



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
May 2019

From the Pastor...

Do you have time to read this? It takes time to focus on things, and in the time it takes to read this, many other things could have been done. Time seems limited in that sense, that in choosing one thing, other things are negated by default. If you look up from these words, I bet you would find several other things you could probably do at this given moment. Yet if you are reading this sentence, it means they have been deferred and your focus is on reading, right now.

Attention interacts with each moment. Our focus is either sharp or dim, direct or distracted, intent or diffused. At times, certain projects require more attention, while at other times we can relax a bit. Sometimes, multiple projects or events require attention and focus, overlapping in ways that compound complications, and we can feel stress, and if someone asks us how we're doing, we answer, "Busy!" Some see this as a good thing, and our culture certainly puts value into productivity, opportunities capitalized upon, and objectives successfully achieved. You've likely heard that saying, "Time is money." David Walburn, a singer song writer from northwest Montana, even has a line in one of his songs about "trading time for money." Other social commentators talk about the "wage-slave" class, living perpetually in a debt-pay cycle.

James Finley, a spiritual teacher with experience as a psychotherapist, talks about the attention and focus we are invited to receive from God. God loves us, and reaches out into our hearts, enjoying the process of loving us. But Finley also reminds us that at the same time, we are invited to love God, to give God our full attention and focus, to meet God in the moment, releasing distractions. God enjoys receiving our attention, just as we enjoy blessing

as God focuses on us. Sometimes we experience this relational dynamic in community, such as in prayer groups or worship. But we are also called to the spiritual discipline of solitude, of being in and sharing God's Presence.

Richard Rohr speaks of this time with God, saying, "In solitude, at last, we're able to let God define us the way we are always supposed to be defined – by relationship: the I-thou relationship, in relation to a Presence that demands nothing of us but presence itself. Not performance but presence."

Spending time with God, allowing love to flow in the moment, is at the root, or core, of all other moments and actions. Like footings below a foundation, God's love is the support which defines the structure of our lives, our church, our society, and the world. But like the footings holding the new steps at the church entry, it involves digging deep to find a level space.

Inner, spiritual work can be challenging, and digging deep to find a level space can be hard. But nothing is of more more value than Presence.

I hope this newsletter encourages you to see through the life of this congregation, the decisions of the Session, and the activities of the membership, the life of the Spirit undergirding and leading the church in Christlike ways of love, justice, and peace as we follow Jesus.

Pastor Andy



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RESULTS REVEALED

The results have been tabulated, and this year was a winner! Our church, combined with youth groups, other churches, schools, local businesses, grocery stores, and support from NFL teams, helped generate over \$9.6 million in cash and food items. 100% of all donations go directly to each group's designated charity of choice.

Our contribution raised on Souper Bowl Sunday was \$242.00 and 48 pounds of food, which was delivered to the Bonner County Food Bank. As a small church, we make a big difference!

ONGOING CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

This is a reminder that there are a number of ways to make a difference in the lives of people without spending money. Please contribute to whichever you can, and always remember that every little bit helps. Here are the on-going ways you can give:

Box Tops for Education (Bright pink. Look for them on food products) Each is worth 10 cents and is a help to local schools. Because they have expiration dates, please don't hold onto them. Leave them in the decorated box on the table in front of the Church Office.

Plastic grocery and produce bags and egg cartons These are used by the Food Bank. Leave them on pew in Alder Street foyer.

Used computers, keyboards, flat screen monitors, mouse, and printers The all-volunteer North Idaho Computer Users Group in Coeur d'Alene refurbishes these before donating or selling at an affordable price to the disadvantaged. Leave them in Office or call Anna Bates (208-263-8126) for pick up.

Used cell phones, chargers, manuals, cases, and accessories HopeLine from Verizon refurbishes these before donating to domestic violence victims. Please include the phone's telephone number (so I can delete your personal information). Leave them in Office or give to Anna Bates.

Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House Charity This is a national fundraiser. The tabs from cans are a high-grade aluminum which command a good price, and the proceeds are used to purchase linens. Leave them in basket on table in front of the Office.

Food for Bonner County Food Bank
Leave them in blue bag on pew in Alder Street foyer or in basket by the front entrance.

Sweet Magnolia This is the women's residential addiction recovery program located kitty-corner from the church. They have asked for toilet paper and paper towels, but they sincerely appreciate whatever you can donate. Leave them in box on pew in Alder Street foyer.

Used Bibles

We are a collection site for the Bible Foundation in Oregon, which distributes Bibles nationally and globally. The Foundation gladly accepts damaged Bibles, because the need is so great. Leave them in box on pew in Alder Street foyer.

Used eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases

These are used by volunteer doctors and others on annual medical missions to El Salvador. Leave them in Office or give to Anna Bates.

Living Waters for the World

This is the one mission project that requires a monetary donation. Volunteers have gone to over 30 countries to install clean water systems to replace existing polluted water sources. A donation of \$5.00 per month will go a long way. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church with a note on Memo line: Living Waters.

With thanks, Anna Bates

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Ramona Jewett was born and raised in Rugby, ND. Her husband of 44 years passed away in 2018. She moved from Polson, MT to Sandpoint in 2016 to be close to her daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters. Ramona has worked in an office environment for over 40 years. In her spare time she enjoys walking her dogs and spending time with her granddaughters. **WELCOME, RAMONA!**

KIDS ALIVE DAY CAMP!!!

Save the dates of July 22-25 for Kids Alive Day Camp! The theme, "Adventure Awaits!" is guided by Ephesians 5:1-2b, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Jesus loved us." If you feel led to volunteer for this grand adventure, please contact the church office. There are several ways to participate. We do background screenings for the Presbyterian leadership involved in working directly with the children. This ministry to the community is in partnership with First Lutheran Church and Sandpoint United Methodist Church, and each year blesses our community with a joyful way to learn about Jesus.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During April, Lynn and I had the opportunity to visit the country of Nepal for a visit with family who came from Myanmar. Before this trip, I had asked the Presbyterian Church (USA) office in Louisville, KY about efforts being done in that country through the One Great Hour of Sharing program, which we just finished collecting funding from our church for 2019. I learned that some of the funds collected were being used in Nepal for recovery from a 2015 earthquake. Although our visit was not right at the center of where the earthquake occurred, we did see damage done to some buildings that had been affected by the quake. We also learned that closer to the center of the quake, there was considerable damage done to the water systems in the village and farm areas. We heard that they had gotten help to get water pumped out of the nearby Himalayan mountains to replace the damaged water systems.

Nepal is a very poor country which is struggling to make improvements in various ways. Dealing with an earthquake besides those efforts for improvements is not easy. It was gratifying to know that money given through our One Great Hour of Sharing program is helping countries like Nepal around the world.

Dave Pietz
Mission Elder

OUR EARTH CARE TEAM HAS BEEN BUSY

As winter SLOWLY made a transition into spring, our Earth Care Team geared up with new knowledge and new actions. We chose six environmental organizations that are active locally, learned about them through interviews and reading, and summarized that information for the congregation. We learned about Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper, 350 Sandpoint, Idaho Conservation League, Rock Creek Alliance, and Citizens Against Newport Silicon Smelter. Although all of these groups have agendas of local concern and of interest to Earth Care goals, we chose to focus current advocacy efforts on Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper. We requested and received Session approval to proceed with specific advocacy efforts promoted by these two groups. As suggested by CCL and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), several of us have written to Representatives in Congress about legislation for "Carbon Fee and Dividend"; we will follow up with information to the congregation as this legislation progresses. We joined with Waterkeeper members and many others to testify at hearings in March about a proposal for additional local railroad bridges. Our focus was to request a thorough Environmental Impact Statement on the plans, prior to construction.

Our latest outreach was definitely more FUN than letter writing and hearing testimony. We had a display at the Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 20. Pastor Andy, Jane Fritz, Kathleen Huntley, and I had opportunities to show and explain pollinators and the plants they relate to, about using natural substances instead of complex chemicals for cleaning tasks, and about alternatives to plastics for food storage. Lynn Pietz had arranged for an attractive card-sized handout; we probably distributed at least 100 of those. We found the 400 to 500 adults and kids in attendance responsive to our topics.

Submitted by Marilyn Robertson, for the Earth Care Team

HIGHWAY CLEANUP - SATURDAY MAY 4th.

Many thank for those who worked on the highway cleanup. There were 17 bags of trash collected, which was a record. A great lunch was served by Chuck and Sylvia Humes.

Membership Outreach

LOST IN THE FIFTIES:

This year we are trying something different. Instead of having our usual food booth we will just be pushing our carts as the participants park and prepare for the car show. Yes, that's right, we will now have two carts thanks to the generosity of Chuck Bauer. We need 2 people a cart that are prepared to hit the road no later than 6:00 am on Saturday, May 18th. Your job will be to sell coffee and donuts to whomever wants to buy them. It is a fun job as the people are always very nice and many are yearly customers and look forward to us coming down the street. We also need a couple of runners to keep the coffee supply from running out. We will have a sign-up in the bulletin a couple of weeks prior or you can call the office to let them know you want to help. Thanks for considering this fun and fruitful fundraiser for our church.

Membership Outreach.

NEWS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW met April 9th and heard Nancy Gerth from 350 Sandpoint regarding climate issues. All were invited to join in the Earth Week activities in Sandpoint. It was moved and decided not to hold the annual Rummage sale. Instead PW will participate in the church yard sale and other smaller activities.

Next meeting will be the final meeting until Fall – the Least Coin offering will be dedicated. The meeting will be May 14th at Barbara Rolph's – it will be a pot luck. Book Study chapter 9 and Epilogue will be lead by Sylvia Humes. Directions to the Rolph's – Kootenai Seven Sisters housing development. Go east on 200 turn Left at Seven Sister (Ponder Point is on the right) go to Kuskanook Loop. Home is at the corner of Kuskanook Loop and Chewela Loop.

Members are to consider material for next year's book study.

Barbara Rolph

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Membership and Outreach committee has been busy exploring ways to engage the neighborhood and community outside the walls of the church. There are several events for your planner:

May 4, Saturday - Weather permitting, this will be the highway clean-up day with May 11 as a back-up date. Contact Sylvia Humes if you have any questions and especially if you can help out.

May 18th, Saturday - Volunteers with 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. Helpers are needed, please contact Sylvia Humes for information and to lend a hand. This is a fund-raiser that helps support FPC projects and events.

June 22, Saturday - The Peace Market in the Garden. See the flier in this newsletter for details. Contact Judy Labrie to register and / or help.

July 26-28 - Hildegard Retreat - We are delighted to be hosting a retreat this summer called, "Hildegard von Bingen: mystic, musician, artist, theologian, scientist, preacher...".

Hildegard von Bingen, 1098-1179, was born to a noble family in Germany. She was the tenth child and at a young age was given as a tithe to the church. This 12th century female figure captured the world in which she lived with her profound ideas regarding our humanity and our relationship with the Divine. We will explore how her music and writings are not something of the past, but a significant force for creativity and devotion in the 21st century. Join in the conversation of her fascinating music, her deep and influential spirituality and how the two are inextricably linked.

Friday, July 26, Free Presentation - 6 - 8:00 pm

Saturday, July 27, Day Retreat - 8:30 am - 3:00 pm; Suggested donation \$60 includes lunch

Sunday, July 28, Worship Service Music Sunday - 9:30 am

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. As part of the retreat experience, Ms. Garner will be including the use of a portable labyrinth which FPC recently ordered. The purchase of the canvas labyrinth was made possible by a grant from the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest Missional Initiative and it's set to arrive the end of May or June. We are very excited to be hosting this event. Contact Judy Labrie to register for the Saturday retreat.

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 & Outreach Moderator



Peace Market in the Garden



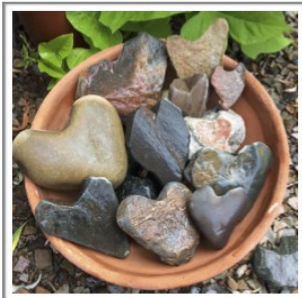
**First Presbyterian Church
417 N. Fourth Ave, Sandpoint
Saturday, June 22, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Want to simplify your life, downsize, or reduce clutter? Not enough stuff for your own yard sale? Simply rent a space on the church lawn and join in with others doing the same!

Join in on Saturday, June 22, 8:00 - 2:00. A 10' x 10' space can be reserved for a suggested donation of \$20 and, if needed, a 6 ft table will be available for a \$10 donation. Proceeds will go toward creating the Community Peace Garden and the new front entry cover and steps.

The community is invited to sell, shop and simply enjoy time together with a goal to simplify, recycle and repurpose. There will be garden supplies, furniture, arts & crafts and more.

Registration for space and table is required and closes June 10. Contact Judy at 208-290-3119 or registration@fpcsandpoint.org.



Make checks payable to "FPC" and write "Peace Market" on the memo line. Registration and donation can be mailed to:
Presbyterian Church, 417 N. Fourth Ave, Sandpoint, ID 83864

Name: _____

Phone # _____ Donation Amount: _____

Email: _____

10' x 10' space(s) required: _____ 6 ft table(s) required: _____



STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN UPDATE

The Stairway to Heaven, front entry project, continues to take shape, step by step. The old structure was removed, which revealed that at some point in the history a patch job had already been applied. The rebar was rusting from inside, and there were no footings. The new structure began by digging for footings, which support the newly poured steps and landing. An inset "frame" was designed for inserting a finger labyrinth on the north side of the landing. The concrete supports for the timber frame posts are the most recent addition. Todd Vorhies, as General Contractor, and Reid Weber with Boden Architecture have been very good to work with on this project. One change order has been approved, adding \$3,000 to the original \$50,000 so the corner portion of the sidewalk can be adjusted to comply with ADA guidelines. We were exempt from this but chose this action for the best long term benefit. Things seem to be going well. Contributions are nearing our goal. Thank you for your generous support of this project!

Cynthia Dalsing, Elder
and Pastor Andy





June

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Bauer, Mary
7 Ross, Virginia
8 Shirrell, Jim
9 Helander, Don
12 Casey, Brian
16 Parker, Jack
18 Farmin, Ted

Calendar Announcements

May

- 4 Highway Cleanup
- 5 Pastor Appreciation Potluck
- 8 Bella Note' Recital 4:00 p.m.
- 18 Lost in the 50's
- 21 Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.

June

- 2 Summer Worship Hours 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Deacons Meeting after Worship
- 18 Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Peace Market

Regular Monthly Events

Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m. switching to 9:30 a.m. on June 2.

Adult Christian Education—We will soon be breaking for the summer. Plan on participating beginning September 8, 2019. 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



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

208-263-2047 office@fpcsandpoint.org

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

www.fpcsandpoint.org