



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 April 2020

From the Pastor...

In last month's Pastor's article, I welcomed you to the Lenten season. I mentioned church tradition inviting us to come alongside Jesus in his suffering, and that's where "giving up something for Lent" comes from as a spiritual practice. I invited you to listen to James Finley in his podcast teaching about Thomas Merton, and discussed the Praying of the Hours as a way to structure one day with built-in disruptions that draw us away from our small selves and into God's larger Presence. This Lenten season, I have observed all of these, sort of. Actually, I don't do very well at being consistent. I've listened to the podcasts, but that 6 a.m. prayer time is just not my thing. The other times are hit and miss. But when I do, I notice that it helps, and I wonder why I resist these things so much. Now we are approaching Passion/Palm Sunday, and Holy Week, and Easter, and this season of Lent is almost over.

Last month, I reminded us that the Season of Lent offers us ways to "disrupt regular routines and assumptions. This is a form of suffering, of getting inconvenienced enough to look beyond self-imposed boundaries and allow God to challenge me, all with the intent of becoming more whole, grounded, and sustained in Christ." Little did we know that we'd be getting "inconvenienced"

by a pandemic and our world is suffering in so many ways! Little did we know that as the media is fixated on Covid-19, that restrictive laws are being passed in the background (fossil fuel friendly, gender oppressing, etc.). This pandemic brings out the best, and the worst, with intensity.

A pastor friend of mine sent a text, wishing me well. At the end of the texting conversation, they said, "Have a good day and stay safe." These words express care, concern, and encouragement. But they also reminded me of something I learned as a young parent raising three boys years ago. The advice to parents involved being intentional about shaping the worldview you are developing in your kids. When a child heads out the door into the day ahead, many parents shout out, "Be safe!" There are good intentions behind this, and lots of love. But the flip side creates and reinforces a perspective that the world is a bad place, dangerous, unpredictable, something to be feared, calling us to vigilant defensiveness. This worldview gets promoted easily by people in positions of power and influence, suggesting the world is bad, very bad. But this is a delusion out of touch with a non-distorted view of Ultimate Reality.

As a young parent, I decided to avoid the "stay safe" approach, preferring the "enjoy the adventure" angle. Even with problems,

struggles, and complications, seeing life as held in God's grace, deeply united with Loving intent and Presence, the universe reveals its benevolent quality. It may be hard to see at times, but faith and hope in what is seen is not faith and hope. Trusting God's creative purposes is deeper than what is seen.

On the texting conversation, I replied to my friend by saying, "Thanks, enjoy life's adventures!" This claims the goodness, the vulnerability of love, the openness of humility, awareness offered in each moment, and trust that no matter what happens, the bond of love has no end. As we journey through the end of Lent, celebrate Easter and resurrection faith, even in ways we may not have anticipated, God's life-changing, world-shaping grace is revealed. May we be open to the transformation.

PS: Here is the link to those podcasts. We're up to Session Four, but the previous sessions and some bonus episodes are available: <https://cac.org/podcast/turning-to-the-mystics/>

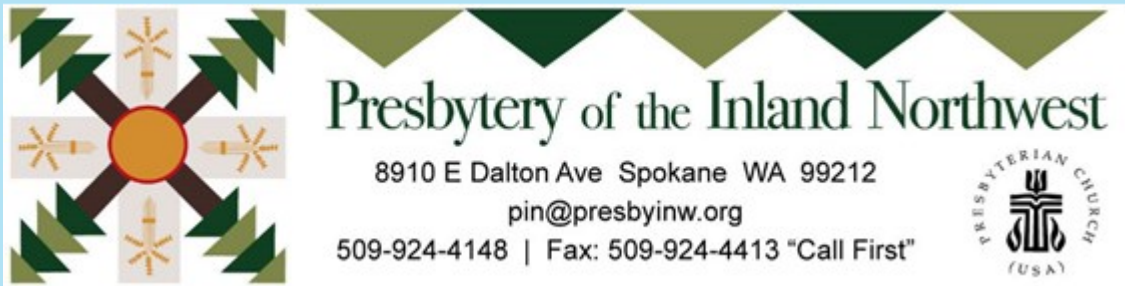
Peace, Pastor Andy



PRESBYTERY OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST

The Presbytery office in Spokane recently changed from set office hours to by-appointment-only, and remote working from home. This was before the Covid-19 restrictions, which have only reinforced this structure. Presbytery has two Zoom weekly meetings set up to support pastors and other church leaders who choose to participate. The retreat at Camp Spalding scheduled for April is cancelled. The Presbytery meeting, called Summit, for April 28, may take place online via Zoom. Presbytery has funded Zoom for churches under 100 members, paying for two months of coverage.

Here is a note shared with all the churches in our presbytery, as Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, the Executive Presbyter, asked for this to be shared with the congregation:



March 26, 2020

Dear Churches in the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest:

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.... (Ps 46: 1-2a NRSV)

I write to you today with a heart full of gratitude. I am grateful for your faithful pastors, for your partnership in the gospel, and for our loving God who is always with us.

We are with you. The Presbytery Leadership Team is exploring options for financial support for our congregations and we want to hear from your session as to how we specifically can support you.

We are concerned for those who are hungry in our midst. The leadership team has authorized up to \$15,000 be distributed to food pantries that are housed in our churches.

We want to share your stories--stories like Shadle Park hosting a drive in FM worship service and ways that you all are caring for your neighbors.

Our understanding of what it means to be the Church is shifting, but we believe in a God who has promised a "future with hope."

In Christ's Love,

Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, EP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ONLINE

Because of restrictions for in-person gatherings, Sunday school classes and worship are not taking place at the church building. But guess what? The church is not a building!

In our lives we are continually called to worship, giving God our attention as we share our entirety, including our doubts, fears, complaints, laments, along with praises, joys, and celebrations. The Church is a people, and the people do the ministry. Simply by living, we are embodying worship, embracing each day, one breath at a time as a gift from God. Worshipful living continues.

Because of technologies that didn't exist until recent years, we do have other means of connecting. The Issues Class for Sunday school is meeting at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. After installing the Zoom application on a computer, tablet, or smartphone, this link will connect you to the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/688273672>

You can click on the link a few minutes before 9:00.

A special Easter Morning Devotional is planned by the Sunday school participants, a shared time of scripture, prayer, and reflection. On Easter Sunday at 9:00 a.m., click on the above link for this time of celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

The Easter worship service will follow on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m., hopefully from the Sanctuary as Pastor Andy shares a message, and Annie Welle and Dana Stockman share special music.

Also, the worship time at 10:30 a.m. is on Facebook Live via the First Presbyterian Church Page. It is automatically recorded as a Post, so if you miss 10:30 you can watch it at your convenience. Live comments and reactions (the Like buttons) are encouraged, and you can share the Post with your contacts. The video will also be available via the church website, www.fpcsandpoint.org, in the sermon archive. That way, even if you don't have Facebook you can read the sermon, see the bulletin info, and watch the video online, even forward it to friends and family.

The Session will likely have it's April meeting via Zoom. Also, the Tuesday afternoon book study at 1:30 p.m. has meet with Zoom for a couple of weeks, and this will continue as we are on chapter 12 in A.H. Almaas' book, Facets of Unity, The Enneagram of Holy Ideas. At 3:00 p.m., the Contemplative Prayer Group enjoys extended silence together, via Zoom, as we prayerfully hold space together.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

March 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:00. There were ten members present. Marilyn Robertson dedicated our Birthday offering with a history lesson on how it all began. The minutes of February 11th were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance 01/31/20	\$975.17
Expenses	\$519.55
Ending balance 02/29/20	\$455.62

Betty Menser Scholarship Fund

Beginning balance as of 01/31/20	\$944.67
Deposits	\$255.00
Ending balance as of 02/02/20	\$1,199.67

Motion made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report

Sunshine Committee: Dee thanked the group for handling her responsibility last month. The group would like to send a "Miss you" card to Marge Pietche and a sympathy card to Judy LaBrie. Everyone will sign the card.

Old Business: Gifts of Women Service—Barbara Rolph reported: Sharon Anderson will switch Fellowship with us. We will have a vignette of strong women. Marilyn will be Worship Assistant. Ushers: Paula and Shirley, Readers: Millie, Dee, Susie and Sylvia. It was suggested no veggies for Fellowship as they do not get eaten. We will do a run-through next Sunday, after church, in the Sunday School room.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05.

Submitted: Sylvia Humes, Secretary

Bible Study, Lesson 7 was led by Shirley Parker

Next meeting April 14—Program: Sandpoint Community Center—Lesson 8 Mary Sturgis

EARTH CARE

Recycling Options have Changed

For those of us who don't live in Sandpoint, we no longer have the opportunity to do Single Stream recycling, including glass and plastic. This has been an option at the Dufort Road trash transfer site. That method of recycling was a Bonner County "pilot project"; County Commissioners recently discontinued that option, due to cost. Because Single Stream items are sorted in Spokane, each ton cost over \$33 more than traditional trash hauling. The site will still provide bins for separated aluminum cans, paper and cardboard. Another possibility is to take aluminum cans, "tin" cans, cardboard, office paper, and newspaper (all separated) to Pacific Steel. "Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle" are still important efforts for us as an Earth Care Congregation.

(Update from the Earth Care Team)





April Birthdays

2 Bill Love

6 Elizabeth Griswold

7 Anne Marie Casey

12 Lani McQuilkin

16 Joyce Boeck

30 Andy Kennaly

30 Dave Pietz

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. on Facebook live or the sermon archive on the church website

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education, Issues Class via Zoom, sharing a Lenten resource

Monday 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice

Tuesday Book Study Group—1:30 p.m. via zoom

Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m. via zoom

Choir Practice—5:30 p.m. cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice

PFLAG—Second & Fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice

Thursday 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

7:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice



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