



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 March 2021

From the Pastor...

The Season of Lent is relentless, coming over and over every year at this time. But which time is it? In terms of the Gregorian calendar, Easter shifts around, sometimes feeling early, sometimes late. Yet based on a lunar calendar it's always on time, just right, exactly the same moment, year after year. Then again, nothing is exactly the same.

Even if we could pinpoint the precise location relative to the sun and moon, celestially triangulating a geo-cached empty tomb, that first Easter moment is long gone. The galaxy is spinning, rotating, moving. The sun is in motion, even as we on Earth whirl an elliptic around this moving target. That first Easter moment is caught in a trail of stardust somewhere in sidereal past. Sidereal has to do with the time involved in forming galaxies, stars, constellations. It's a very broad spectrum, which makes Lent seem like not even a blip, especially from the Milky Way of our backwoods location in the universe. What's 2,000 years in cosmic time?

Time measured as duration doesn't seem like it helps much when it comes to Easter. Sure, there are chains of events, like Mary going to the tomb, the disciples running, Jesus appearing but not recognized, and saying he would see them later, in Galilee. There's one resurrection appearance after another. The Risen Christ even cooks fish and eats it.

But we're not there yet. We're still in Lent. Time hasn't moved us to Easter yet. There are several weeks to go, many devotionals, worship services, and prayer times to observe. But even while time-as-duration captures our focus, it cannot contain our life. We already know the outcome of Passion week as Jesus dies on the cross. We're well practiced, seasoned in our assumptions of knowing the rest of the story. So why bother? Why put ourselves through Lent's regiments, 40 days, plus Sundays, observing practices like "giving something up?" Maybe it's because we too are always in motion, never exactly the same. We need to observe things that don't repeat, but rhyme, and intentionally come alongside larger rhythms and deeper realities rooting us in more than chronology. Faith intensifies truths we know deep down, like unconditional love, forgiveness as pivotal practice, and unity shaping all there is, seen and unseen.

So as Lent continues, may you once again enjoy participating in expressions of Living Faith that claim good news drawing us forward as we unfold like pedals on a flower opening to a new day. Take deep breaths of air's gift as our cosmic bubble dances through dimensions. Invite Easter's Life to fill you through a particular breath, one that will never come again but is complete in One-ness through the ebb and flow engrained in the fabric of forever.

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Andy Kennaly



THE SESSION SUMMARY MARCH 2021

This report will cover highlights from our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, and regular Session meetings on January 19 and February 16. For the first time in the almost 120 year history of First Presbyterian Church, we held a virtual annual meeting via Zoom. Just imagine, this time last year few of us, at least me, had ever heard of this technology.

Thanks to all who “attended” the annual meeting. Session was concerned about having a quorum but, as it turned out, we easily exceeded the 23 members required. Moreover, it was good to “see” everyone, even though we all appeared in a Hollywood Squares format. (Remember the old TV gameshow?) The meeting went well and included the presentation of annual reports which reflected upon the uncertain times incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With spring approaching, Session is focusing upon completing the Community Peace Garden. Constructing a Labyrinth remains one of the final items. But to do that will require developing water drainage away from the south side of the building. The sump pump under the sanctuary works almost continually during wet periods. But it dumps the water just outside the foundation leading to saturated soil which is neither good for the lawn nor the building foundation.

Session once again reviewed the current COVID-19 health protocols and agreed to resume in-person Sunday worship services on March 21. A final determination will be made during the March 16, Session meeting. If all is going well, we will begin with a “soft opening” for members and friends on March 21. The following Sunday, March 28, is Palm Sunday followed by Easter Sunday on April 4. We will announce these services for the community to attend while still strictly enforcing social distancing guidelines which include wearing masks. In the meantime, we will continue Sunday services on Facebook Live and posted on the church website.

With Session’s concurrence, Paula Vincent, Stewardship and Finance Elder, will explore opportunities for the church to apply for a loan/grant through the federal Payroll Protection Program. The money we received from this program in 2020 allows the church to pay staff salaries by offsetting the revenue decline due to a loss of loose offering and rental of church facilities.

As we pray for health throughout the world, may God continue to bless you and our church.

Bill Love, Clerk of Session

Awakening to Spirit

A Zoom Retreat on Saturday, March 6, 2021

10:30-12:00 then 12:45-2:30 pm

Gather with the First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint for an experiential exploration of opening to divine love. The time will include Mindful Movement, scripture reading, poetry, lectio divina, guided meditation and body prayer.

Location: Your place via Zoom

Suggested Donation: \$20 Scholarships are available.

Register: contact Judy at registration@fpcsandpoint.org or 208-290-3119

PEACE GARDEN

The Peace Garden planning team recently met with Karen Oleson of Sitaline Design Landscape Architecture, the original consultant of the Community Peace Garden design. This spring will allow the breaking of ground on the next phase of the design, including a rain garden and updated flower beds to address water drainage, the beginning of a prayer labyrinth, and more!



EARTH CARE UPDATES

The Earth Care Team is making plans for an Earth Day Worship Service in April, and possibly other “celebration” and learning events. We are learning about an ecumenical group called Interfaith Power and Light. They encourage religious people and congregations to take action on climate change, through advocacy for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and leadership in caring for the Earth. They feel that climate change is among the greatest challenges humanity has ever encountered. One current emphasis relates to food production. Do we choose food that has been grown in ways that sustain the soil? Do we care for our yards and gardens with long-term soil (and health) in mind? These are among the topics we may consider.

And on the celebration topic, we could use a prayer by Ina Jones Hughes: “We give You thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea, for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise You for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity.”

Submitted by Marilyn Robertson,
for the Earth Care Team





March Birthdays

- 1 Kathleen Huntley**
13 James Belloty
13 Chuck Humes
23 Dee Dreisbach
26 Dick Sandall
28 Cathy Eastwood
30 Tiffany Windju

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday School 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. on Facebook

Monday - Al-Anon TBD

Tuesday Book Study Group-1:30 p.m. to 3:00p.m. on Zoom

Contemplative Prayer Group-1:30 p.m. to 3:00p.m. on Zoom

Choir Practice - postponed

PFLAG - TBD

Wednesday - Al-Anon TBD

Thursday - Al-Anon TBD

Alcoholics Anonymous TBD



Ministers: Members and Friends

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