



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
January/February 2022

From the Pastor...

2022 is here as of January 1. A New Year seems to have a quality to it, often symbolized by a baby, innocent and at the beginning of life. A clean slate, a fresh start; resolutions are made with good intent. As the year goes on, life's twists and turns and unpredictable nature mix those intents, yet sometimes the surprises have the most to teach. From this end of the year, here are some things we look forward to as possibilities during 2022:

In 2022 First Presbyterian Church may take a trip to Scotland, England, and Ireland in October. People could come for the entire trip, or for select periods. Part sight-seeing, part pilgrimage, the feasibility of this trip is in review. Do people want to go on a trip? What are they looking for in such a trip? Where will we go given the wide range of sites? How will the Covid-19 pandemic and possible variants affect the planning process? Don & Patti Deters, Bill Love, and Pastor Andy are coordinating a survey in this regard. Another focus this year involves a Session-appointed Task Force to lead exploration in a vision for ministry and make recommendations on how

to structure the staffing and leadership to achieve this. While the financial picture is fairly strong now, ongoing trends in active membership and worship attendance suggest a proactive approach for future planning. Related to this, the Pastor position moves from the 35 hours per week of 2021 to 30 hours per week in 2022.

On the winter solstice, December 21, 2021, the portable labyrinth was set up in Fellowship Hall for prayerful meditation. People came to walk the meandering path to the center and back. One does not get lost in a labyrinth, but there are times where the center feels distant, and other moments of nearness. There were strings of lights surrounding the edges, and lanterns in the middle. Each step was illumined with intention, invitation, and connection, held in God's Presence. As we journey out of one year and into another, 2022 will have its own meanders. May God lead us as we follow Jesus and seek to grow in wisdom and stature throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year!

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy Kennaly



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Nominating Committee continues to search for Active Members to serve in various positions of Ruling Elder and Deacons.

The Session of Ruling Elders has oversight over the ministry of the church and is the authoritative body for the congregation. The Session meets to make decisions on policies, approve various events and building use requests, and share the oversight of various areas of mission, worship, and stewardship. The Session serves as the Trustees and keeps the church budget.

Deacons serve in a ministry of care and compassion, both toward the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church and to the larger community. They prepare for the communion services, share in contact toward church members on their birthdays, and distribute mission monies to organizations in the community.

Having served for a few years, Jill Murphy and Carol Curtis are rotating off the Deacons. Carol served as Co-Moderator with Millie Rinker, and Jill served as Treasurer for the Deacons. Rotating off the Session are Mickey Quinn, Dave Pietz, and Kathleen Huntley. Kathleen's down-to-earth perspective helped the Session through the Membership & Mission Committee. Dave has a passion for mission and helped the congregation actively participate in various endeavors like the PRIDE festival last summer, along with Earth Care Committee. Mickey has led the Worship & Music Committee and created very organized spreadsheets of who volunteers to lead worship, usher, and observe special events. She has pioneered the use of the internet streaming camera and is training others on how the system functions. We have an online presence for worship thanks to Mickey.

Thank you to all who have served over the years in various capacities. One of the guiding principles for Presbyterian church membership, and Christianity in general, is "the people are the church; the people do the ministry." We are all ministers by virtue of our baptisms. May God bless the ongoing mission and ministry from this corner of Christ's reign.

Pastor Andy Kennaly

THE SESSION SUMMARY

JANUARY 2022

First of all, it will take a while to get used to writing 2022 as we enter the New Year. As usual, I anticipate some mental lapses before 2022 becomes embedded in my brain. Session did not meet in December as the big end-of-year items, including the 2022 Budget, had been addressed in our November meeting.

We held a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2021 with several important items on the agenda.

Paula Vincent, participating remotely from Iowa, presented the 2022 Budget previously approved by Session. She pointed out a potential shortfall of approximately \$6,000.

This assumption is based upon a prediction of giving levels remaining the same as 2021 but anticipated spending increases in energy costs, insurance, cost-of-living increases for church staff and economic inflation.

Paula Vincent, Ruling Elder for Stewardship and Finance and Cynthia Dalsing, Ruling Elder for Personnel presented the Pastor Terms of Call for 2022. In doing so, they pointed out that Pastor Andy's salary and benefits are based upon a 30 hour per week schedule. The updated Terms of Call passed unanimously.

The congregation approved the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for church leaders in 2022. Judy McComish will join the Elder – Class of 2024. Mary Bauer was nominated from the congregation to serve a two year term on the Deacons. Chuck Bauer was elected to a two-year term on the Memorial Committee. Several rotating positions, including an elder and deacon representative serving on the Memorial, Nominating and Personnel Committees, will be appointed in early 2022 when these groups meet.

Cynthia Dalsing, Moderator of the Personnel Committee, announced that a group of church members will be commissioned in 2022 to assess the trend of decreased membership and giving. Recommendations developed by this group and approved by the members will provide important direction to church's future ministry.

Peace and best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and Christ-centered 2022,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session

DECORATING CREW

Thank you, Mary and Dave Sturgis for allowing us to use your warm and cozy shop to make swags for the sanctuary, and sharing your bow making expertise! Additional thanks go out to Millie Rinker, Victoria Oliver, Lynn and Dave Pietz, Cynthia Dalsing, Marian Cox, Ken Callison, Pastor Andy, and Don and Sue Helander.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Beginning in 2020, because of Covid-19, PW meetings were cancelled until further notice. In July 2021 we took a survey and a decision was made to discontinue our PW meetings and events, and basically, disband. We donated our remaining funds of \$247.63 to the Food Bank.

We would like to thank everyone, including members and friends, who donated money, time, ideas, and efforts to PW, which made our events successful.

PW enjoyed many years of active participation in many activities. Some of our fundraising activities included: the Christmas cookie and decoration sales; Fair Share, which followed the Bonner County Fair dinner events; Birthday Offering and Least Coin Offering sent to the Presbytery; and the rummage sale, which was our major fund raiser.

We were able to donate our funds to many valuable mission projects, including: Teen Center, Bonner Partners in Care, Sandpoint Area Seniors, Food Bank, Helping Hands and Healing Hearts, Idaho Mythweavers, Heifer Project, 24 Hours for Hank, Head Start, and Transitions in Progress.

We also donated to the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest to benefit the Presbytery and the churchwide Presbyterian Church PW. These included the Thank Offerings, Birthday Offerings, Least Coin Offerings, and the Presbyterian Women Mission Pledge.

Our church received donations from the Presbyterian Women for the Church Entry Project, General Fund, church yard improvements, replacement of floors in church restrooms, Peace Garden, and Church Building Fund.

Activities included: Kitchen and chair upholstery clean up, Gifts of Women Service, hosted the PW of the Inland Northwest Fall Gathering, and sponsoring and making available the devotional "Upper Room"

The Christmas cookie sale helped with donations to the Betty Menser Scholarship Fund which was established by Harry Menser in memory of his wife, Betty. With other generous donations from many people, including Harry, thirteen \$500.00 scholarships were granted. Harry will continue to distribute scholarship funds himself. Please write a note directly to Harry when requesting scholarship information and applications.

Thank you, again, everyone, who made our PW successful throughout the years.

Respectfully, Susie Haskins, Moderator



January Birthdays

- 2 Shawna Kennaly
- 10 Mary Sturgis
- 11 Mickey Quinn
- 18 Robert Eastwood
- 19 Jane Fritz
- 21 Dave Sturgis
- 29 Dorothy Detlor

February Birthdays

- 1 Victoria Oliver
- 2 Sarah Casey
- 16 Gary Pietsch
- 25 Dyno Wahl
- 26 Dawn Linendoll

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

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