



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 December 2021

From the Pastor...

The rain came down hard the day we delivered seven boxes of kitchen supplies to World Relief in Spokane. Shawna and I followed the pickup truck driven by Dave and Mary Sturgis. Interstate-90 was a wet scene as we drove by Dave's former workplace, the Good Year Tire center out in the Spokane Valley. Dave was in familiar stomping grounds, so we followed them until a merging vehicle caused some evasive action and we got into different lanes. Dave and Mary went one way into downtown, and we went another. We converged again at World Relief Spokane on Washington Street, a modest professional building with a covered entrance. Dave and Lynn Pietz also arrived and together we unloaded the truck protected from the rain.

The staff welcomed us. To move the heavy boxes involved a bit of a hike to go downstairs and through a long hallway into a large collection room. Seven [heavy] boxes from our small church joined countless other boxes from other small churches and groups. Together, these donations filled the staging area as the staff took inventory. Their efforts help prepare to greet over 300 refugees from Afghanistan.

Advent is a season of small beginnings merging into larger events that affect people around the world. We prepare our hearts through prayer, silence, devotionals, worship, and scripture. We hear the Christmas story once again as Jesus comes as an infant born to unwealthy parents who then find themselves fleeing to Egypt as political refugees.

It is inspiring that one small church can join efforts with the larger community, for each small gift presented in the name of the newborn Prince of Peace offers the hospitality of love and welcome to those who try and start afresh in a new place. One small gift multiplies and is added to other gifts. The blessings flow and ripple out in many ways. Gifts given are shared in trust, for we trust that God will bless those who give and those who receive with hope, comfort, and encouragement.

Happy Advent!

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy Kennaly



THE SESSION SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2021

The Session met on November 16, 2021. Several routine items approved on the consent agenda included postponing the Highway 95 Adopt-a-Highway clean-up until spring 2022 due to poor weather conditions on the two previously scheduled dates along with pruning the paper birch and Norway maple trees in the Peace Garden. We also approved use of church facilities for Rachel Gordon's Bella Noté music recital on December 10.

Since bids for the installation of gutters, heat tape, and upgraded electrical service along the sanctuary roof line exceeded our preliminary estimates, Session approved the installation of gutters but not including the heat tape or electrical work.

As we quickly approach the end of another year, budget discussions rise to the top of the Session agenda. Even while extending her education career in Iowa, Paula Vincent, Finance and Stewardship Elder, remotely keeps her finger on our financial pulse, and Zooms regularly for Session meetings and Sunday school. She projects that we will close 2021 in good condition and perhaps even have a small surplus due to the PPP grants that we received for payroll protection during the pandemic. In looking toward 2022, it appears that giving will likely remain the same as 2021 based upon pledges and other revenue projections. Spending, however, will likely increase due to rises in energy costs, insurance, and cost-of-living increases for church staff. Inflation will likely affect many other routine expenses as well. A very preliminary projected shortfall of \$6,000 can be anticipated for the 2022 budget.

As Session proceeds with its financial deliberations, remember that First Presbyterian Church has relied upon generosity and faith for well over a century. With God's grace and our congregation's faithful generosity, we will continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ from Fourth and Alder in Sandpoint.

Peace during the Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Bill Love, Clerk of Session

EARTH CARE COMMITTEE

Earth Care Committee met November 17, to look at 2022 and consider worthwhile projects for us to pursue. We discussed the Community Gardens, and what worked well and what did not. Next season, we rotate the growing locations of plants one garden to another, and change some varieties. We hope to share the joy of donating vegetables to The Food Bank by adding more people to our garden crew.

We've had contact with the director of the Farmers' Market, and will meet with their Board of Directors to discuss alternatives to use of plastic bags. We talked about having a booth at the Market to promote exchange of ideas with the public on keeping our planet green.

We have interest in a forum to encourage discussions about helping our earth. We would include speakers from organizations in town such as Winter Ridge Grocery. We could use possibly other venues, such as the Bonner County Gardeners Association (BCGA) and their Home Horticulture series.

We reviewed some ideas of group members on how to use different products to avoid plastics, and Kathleen Huntley described using a timer for her hot water tank. Lexie de Fremery shared about her rooftop solar collectors and how this works with the grid power supply.

Dave Pietz made the group aware of Idaho Conservation League's (ICL) concern about planned increases of selenium released into the Kootenay River in southeast British Columbia by a company there, Teck Resources Company, a coal mining operation. The Canadian Kootenay River flows into Montana as the Kootenai River, into Idaho, and back into Canada from there. One concern is about endangered cutthroat trout and other water pollution issues.

Lynn Pietz



DEACONS' TREE OF WARMTH

Saturday, December 4, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Deacons will participate in the “Hanging of the Greens” for Advent. While the sanctuary is being decorated, we will be in the Fellowship Hall setting up the “Tree of Warmth” and decorating it with gloves and hats to be donated to Head Start children. Any adult items will be donated to Head Start children’s parents. Come and join us!



ADVENT FESTIVAL

Save the date for Saturday, December 4th @10:00 a.m. It’s time to Deck the Halls. We’ll be hanging boughs and decorating trees. Bring your lunch and we can eat afterwards in Fellowship Hall. We’ll have some cider brewing to warm up our vocal chords for a few carols. Bring some gloves and pruning shears for wreath and garland making.



THANKS

I'm grateful for members who were able to show up, with little notice, for a successful push at raking the leaves for the church grounds. Those making the Herculean effort were Pastor Andy, Shawna Kennaly, Judy Labrie, Chuck Bauer, Don Helander, and Mary Sturgis. In addition to the lawn care, we also had Sand Creek Tree Service prune our stately birch tree in the front yard and the maple tree on the south side of the church grounds.

In gratitude,

Sue Helander

Building and Grounds



HUNGER IN AMERICA

Hunger in America is on the rise as wealth inequality widens the gap and more people slip into poverty. Our region is no exception and need is growing for assistance from our local food bank. Donation baskets are located by the Narthex entrance door of the sanctuary and in the lobby on one of the pews next to the church office. Financial donations can be placed in the offering plate or send in via mail. Be sure to list Food Bank in the memo of any written checks. Thanks for your generous support as First Presbyterian Church helps those in need of food via our partners at the Bonner Community Food Bank.



STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL, MEMORIAL

Offerings, pledges and gifts totaled **\$135,521.00** through Nov. 21 which represents **92%** of the budget. If our average giving of about \$12,000 per month holds through December, we will finish the year meeting the annual budget of \$146,895.00.

Expenditures through October totaled **\$125,766** which represents **86%** of the budget.

Please note that if you are considering a year end gift, it would be helpful to receive these by the final Sunday in December (the 26th) in order to be deposited prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Much appreciation to those already completing a stewardship pledge for 2022. At the time of this note, we have received \$78,000 in pledges for 2022 against a hoped for \$95,000. This is a big assist in developing the budget for the new year and we encourage additional friends and members to consider completing the pledge form below or sending an email note to the church office: office@fpcsandpoint.org

Thank you for your stewardship that supports our church to share Christ's love with the Sandpoint community and beyond.

Blessings,

Paula Vincent, Finance Elder

2022 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Thank you for your support of the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho.

To aid in budget development, it would be helpful to receive your completed form by December 5, 2022.

\$ _____ total annual gift to be paid. I wish to pay (please mark one):

\$ _____ per week month quarter year

I can support with my time and talents in these areas: (circle all that apply)

buildings and grounds, Christian education, earth care, fellowship, finance, membership, missions, music, peace garden, retreats, technology, worship, other (please indicate below).

_____.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANDPOINT &
WORLD RELIEF SPOKANE
KITS for AFGHAN REFUGEES

Soon, 300 to 350 refugees from Afghanistan are expected to settle in the Spokane area. World Relief Spokane will welcome them, find housing, connect them with jobs, day care, and other resources for their families. They will also help equip their homes with kitchen and household items, and their children with school supplies.

World Relief has listed on their website how volunteers can help, by giving Kitchen Kits--can openers, cookware, dishes. Household items—bed linens, pillows, towels, shampoo, etc., and school supplies.

First Presbyterian chose to help provide kitchen kits. Members and friends brought items to the church through the month of October. Some of our congregation bought cookware; some bought mixing bowls, plates and cups, and on and on. Some donated money. Others who wanted to help but were not from our congregation also brought things. On a Sunday in late October, the Membership and Mission Committee gathered to assemble the boxes. The next week, four (4) of us went shopping to spend the monetary donations and purchased two more complete kits. In all, we assembled seven (7) kits in large boxes.

Friday, November 12, we loaded the seven boxes into a covered pickup (thank you, Sturgis'!) and delivered them all to World Relief Spokane. We carried them into the basement of the building on N. Washington Street to add them to the many boxes already there.

This whole church project was such a rewarding experience, not only for the refugees, but also for members of our congregation and First Presbyterian friends, in our teamwork toward helping others.

Lynn Pietz

Membership, Outreach, and Mission Committee

After delivering mission boxes, the Pietz, and the Kennaly's had lunch at Feast World Kitchen. Each day features food prepared by immigrant chefs. Suzanne made Jordanian wraps for us. Also pictured is the manager, who welcomed us with hospitality.



KITCHEN KITS



Holiday Schedule

December 4, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. Decorating Sanctuary

December 5, 2021 - Congregational Meeting following worship

December 7, 2021 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Service on Zoom

December 10, 2021 - Bella Note' Recital in Sanctuary

December 14, 2021 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Service on Zoom

December 21, 2021 - 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Labyrinth Open House in Fellowship Hall

December 24, 2021 - 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December Birthdays

19 Brandon Casey

22 Geri Stockman

26 Lois Scott

30 Harry Menser

30 Phyllis Townsend

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Facebook Live

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

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

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

Choir Practice postponed

Second and Fourth Tuesday - 6:00 p.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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