



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 July/August 2021

From the Pastor...

On Tuesday, June 22, 2021, I hosted the afternoon book study and contemplative prayer group at my house. After sharing some iced tea and lemonade in the shade of the front porch, we moved into the cool of the closed-up house. I felt a blessing fill the space of my living room as over ten of us observed a silent, contemplative sit for 20 minutes. The unity of God's love unfolding and connecting things seen and unseen is amazing and filled with grace. We then went outside for a walk along the meditative path I mowed into the lawn, a prayer labyrinth shared with the clover and the honeybees. It was fabulous to also show people my "beehouse" which is the outbuilding that shelters several A-Z Hives. The beehouse is a place for beekeeping, meditation, and connecting with Christ who is in all things. This was the first group to visit the beehouse, and it was a real blessing!

One of my friends from college is a flight nurse on Lifelight and snapped a quick photo of our place on one of his recent voyages out of Sandpoint. From the air, everything is visible, the labyrinth, the beehouse, gardens, the house, barn, trees and chicken coop. What the picture can't show are the people. We weren't home on Sunday morning. It doesn't show the miniature horse or the old goat, who were shaded in the barn. And the bees flying around are not visible. Although the gardens are there, individual blooms of flowers don't have the same effect from that sort of altitude.

Sometimes we can't see the inner workings of the Holy Spirit, but God's love is always there. Staying open to this Living Presence and trusting Christ's love are at the heart of faith. Prayerful disciplines, like walking a labyrinth, sitting in silence, or spending time with a group to share how God is active in our lives all help us to keep Jesus as our focus rather than get caught up in our own self-importance and agendas.

If you want to walk the labyrinth, come on over! You may need an umbrella for shade these days. The heat of a climate crisis reminds us that many problems cannot be solved by the same mentality that created them. A new consciousness is needed, a transformed heart. May we be new creations in Christ and responsive to God's creative power, one step at a time.

Peace and All Good, Pastor Andy Kennaly



THE SESSION SUMMARY JUNE 22, 2021

Since I missed this meeting, I thank Judy Labrie for taking notes. As usual, her notes are thorough along with impeccable penmanship.

In reviewing our COVID 19 policies, Session agreed to continue the current protocols for Sunday worship services. These include voluntary masks, open seating, and communion on the first Sunday of the month featuring the bread only. In regard to reopening church facilities to outside groups, PFLAG will return for their bi-monthly meetings in July on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings. The Al-Anon and AA groups have resumed weekly meetings on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Thursday at noon and Thursday evening. These meetings will require additional janitorial services.

Don and Sue Helander recently met with Todd Vorhies to schedule the maintenance project for the exterior woodwork on the exterior of the sanctuary. He is also the contractor we hired for the front entryway. Todd expects to begin this project in several weeks.

Unfortunately we received notice that our grant application to the Presbytery of Inland Northwest to enhance live-streaming Sunday worship services by purchasing a camera and computer equipment was not approved. Session had previously approved a contingency plan using Memorial Funds and the project will move forward as planned.

While giving the monthly financial report, Paula Vincent, Stewardship and Finance Elder, announced that she recently accepted a year-long school superintendent position in her home state of Iowa. We will miss Paula's superb leadership and wish her well as she continues her passion for education. She will continue to serve in some capacity, as Zoom now allows remote participation in meetings. We look forward to her return to Idaho.

Pastor Andy recently hosted the book study/contemplative prayer group at his home for a bee house tour and to walk a mowed labyrinth pathway.

Pastor Andy and Shawna will be away on study leave and vacation from September 7 through October 15, dependent upon international travel availability. Mickie Quinn, Worship and Music Elder, will arrange pulpit supply during this time, in coordination with the Session

Session will take its usual summer recess until September 21. Pastor Steve Neuder will serve as guest moderator for this meeting.

Enjoy the summer and join us for Sunday worship either in-person or virtually at 9:30 a.m..

Peace,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session

A GOAL ACHIEVED

One of my goals since coming to Sandpoint to serve as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church has been to take that hike up to the top of Scotchman Peak. One of the reasons many people enjoy living in this area involves connecting to the mountains and lakes. I made it a goal to go up Scotchman Peak, the highest point in Bonner County at 7,009 feet. Goal achieved! Now I feel like a real local.

On Saturday, July 26, Dave Pietz and I carpoled at 5:30 a.m. to get an early start. At the trailhead we began hiking before the heat set in for the day. Dave led the way up and down. The trail has challenges but we paced ourselves well and had adequate supplies of water and snacks. The mountain goats were there as we entered their high country. We took some time on the peak to enjoy the blue-sky views before the descent back to the valley.

The trail and the summit were fairly busy, a popular destination. I am thankful that Dave and I could hike together, that we beat the heat just enough to enjoy the experience, and that such a place exists right down the road from where we live. I hope we can work to get it designated as an official wilderness, because for me and the others gathered on that summit, it was inspiring like only that place can be.

Thank you, Dave, for sharing the journey. Thank you, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, for the obvious care given to trail maintenance, along with volunteer Trail Ambassadors educating about protections for mountain goats and the habitat they depend on. When we look to the hills, may our view include appreciation for all the gifts God shares.

Pastor Andy Kennaly



COMMUNITY GARDENS

“Inch by inch, row by row,

Gonna make this garden grow...”

We’ve planted our First Presbyterian Community Garden out back, hoping for a lot of produce for Bonner County Food Bank. It’s growing nicely, and now we have unheard of record heat! What to do!!

Marilyn, Lexie and Lynn got our heads together, Lynn consulted her daughter Merrill, an horticulturist in Denver, and we came up with a plan:

We would put up cloth tents to shade the gardens during the hot sunshine part of the day, and take them down when the sun goes down. The three made a schedule, and are following it through our hot week. We will let you know the result. Hopefully the gardens will not wilt!



FIELD TRIP TO “GREENTREE NATURALS” FARM

Monday, July 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Diane Green, longtime local organic farmer, has graciously agreed for us at First Presbyterian Church to visit her beautiful farm, just beyond Pack River Store.

32 plant starts were purchased from Diane and her farm, through grant moneys procured by Michele Murphree, coordinator of Sandpoint’s Community Gardens, including 4 tomato plants specially developed for our local climate.

Rumor has it, that Diane and her husband are such organic food advocates, they go out at night, with headlamps, looking for insects they can pick off the vegetables!

We can carpool from the church that Monday morning, and possibly consider a lunch afterward at Pack River Store. We hope you’ll join us! More about this later.

Film – OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL

View online July 10-25

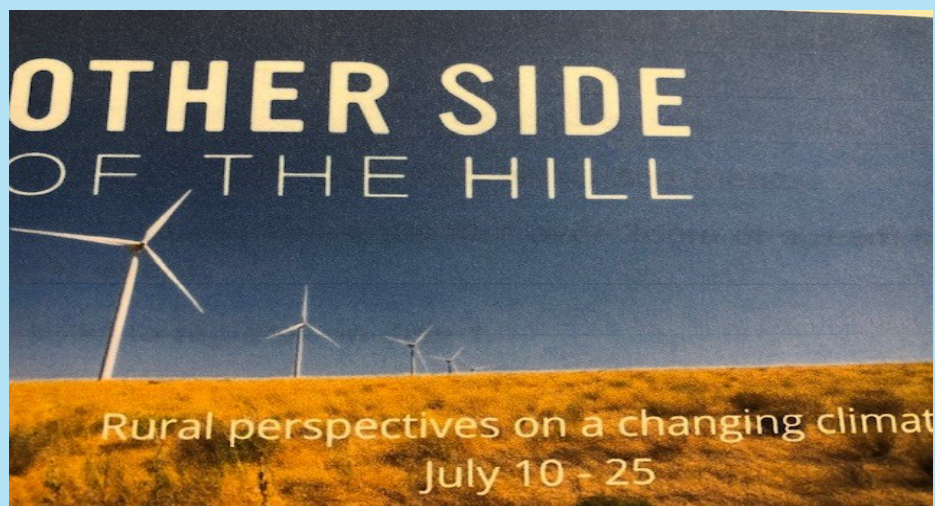
Register online beginning July 1, 2021

OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL is “... a new short film (30 minutes) that connects with rural America and looks at energy solutions that can benefit those communities. It has a certain spirituality to it, that makes it a great film—combined with IPL’s (Interfaith Power & Light) materials to support conversations—for congregations to help bridge the rural/urban divide.” If there is enough interest here at First Pres, we can order the IPL screening kit to “dive into a deep discussion” on how we can reach out and bridge the divide. Let us know about your interest in this timely topic!

Go online to the website below to watch the trailer, and register for the film:

interfaithpowerandlight.org

Lynn Pietz & Earth Care Committee



A NOTE FROM SUSIE

I am using our new computer program for recording donations. I sent out the giving statements in June using our new format. Since then, I have revised some of the terms to make it clearer for you. I want to thank everyone for giving me time to make modifications.

Susie Haskins, Financial Secretary

Editors Note: Thank you, Susie, for taking the time and extra effort to climb the steep learning curve of a new system!

EVENTS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Andy and Sharon Anderson facilitated a study called *Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy - the Legacy of St Francis*. The 5-session study was held Tuesday evenings, April 27 to May 25, offered both in-person, meeting at the First Presbyterian Church (FPC), and accessed virtually via the Zoom platform. The series included DVD presentations to explore facets of Christian faith informed by contemplation, mysticism, compassion, justice, and centuries of rich Christian history.

There were 16 participants plus the facilitators. Zoom helped connect people from Kalispell and Darby, MT, western Oregon, and Utah. Five participants were friends or members of FPC. Most everyone shared they would be interested in other studies by the Center for Action and Contemplation.

As another outreach event, FPC has been invited to have a booth at the first ever Pride Festival in Sandpoint. Session has approved church participation. The Sandpoint branch of PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays), is a local LGBTQ+ family and ally organization. PFLAG holds support meetings at FPC twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesday evenings. With help from the larger community and sponsorship of local businesses, PFLAG will host the event on Saturday, July 17, in the parking lot of Matchwood Brewing and Evans Brothers Coffee. Swing by the church booth on Saturday between 2:00 - 6:00 pm and say hello!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Labrie
Membership Outreach Team



PASTOR ANDY STUDY LEAVE

With a theme like the Sabbatical of 2017, Pastor Andy is using Study Leave this fall to explore the spirituality of beekeeping. He and Shawna return in September to Slovenia for a two-and-a-half-week guided tour to visit beekeepers, stay at local farms, and see some sights as part of a coordinated American tour group. While on that side of the Atlantic, they then fly to Germany to visit friends for another two and a half weeks. It should be fun, and a great way to reconnect with long-time friends overseas next fall. Airplane tickets have been purchased, so hopefully the global travel scene stays open to support this adventure in healthy ways.



STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL, MEMORIAL

July, 2021

Summer greetings!

A status report of the church budget and major funds is listed below.

Finance

Total yearly budget anticipates **\$12,241** per month for receipts and expenses

FPC receipts are averaging **\$12,800** per month

\$67,485 received through May 31

\$76,596 received through June 27th

FPC expenses through May 31 are averaging **\$13,000** per month

\$64,922 expended through May 31

June expense TBD

Major Funds

Fund	January 2021	June 2021	Change
Buildings & Grounds	\$16,122	\$16,122	--
Heritage Trust Grant Match	\$ 5,676	\$ 5,676	--
Deacons	\$ 3891	\$ 2,970	\$ (921)
Memorial	\$23,725	\$19,934	\$ (3,791)
Peace Garden	\$ 2,743	\$ 4,870	\$ 2,127

Memorial Fund Notes

Approval of \$1000.00 toward raised garden beds project

Approval of \$7,600 toward live-streaming equipment, half has been paid and half is due

Stewardship

Thank you for your continued generosity and sharing of your financial gifts with FPC Sandpoint. At the halfway point for the fiscal year, it is great to see revenue is slightly ahead of expenses; however, it should also be noted that both revenue and expenses are exceeding the anticipated budget.

Financial Secretary, Susie Haskins, recently sent members and friends a mid-year report of financial giving. Your patience and assistance in the transition to the new software program is much appreciated. If you have questions or suggestions for future reports, or noted an item that needs correcting, please contact Susie or Paula. Messages may be left through the church office. FPC Phone: (208) 263-2047, FPC Email: office@fpcsandpoint.org

WORSHIP AT CITY BEACH

Join us outside!

9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 25th at the pavilion at City Beach.

Please bring your own chair or blanket for seating.

Also, after the service we will gather for conversation. Please **bring your own** personal servings of beverages, food, snacks, and any service items you may need.

SHARING THE WORD USING TECHNOLOGY

We have invested in some new technology that allows us to have a greatly improved process for sharing our Sunday Worship service online.

The placement of our new equipment provides smoother transitions for changing camera angles, improved audio quality, and many additional capabilities we will explore in the future.

Our Facebook video posts of Sunday Worship services get hundreds of views, by people located all over the US, and the world! It is exciting to know our messages of God's word and love are spreading well beyond the four walls of the sanctuary.

Pastor Andy also posts the written versions of his sermons on the church's website (www.fpcsandpoint.org). A former Sandpoint resident, who used to attend the Lutheran church when she lived here, happened to visit our website recently. She now resides in Ohio. She enjoyed Pastor Andy's sermons so much that she sent him an email.

"Pastor Andy,

I am so glad that I dropped in to your church website this afternoon. Once again, looking at the lessons through YOUR glasses, YOUR perspective, was both enlightening, refreshing, and both "logical" and "creative" appealing to both right AND left-brained individuals.

I love your conversational preaching style, and I love the way you dissect something to gain understanding and to "draw us in", and then put it all back together in a new and different way. Anyone listening would have got the AHA.

I am blessed by your insights and ability to express them.

Thank you."

The online presence makes a difference in peoples lives. We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday Worship services. Duties include Worship Assistant, Usher, and learning how to run our new technology. Personal training provided! If you are interested, please reach out to Mickey Quinn at mickeykwq@yahoo.com or to the church office at office@fpcsandpoint.org,

Mickey Quinn, Worship and Music



Millie's 90th Birthday



Millie enjoying the fire truck



Millie at her birthday party

Happy 90th Birthday, Millie !!!

JULY



July Birthdays

7 Alexandra Krames

21 Bob Maricle

25 Anna Bates

31 Charles Bauer

AUGUST



August Birthdays

3 Bill Bissell

6 Dan Murphy

7 Samantha Bissell

8 Shelley Wogman-Bellotty

9 Jill Murphy

10 Darcy Taylor

22 Terrin Dustman

22 Susie Haskins

27 Shirley Parker

30 Phyllis Meagher

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. and Facebook

Monday - Al-Anon 6:00p.m

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

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

Choir Practice postponed

Second and Fourth Tuesday - 6:00p.m PFLAG.

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon

Thursday - 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous .



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

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