



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
March 2022

From the Pastor...

As March begins, so does Lent 2022. This year, Easter is almost as late as it can be. As we start the Season of Lent, Ash Wednesday we'll gather for worship at 6:30 p.m. and "remember we are (star)dust and to (star)dust we shall return." Amid life's changes we are drawn back to our Source, and claim Christ as center. After this there are several Taizé Tuesdays on Zoom at 5:30 p.m. to feature prayer, silence, scripture, and devotion. Here is a link for this:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170606030?pwd=VWJOK3JsdnFncUNJRltxTEFVVVlpzQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 7060 6030
 Passcode: 262233

The Session wants to make sure that people know this year's Per Capita assessment to support the work of other governing bodies of the Church is \$37. Presbytery assesses this amount based on the Active Membership of congregations reported two years prior. If you would like to cover your assessment above your regular giving, please mention Per Capita with your donation.

One of the ways we've kept the income and expenses balanced as a congregation for the last two years is by reducing the Pastor's hours. This position is currently 30 hours per week. To further explore the vision and ministry of the church and how to structure staffing for this, Session appointed a Task

Force to review this topic and come back with recommendations. Timely that this study takes place in Lent, an intentional period of self-reflection and inner, spiritual growth.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter joy, blessings on the Lenten journey.

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy Kennaly



PASTOR COLUMN

The Bonner County Daily Bee newspaper features a Pastor's Corner article every Friday on the Faith Page. The articles contributed come from various pastors from the Sandpoint area who volunteer to write. The sign-up list is coordinated via email. Pastor Andy has signed up for the fourth Friday of the month in 2022 so keep your eyes open for those articles. March 25, 2022.

TRAVEL IN OCTOBER

A planning team is currently assessing the interest in a fall trip that would involve 11 days in Ireland, 11 days in Scotland, and a few days in England, likely in October 2022. Part sight-seeing, part pilgrimage, this trip will visit places of cultural and historic note along with some distilleries. The Spirit and the spirits. Please contact Pastor Andy in the church office if you're interested in this trip.



THE SESSION SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2022

What's on the Agenda?

Session met on February 15 with one of the first agenda items calling for the election officers of a Board of Trustees. While mostly a formality, this action fulfills two important obligations – one for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the other for the State of Idaho.

The Book of Order governs churches within our denomination and includes organizational policies, worship protocols and, when needed, rules of discipline. One glance at this comprehensive document confirms why Presbyterians conduct our affairs in an orderly manner.

Both the Book of Order and our church by-laws specify the need for a Board of Trustees. For us, the members of Session comprise this board which annually elects a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary.

Furthermore, the State of Idaho recognizes FPC Sandpoint as non-profit corporation and thus requires designated officers/trustees.

In all my years on Session, I recall only a few occasions in which we needed to formally act as a Board of Trustees. These have involved real estate, bank financing and legal matters. Should the need arise in 2022, Don Deters will serve as chairperson; Paula Vincent, vice-chairperson and Bill Love, secretary.

Whew! It took me longer to write this explanation than it took Session to decide our Board of Trustees. But rest assured, we did it in an orderly manner.

Every Session agenda for the last two years has included a discussion on COVID protocols to ensure the health and safety of all who enter our facilities. During the bleakest days of the world-wide pandemic, we completely shut down all activities except for two or three people conducting a virtual Sunday worship service. As local and global infection rates ebbed and flowed, we gradually reopened, sometimes taking two steps forward and one step backward. But as the pandemic continues with its different viral strains, our church remains cautious by continuing to restrict certain activities. The most important of which pertains to Sunday worship services.

Session conducted an informal discussion regarding opportunities to return to a “normal” Sunday worship service. Items suggested included the following:

- Reinstating the Noisy Offering on a monthly basis,
- Inviting worshippers to sign the friendship pads*,
- Post the bulletin on line to make it available to virtual worshippers*,
- Standing while singing*,
- Return of the choir,
- Include Prayers of the People on the Facebook Live virtual service.

These suggestions will be considered by Pastor Andy and the Worship and Music Team. (Note: the items above identified with the asterisk symbol (*) were implemented in the February 20 Sunday worship service.)

Peace as we prepare for the Lenten season,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session and **Secretary, Board of Trustees**
First Presbyterian Church, Sandpoint, Idaho

LENT BEGINS: DO YOU “GIVE UP SOMETHING FOR LENT”?

If it is your tradition to give up something for Lent, the Earth Care Team has a suggestion:

DON'T GIVE UP CHOCOLATE, OR YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT; GIVE UP SINGLE-USE PLASTIC!

Is it possible? You probably know that plastics are polluting landfills, waterways, & oceans, even endangering fish & other creatures, possibly for centuries. You may think, as I did, that things like zip-lock bags seem too convenient to give up. I had a kitchen drawer filled with “Handiwrap” & Zip-lock bags of several sizes.

Some of the bags can be used, washed, & reused many times. Eventually, as they wore out, I didn't buy replacements. I learned that replacements CAN BE FOUND! Products made of silicone, bees' wax wrap, & other materials that are more versatile, & last for years, have gradually replaced those single-use plastics. During Lent, we will display samples of such products at each entry, to encourage you to be friendly to Earth.

Are you more inclined to do something positive during Lent, instead of giving up something?

RECYCLE ITEMS THAT ALSO ARE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES!

For several years, Anna Bates has coordinated efforts that she has called: *Making a Difference Without Spending Money*™. (When Anna leaves, these projects will be coordinated by Judy McComish, our new Elder for Missions.) The projects include:

1. North Idaho Computer Users Group in Coeur d' Alene. They accept & refurbish used computers, screens, keyboards, mice, etc. They donate or sell them at reasonable prices to those who can't afford new computer equipment. Bring them to the church office or call Anna.
2. Hope Line from Verizon: They take used cell phones, chargers, & accessories, & donate them to domestic violence shelters. Delete personal information, & bring them to the church office.
3. Used Bibles or portions of Bibles, in any condition, are distributed world wide by a network that includes the Bible Foundation in Newburg, Oregon. Donations from travelers from as far away as California, Wyoming, & Montana have brought their Bible donations to our church, because we have the only such service in the region. Leave them on the pew in the downstairs foyer.
4. Eye Care international: Volunteers travel to El Salvador annually, to provide eye care & glasses for the underserved, matching prescriptions as closely as possible. Bring glasses, sunglasses, & cases to the church office. Jean Babcock has been arranging our participation in this project.
5. Bonner Community Foodbank: Over the years we have contributed thousands of egg cartons, produce bags, & grocery bags, saving the Food Bank money for these items. There is a blue cloth container on the pew in the downstairs foyer. The Deacons deliver these items when they deliver donated food items.
6. Ronald McDonald House Charities.: We donate metallic pull tabs from aluminum cans, which they recycle for money to help run the Ronald McDonald Houses. Sylvia Humes sends these items out; you may put them in a labelled bottle on the piano in Fellowship Hall.

These projects help us clear out things we no longer need, and provide them to many people who do need them. With a little effort, you can recycle, AND accomplish Mission, all without spending money! We can put a little extra personal meaning into Lent this year!

Contributed by Marilyn Robertson & Anna Bates, for the Earth Care Team



MINUTES OF DEACONS' MEETING

February 13, 2022

Attendance: Millie Rinker, Victoria Oliver, Mary Bauer, Dyno Wahl, Lynn Pietz

Meeting began with a prayer.

Minutes January 18 meeting : accepted

Treasurer's Report:

Discretionary Fund:	570.20
Escrip:	689.55
Food Bank:	300.00
Missions:	155.00
Noisy Offering:	0.00
Pastor's Outreach Fund	165.98
Scholarship:	1150.00
Total:	3030.73

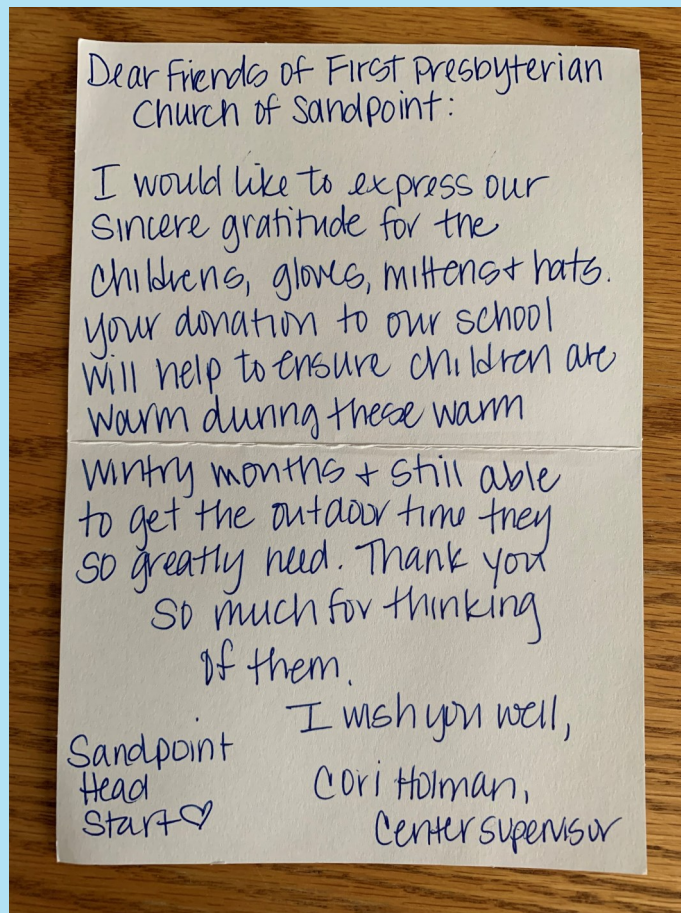
Committees gave updates and the meeting ended with a prayer. The next meeting is Sunday, March 13, 2022 following worship.

GOOD DEED BOARD

In a recent Deacons' meeting, we learned about some situations in which members of our congregation could use a helping hand. It might be for errands to be run, or help with transportation to appointments, or someone just to be there and connect. We would like to help. Let us know what your needs might be, and we will seek someone from our congregation to help out with those needs.

Speak to, email, or call a Deacon and let us know what your needs are. We will do what we can to fill that need.

The Deacons: Millie Rinker, Carol Curtis, Victoria Oliver, Lynn Pietz, Dyno Wahl, and Mary Bauer.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Lenten worship is coming soon. Please join us for Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. This service helps us begin the contemplative process for the next six weeks of Lent. Our Lenten Devotional series begins on March 8th and continues each Tuesday through April 5th at 5:30-6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Call the church office to receive a link.

Sue Helander, Worship and Music Elder

STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL, MEMERIAL

Greetings,

The fiscal year is off to a great start financially at FPC. Information available through February 20th indicates that FPC monthly revenue and expenses are in line with the target budget of \$13, 067 per month.

FPC Finance Summary	January	Through Feb.20th
Revenue	\$14,574	\$13,232
Expense	\$12,268	

PER CAPITA

March is the time of year FPC also responds to the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest Per Capita Apportionment. (See the notice below.)

NOTICE from the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest:

The 2022 per capita apportionment of First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint for ecclesiastical expenses for the next fiscal year is based upon the membership of your church as reported to the last General Assembly December 31, 2020.

Per Capita Apportionment:

General Assembly: \$ 8.98

Synod: .25

Presbytery : 27.77

\$37.00 (an increase of \$1)

Membership of 75 X \$37.00 =TOTAL TO PAY \$ 2,775.00

We encourage all friends and members of FPC to consider an additional gift to the church this month in the amount of \$ 37.00 per person. The 2022 Per Capita Assessment is assessed on the active membership count from 2020. With our current membership less than it was in 2020, we also welcome additional contributions on behalf of these former members. Gifts may be sent by mail, dropped in the secure box outside the church, or added to the Sunday offering plate with *Per Capita* noted on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the mission of FPC Sandpoint.

Paula Vincent, Stewardship and Finance



Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Lent Devotional Tuesday starting March 8 thru April 5, 2022 from 5:30 p.m to 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday April 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Vision and Ministry Task Force Meeting March 22, March 29, and April 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Time Change on March 13, 2022 Spring Forward.



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

March Birthdays

1 Kathleen Huntley

13 Chuck Humes

23 Dee Dreisbach

25 Dick Sandall

19 Jane Fritz

28 Cathy Eastwood

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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