



**THE GRAPEVINE**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO**  
**JUNE 2022**

From the Pastor...

Please look for the other article on Gun Violence and the PC(USA) that follows in this newsletter. For this page and my Pastor note, I usually focus on something helpful, or related to the calendar or season, or give other insights. Last month I shared some poetry. This month is June. Next newsletter is a combined July/August issue. We switch to the 9:30 summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 5. That means I need to update the answering machine if someone calls the church, and the church website listing, and the Facebook page, and the church sign for those driving by on the street. The newspaper ads need updated too. Small changes have ripple effects. It seems like life didn't used to be that complicated. One sign said it all, maybe a newspaper ad listing. That's back when the church was more prominent in the culture and electronics were not as advanced. But then came the answering machine, and then the computer. Now there is online presence. Culture has more specialties and there's no way one person's perspective can hold the breadth of reality. But we're excellent at thinking it does as we totalize through our own point of view. Personal electronic devices reaffirm this assumption, even as they cause our brain to suppress the areas that promote empathy.

One of the gifts of art involves stepping outside the system and observing what we do from a new perspective, one that challenges our assumptions and opens us to new possibilities. One form of art that I

enjoy is writing. When you start writing, there is a creative flow, a participation with a source that leads to an unpredictable outcome. Even in this article, when I started with the words, "Please look for..." I didn't know I would be quoting it just now. But here it is again. Moment by moment we are co-creators with the Divine as reality unfolds in our experience.

In late June I am co-leading a writer's retreat at St. Gertrude's Monastery. This week of Study Leave allows me to share with other writers the gift of awareness, to pay attention to our surroundings in ways that welcome Christ. It also allows me to learn from other presenters and the participants who share what comes through a week of Spirit Writing.

In July I have a couple weeks of vacation. Will it be smokey? Will it be hot, or rainy? We don't know, do we? It's amazing that when we're born, we are not issued seat belts and crash helmets. Life is so unpredictable and it's easy to get caught up in the anxiety and fear of uncertainty, especially as we behave like good consumers in a department store and compartmentalize religion into certain areas of our life while keeping God at a safe distance in other parts. We are selective in what we'll try on, let alone buy.

In August the Bike n' Build group will ride through Sandpoint and stay at the church a couple of nights. They will assist local non-profit organizations with projects on their full day, and likely visit City Beach and other benefits of a resort town. These are younger people who have raised funds for affordable

housing, and are putting their efforts and strength toward positive change. The housing crisis, like so many issues, seems overwhelming. May we be inspired by their courage to ride over one hill at a time as they log in mile after mile.

Peace and All Good,  
Pastor Andy Kennaly



### PC(USA) ON GUN VIOLENCE

After the shooting at the grocery store in Buffalo, NY, and the shooting at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, CA, and the school shooting in Uvalde, TX, among the more than 200 mass shooting in the USA so far in 2022, I did a quick internet search on the history of the Presbyterian Church (USA) on the topic of gun violence. In addition, <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting> is a source that tracks mass shooting events and records how many were killed and wounded, lists names of victims, and type of weapon(s) used.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long history of support for gun control legislation. Beginning in the late 1960s, in response to the assassinations of public leaders, the General Assembly called for "... control [of] the sale and possession of fire arms of all kinds."<sup>(1)</sup> In 1976 this statement was reaffirmed, but also specifically worded to "... not cover shotguns and rifles used legitimately by sportsmen ..."<sup>(2)</sup> In 1988 these and other statements supporting gun control were again reaffirmed.

A fuller statement was approved in 1990. In it the General Assembly went on record as: Support[ing] gun control at federal, state, and local levels as the most effective response to the present crisis of gun violence ... Call[ing] upon the United States government to establish meaningful and effective federal legislation to regulate the importation, manufacture, sale, and possession of guns and ammunition by the general public. Such legislation should include provisions for the registration and licensing of gun purchasers and owners, appropriate background investigations and waiting periods prior to gun purchase, and regulation of subsequent sale. Urg[ing] the enactment of similar state and local laws, should such federal legislation be delayed. Call[ing] upon government agencies at all levels to provide significant assistance to victims of gun violence and their families.<sup>(3)</sup>

In 1998, the General Assembly added to its policy by calling on all Presbyterians to: intentionally work toward removing handguns and assault weapons from our homes and our communities; and seek ways to develop community strategies and create sanctuaries of safety for our children, so that all of our children may come to identify and value themselves and others as the precious children of the family of God that they are, and that they may come to learn peace for their lives and peace for this generation.<sup>(4)</sup> (Note: this was passed as a non-binding resolution).

In 2000, the General Assembly reaffirmed the church's commitment to gun control and called for strengthening gun ownership legislation.<sup>(5)</sup>

In 2008, the General Assembly approved pastoral recommendations urging that: all persons buying guns at gun shows undergo a background check to close the gun show loophole in 35 states; ban the sale and possession of large ammunition magazines and assault weapons that have no redeemable social purpose, and cannot legitimately be termed "sporting guns"; support the introduction of new technologies, such as micro-stamping in which identifying information from a gun is transferred onto bullet cartridges, which allow law enforcement to more easily trace guns and solve crimes; and stop illegal arms sales by the United States and others.<sup>(6)</sup>

The 219th General Assembly (2010) adopted the resolution, "[Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call](#)," in exercise of its responsibility to help the whole church address matters of "social righteousness." As a social witness policy statement, it is presented for the guidance and edification of both church and society, and determines procedures and program for the ministries and staff of the General Assembly. It is recommended for consideration and study by sessions, presbyteries, and synods, and commended to the free Christian conscience of all congregations and members for prayerful study, dialogue, and action.<sup>(7)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> **Minutes of the 116th General Assembly (1976), Presbyterian Church in the United States, p. 103.**

<sup>(2)</sup> **Minutes of the 128th General Assembly (1988), Presbyterian Church in the United States, p. 209.**

<sup>(3)</sup> **Minutes of the 202nd General Assembly (1990), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pp. 605-606.**

<sup>(4)</sup> **Commissioners' Resolution 98-19, 210th General Assembly (1998), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

<sup>(5)</sup> **Minutes of the 212th General Assembly (2000), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pp. 482-483.**

<sup>(6)</sup> **Minutes of the 218th General Assembly (2008), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pp. 54-55 and 859-860.**

<sup>(7)</sup> **Minutes of the 220th General Assembly (2010), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pp. 830-846.**

In addition to the above, there are articles that interview Presbyterians, showing a wide spectrum of opinion on this topic. Many do not see guns as a moral issue. Some want guns for personal protection because the end times are near and life as we know it will break down. Others see it as a moral issue and call on the church to take a prophetic stand against society's acceptance of gun ownership. Certainly, for the victims of such violence, we keep the families and everyone affected in our thoughts and prayers. Is there more?

Here is the latest from the e-news of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, including the remarks of Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, the Executive Presbyter:

A Note from Sheryl:

Gun violence. Again and again and again. I am so tired of the "thoughts and prayers" of our leaders.

A few years ago I met with my congressional representative after gun violence hit my family. I called her again this morning and asked her to ACT!

Yesterday, I heard about the shooting while I was at a session meeting of one of our small churches that is dying. I heard an 88 year old women through tears say that she can't lead the music anymore—her voice gives out, her fingers are arthritic...but she said she prays. She prays every day for her church and for God to open up “a partnership with another ministry.”

I'm struggling with my prayers today and my whole theology of prayer honestly.

But I think there is still a place for the saints to pray. Many of us are called to other actions as well.

### **Weapons at Church: The Unthinkable in God's House**

We like to think of our churches as places of safety and refuge. Unfortunately, others view churches as targets. White supremacist Dylan Roof murdered nine people at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina in 2015. Recently a Las Vegas man with a grudge against Taiwan entered the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California, and shot members and friends of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church who were gathered at a celebratory luncheon.

It is unfortunate that church leaders must think about how to prevent such violence or how to respond to it if it happens. But sessions should discuss church safety. There are many resources available for churches, including the following:

[Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship \(FEMA\)](#)

[Safety for Faith Based Events at Houses of Worship \(Department of Homeland Security\)](#)

[Active Shooter Resources \(FBI\)](#)

[Five Options for Survival \(Brotherhood Mutual\)](#)

[Active Shooter \(The Insurance Board\)](#)

[Developing an emergency plan for violence on church property \(Creating Safe Ministries, PCUSA\)](#)

## THE SESSION SUMMARY

“A pause in the busyness of business”

Session agendas for the past several months have been filled with the “busyness of business.” Closing out one budget year and beginning another, bringing back liturgical elements to Sunday worship, re-opening our facilities for non-church activities and the on-going task of maintaining a century-old building filled lengthy agendas. Whew! That run-on sentence hints of long discussions and frequent votes. And, that’s a good thing as we slowly return to a new normal following two years of pandemic restrictions.

The agenda for our May 17 Session meeting appeared pretty skimpy with only a few items requiring a vote. While keeping notes, I noticed that we had covered about two-thirds of the agenda in only twenty minutes. Yet the meeting lasted over two hours. What occupied our time? I’ll explain.

The 60 year-old heating unit in Fellowship Hall has been limping along with an ever increasing clatter. Recently, however, the clatter stopped and so did the heater. Repair is out of the question and replacement the only option. Don Deters, Building and Grounds Elder, has diligently investigated options that will provide heating and cooling with modern energy efficiency. But it comes at a cost of about \$10,000.

At the same time, a recent energy audit with Avista will likely point out some opportunities to reduce our electrical and natural gas consumption. Perhaps the original windows in the six decade-old “new” wing should be replaced? What is the efficiency of the floor heating in the pastor’s study and retreat rooms?

Our to-do list also includes installing heat tape in the new gutters and improving the sound system in the sanctuary. It’s time to finish off the Peace Garden with a labyrinth.

Paula Vincent, Finance Elder, questioned if bundling several of these items into a capital fund-raising campaign might be more effective than addressing them one at a time?

As you can guess, brief discussions and quick votes will not solve these issues. They require thoughtful (and prayerful) deliberation. For that reason, the short agenda allowed us to “get down into the weeds” on these important matters.

It’s always something, isn’t it? But in the busyness of business, may we pause and thank God for the gift of this sacred sanctuary as we gather for **loving, living, learning the joy of faith.**

Peace,  
Bill Love, Clerk of Session





## ILLUDMINATING OUR JOURNEY RETREAT

Faith is not the clinging to a shrine  
but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.

[Abraham Joshua Heschel](#)

We were delighted to host an in-person retreat on May 7, 2022, also World Labyrinth Day. This was the first in-person retreat since covid changed our gathering in so many ways. Beckoned to the promise of spring renewal and a desire for a deeper walk with God, we explored faith journey by walking labyrinths and creating personal collages.

Each year World Labyrinth Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in May. This year there were two options for walking: the 22' canvas labyrinth for indoors with a bonus 44' pattern mowed, by Pastor Andy, into the lawn in the Community Peace Garden. There were 25 participants so it was wonderful to have both of them. The labyrinth in the lawn has been used by the community since our pastor designed and made it. Particularly children running in the circuit has been sweet to see.

The collage-making was spirited and spirit-filled with images glued to painted canvases. The artistic expression was inspired by poems, prayers and meditation. Participants exclaimed their appreciation in the experience.

Retreat facilitators were Sharon Anderson, FPC Elder, certified Spiritual Director and experienced contemplative retreat presenter and Sandee Meade is a poet and certified Spiritual Director from Scotia House Retreat Center outside Newport, Wa. Sandee has facilitated spiritual retreats at Scotia House for many years. Both enjoy using contemplation, art and creativity to explore spiritual insights and transformation.

A part of every donation will be used toward building a permanent community walking labyrinth in the church yard Community Peace Garden.

The retreat committee is grateful for the help setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterwards. Heartfelt thanks to Sue Helander, Sally Moon and the participants for making the spaces lovely and tidy. Special thanks to Sandee and Sharon for facilitating the lovely, safe time together.

Blessings on the journey,  
Judy Labrie and the Retreat Committee





### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Wear Red to celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 5th, @9:30 AM

Summer schedule resumes to the 9:30 start time.

The choir will be singing the 3rd Sunday of the month. The dates are 6/19, 7/17 and 8/21. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, we always have an extra chair! Coffee hour will continue to take place the last Sunday of the Month. Communion takes place the first Sunday of the month, unless Pastor Andy is away. Our outdoor City Beach Service will be on July 24th with a potluck picnic to follow service. Bring your shades, lightweight chairs, and a dish to share. Beverages provided. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Make a Joyful Noise,

Sue Helander



## **MEMBERSHIP, OUTREACH AND MISSION**

Part mission, part fellowship, part humanitarian aid, the Ukrainian Benefit Dinner will be all that and more. The family-style dinner will feature delicious Ukrainian dishes. The proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Ukrainians resettling because of the war.

Friday, June 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church at 417 North Fourth Ave, Sandpoint  
\$20 per plate or \$50 per family of four

Silent Auction: desserts, beautifully decorated Ukrainian eggs, art

**If you have something to donate for the silent auction...** dessert, art or ?? please contact Judy Labrie, Cynthia Dalsing or Sue Helander. And if you would like to help with this event by serving tables, kitchen duties, set-up, clean-up please let one of the team know. Your support will be appreciated!

**Tickets are available for purchase at Vanderford Books and Evans Bros Coffee in Sandpoint.**

Due to the table space, sales are limited to 50 tickets to be purchased in advance of the dinner.

For additional information, please email [registration@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:registration@fpcsandpoint.org)

This fundraiser is co-sponsored by the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force and the First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint.





# STAND WITH UKRAINE BENEFIT DINNER

*Family style dinner featuring delicious Ukrainian dishes*

Friday, June 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint  
417 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Sandpoint

\$20 per plate • \$50 per family of four

*Tickets must be purchased in advance—by check or cash—at Evans Brothers or Vanderfords Books.  
Due to the size of the venue, sales are limited to 50 tickets. For additional info, please email [registration@fpsandpoint.org](mailto:registration@fpsandpoint.org).*



*Co-sponsored by the  
First Presbyterian  
Church of Sandpoint  
and the Bonner County  
Human Rights Task Force*

### A NOTE FROM NEVADA

First of all, thank you all again for a great sendoff. The May 1<sup>st</sup> service was especially memorable with the Sandpoint Conservatory of Sandpoint bell choir and their “special” song at the end. I can still hear the joyful ringing of the bells at the end of the service. The group photo you gave me is in a place where I see it every day and remember the wonderful people at First Presbyterian Church.

The trip down to Nevada went well. We ran into cold, rain, and just missed snow in Washington and Oregon. Because a snowstorm was forecast for the last pass before entering Nevada, we drove for 12 hours instead of eight in order to beat it. As it turns out, we did get into a little snow at the top. Everyone else had the same idea, so there was a lot of night traffic, especially semi-trucks. My car’s windshield got hit by a rock from a semi and had to be replaced in Reno. The rental truck’s windshield got hit with three rocks; but because I had purchased Penske’s insurance, I didn’t have to pay anything toward its replacement. It seems I can’t get away from cold and snow. The daytime temperatures were in the 30’s when we arrived, and it snowed on Mother’s Day (I think I’m cursed). Today, however, is supposed to get to 90. The best part of Reno is sun every day!

The metro area population of 523,000 is about four times what it was when Loren and I left in 1984. There are freeways, four- and six-lane roads, shopping centers, and houses (lots of houses) everywhere. Most streets of any size are 35 to 50 mph, which doesn’t leave a lot of time to look for addresses and street names; however, I’m getting pretty good at finding my way around. Gas is creeping up to \$5.70 a gallon, so I’m trying to do a lot of things each time I go out. This can take a lot of time considering that it takes a half-hour to get to the south end of town.

My apartment complex has 29 buildings of various sizes containing a little over 200 units. My apartment is on the perimeter of the complex and has lots of big windows and light. I can look across a small ravine to a hill, where people walk and ride bikes and small critters scamper around.

My sister Elaine and I are attending Covenant Presbyterian Church that’s just a mile from the apartment. They have a 9:00 am traditional service with choir and an 11:00 am contemporary service. There have been about 60 people at the two traditional services we’ve been to. I’m told the congregation is about 300, but that there are a number of stay-at-home folks. They don’t offer adult Sunday School, but offer four during-the-week Bible studies. The church supports foreign missionaries, a local pregnancy crisis center, and is looking into how to support refugees coming into the area. So far, we’re liking this church.

I wish each of you peace and many blessings. And I thank each of you for your friendship over the years.

Love in Christ,  
Anna Bates



Ukrainian Dinner June 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Deacons Meeting June 12, 2022 after Worship Services

Session Meeting June 28, 2022 6:30 p.m.

# JUNE



## June Birthdays

**9 Jean Babcock**

**9 Cynthia Dalsing**

**11 Dana Stockman**

**14 Sue Helander**

**19 Bart Casey**

**22 Jackie Windju**

**25 Millie Rinker**

**26 Margaret Ann Maricle**

**29 Sharon Anderson**



## Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. In-Person and Facebook Live starting June 5, 2022*

*Monday - Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. on Zoom*

*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 on Zoom*

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

*7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous*



**First Presbyterian Church**

*Ministers: Members and Friends*

*Pastor Andy Kennaly*

*417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864*

*208-263-2047 [office@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:office@fpcsandpoint.org)*

*[pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org)*

*Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488*

*[www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org)*