



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
June 2020

From the Pastor...

It's like a time warp, walking around the church building. I pulled down the posters that promoted events that were likely cancelled. On my desk there is a copy of the evening Lenten devotional from the third Tuesday in Lent, right where I left it back in mid-March. It seems we "gave up" more for Lent than we'd anticipated.

We are in the Easter Season, on the verge of Pentecost, the leaves are on the trees and the danger of frost has likely passed as gardens are planted. Seasons have a way of coming and going all on their own, with no need to force, and no way to do that even if we wanted to. Waiting for the revealing is the deeper invitation. Waiting, even when there seems a void or the desire for something different.

That's the Pentecost scene. Disciples gathering in Jerusalem, Jesus is gone having ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit, supposedly, hadn't arrived on the scene yet, or at least their awareness wasn't peaked. Each day, each week during that post-Resurrection time a "new normal" was revealed that could not have been anticipated but changed everything once it happened.

Our context as a church community continues to involve one "new normal" after another. The Session has designated this Sunday to begin the summer schedule, gathering at 9:30 a.m. to resume in-person worship (at least for the time being pending any rebound of Covid-19). We will still have Facebook Live for the scripture readings and sermon. Yet the worship service will not be what we are used to, based on past gatherings. This time, for example, not only will we avoid singing hymns together (because that spreads viruses twice the distance as talking), but we won't even have hymnbooks in the pews. If you want a seat cushion, bring your own and take it home afterwards because there will be none available onsite. No bulletins either. No communion, no fellowship time after worship. Disinfecting surfaces works better with fewer surfaces to disinfect, and we are following guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control, our Presbytery, the insurance industry, health experts, etc.. Since viruses are microscopic, even though a surface looks clean does not mean that it is. We're going the extra mile to help keep people safe.

It is bothersome to some people when things like no singing, wearing masks, or other precautionary measures impact their desire to have things a certain way. We are going out of our way to remove the hymnbooks, to have masks available, to create sanitized safety for people who do gather together. The biblical

way of describing this inconvenience is “loving your neighbor.” Yet even in these efforts, there is a sense of loss, and grieving. If you can’t sing or have communion, then it seems major aspects of worship are missing. Yet even this is an invitation to discover that worship is a focus of the heart more than external observances, and faith involves soul-level realities more than our mind’s attempts to comfort itself.

By gathering together, holding space, waiting, and opening our hearts, we come alongside those first disciples, inviting God’s Holy Spirit to draw our attention to what God is doing in the world. Loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves as sacred beings might even start with wearing a mask that fogs up our glasses.

Peace and All Good,
Pastor Andy



PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 31 AT 9:30

Pentecost Sunday is May 31 and if you are coming to the church building for worship, remember to **wear red** to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit arriving as tongues of fire. At the conclusion of the service, we will leave the sanctuary with red streamers and gather in the Community Peace Garden for a blessing.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ONLINE

While in-person worship in an abbreviated form takes place beginning May 31 at 9:30 a.m., FPC will continue the Facebook Live feature for the scripture readings and sermon time. This will be recorded and linked to the church website's sermon archive at www.fpcsandpoint.org. The Session will continue to monitor the status of the Covid-19 pandemic and make adjustments as needed.

KIDS ALIVE DAY CAMP

First Presbyterian Church was scheduled to partner with the Methodists and First Lutheran Church for Kids Alive Day Camp. We were on the schedule for Camp Lutherhaven staff to come run the program in late July. This, however, has been cancelled. There may be some online alternatives explored, but the in-person, ecumenical day camp is not taking place this summer. Camp Lutherhaven has cancelled their staff supported, onsite events, and the First Lutheran Church Council voted to cancel this event in their building.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

One of the gems of our community involves the Little Free Library, a feature of the Community Peace Garden that resembles Noah's Ark and holds books exchanged by community members. Many people make use of this resource, either taking a book to read, leaving some for others, or both. There is a bench nearby that people can sit on to explore their book while soaking up the sunshine. Several church members have commented on seeing people stop to enjoy the Little Free Library throughout the day.

SUMMER EARTH CARE SUGGESTIONS

We try to cut down on plastic that is used once, and discarded. However, for use in the yard & garden, there are some helpful examples of plastic that can be used over & over. Red plastic rectangles can be put under tomato and pepper plants to reflect warmth to the plants. Or, the red plastic can be attached to a tomato frame, or plant “hoop” to hold heat around the plants at night. A more complete system, but requiring more effort, “walls of water” can be put around tomato plants to maintain warmth until our nights are consistently over 50 degrees. All of these items can be rinsed off, allowed to dry, & stored for use again next year.

Beyond the garden, it is time to remind each other, when we order, or pour at home, a cold beverage, say “no straw”.

From Marilyn, for the Earth Care Team.





June Birthdays

8 Frankie Clouse

9 Cynthia Dalsing

9 Jean Babcock

11 Dana Stockman

14 Sue Helander

19 Bart Casey

22 Jackie Windju

25 Millie Rinker

26 Margaret Ann Maricle

29 Sharon Anderson

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. and on Facebook live or the sermon archive on the church website

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—postponed for the summer

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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