new Office Administrator. Susan is actually the one who mentioned the opening to Ramona as they both worked in the kitchen at the Catholic Church on St. Patrick's Day. Stop in and thank Susan, and meet Ramona, during the overlapping weeks of training. May God bless them both in this time of transition.

Pastor Andy Kennaly

NURSERY ATTENDANT

"We welcome Sarah Casey to the position of Church Nursery Attendant as she shares a friendly welcome to the youngest worshippers in our midst. We've been having a few children coming, and Sarah is available to provide loving care in a kid-friendly environment. Welcome Sarah!"

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We have an active and engaged building and grounds committee that consists of myself as Elder, and a great team of Chuck Bauer, Don Helander, and Carol Curtis.

We want to let the congregation know that if you see a problem with the building itself or an issue with any of the workings of the building please let one of us know. We would want to know about a situation sooner than later.

Also Kudos to Ken Callison who has done extra work on the floors in the hallway and the Fireside Room, to keep them looking good. He is always taking care of our physical building, but has gone the extra mile. Thanks Ken! We have some ideas for continuing to take care and update our building and will keep you posted.

We will be having a spring clean up outside – date to be announced.

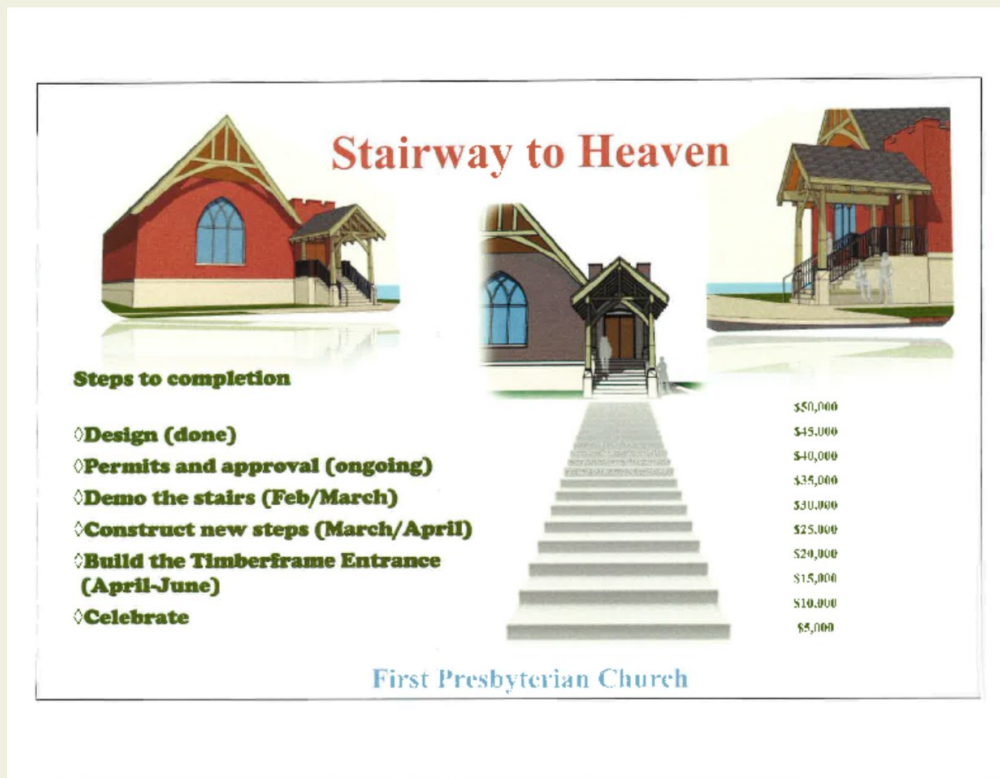
Sincerely, Cynthia Dalsing Elder

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN UPDATE

The Stairway to Heaven project has had a great kickoff! Thank you to everyone who has contributed: whether financially, or by making a cake to auction at the St. Paddy's Day dinner, or just supporting our new entrance. Of the \$50,000 project, \$25,000 is from the church Building Fund, while a capital campaign is raising the other \$25,000 from members and friends of the church. As of this printing \$15,515.75 has been contributed. St. Patrick's Day donations were \$1,257 and will be added to the previous figure. Donations continue to come in and our builder Todd Vorhries is working on a timeline to hopefully see this done by early summer. We should be seeing the demolition of the steps in the next few weeks depending on the snowmelt. Todd will be working on the wood canopy in his workshop so assembly can proceed quickly on the building site. We will post a sign for people to use the side entry on Alder Street.

If you have contributed to this project, thank you! Would you consider another gift? If you have not yet contributed, would you consider doing so? We are very close to achieving our goal, and it would be wonderful to pay all bills and get this project complete. This project is a great conversation starter with friends. Invite them to use the new steps and join us in worship. May God bless our hospitality as we make a new entryway. Even better, may God use us as we flow out into the community.

Cynthia Dalsing, Elder
and Pastor Andy





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Bill Love

6 Elizabeth Griswold

7 Anne Marie Casey

12 Lani McQuilken

13 Barbara Rolph

16 Joyce Boeck

30 Pastor Andy & Dave Pietz

Calendar Announcements

April

- 2, 9 Lenten Devotionals—5:00 p.m.
- 7 Hand Bell Choir will be ringing
- 7 Deacons Meeting after Worship
- 9 Presbyterian Women Meeting—11:45 a.m.
- 14 Palm Sunday Brunch after Worship
- 16 Session Meeting—6:30 p.m.
- 18 Maundy Thursday—Simple Supper at 5:30 p.m., service at 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Easter Sunday Service at worship time of 10:30 a.m., no fellowship following

May

- 4 Highway Cleanup
- 5 Pastor Appreciation Potluck

Regular Monthly Events

Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m.

Adult Christian Education—We are reading a book called *Grounded*, by Diana Butler Bass. 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



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