



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 May 2022

From the Pastor...

On Sunday, April 26 the congregation held the 11th Annual Pastor's Appreciation Potluck and the food and fellowship were great. Since it was so close to April 30th, which is my birthday, they also sang the birthday song (also to Dave Pietz who shares the same day). Thank you to everyone for a special day of appreciation and care. Later that week, Shawna and I headed to Boise to see our middle son, Grant, and his girlfriend, Maude, and this was over my actual birthday so we went out for supper. So nice to be together this way.

I turned 53 so I must be either at, near, or past middle age. I'm in the zone! I wrote some poems that play on the word, **MIDLIFE** recently and have included them in this newsletter. On the bell curve of life, we have the option of continuing with spiritual growth, or not. Our spiritual growth can increase, plateau, and decline, like our physical bodies. Or our faith and soul can deepen in wisdom and understanding and the gifts of grace. This continued growth in depth is not easy and spiritual disciplines are intentional ways of maintaining a practice, much like a workout regimen for staying physically fit helps maintain health and wellness, but involves sweat, heavy breathing, and heart-pounding effort.

Loving, living, and learning the joy of faith is a brief summary of our mission statement as Presbyterians. Loving God, others, and

ourselves honors the Christ-mystery present in all things. Living faith means we not only pray, meditate, and learn to quiet ourselves, but from this calm base we discern ways to put faith into action. This active life of faith engages us with the world's need, calls forth justice, and helps us work for peace. Learning is a way of staying humble, to recognize there is always more to Mystery than can be figured out. Learning keeps us open to possibility, helps us hear others, and challenges perspectives that may need revisited.

Maybe birthdays have a way of helping us reflect on what's important in life. I hope you are loving, living, learning the joy of faith in your life in ways that expand love's Presence and deepens Christ's gift of peace. Thanks again for the good birthday and pastor anniversary wishes, and as this 53 year old begins his 12th year of service in Sandpoint, may God be with us.

*Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.*

Psalm 32:11

Peace and All Good,
Pastor Andy Kennaly



MIDLIFE

I.

Midlife

In my mind

Determines a point,

Learning that there are more

Inherent possibilities than can

Feasibly become actual

Experiences before death

II.

Midlife

Involves

Discerning

Luminous

Illuminations

From

Eternity

III.

Midlife

Includes

Discovering

Love

Is

Full

Existence

IV.

Midlife is an exact time halfway between

Infant cradle and death bed and spans

Diffused and illusive

Lessons linking life's learning with questions

Intently opened

Forming wisdom through important years of humiliating

Emancipation

THE SESSION SUMMARY

What's on the Agenda?

For the first time in two years, Session met and the agenda lacked a discussion on COVID-19 protocols for Sunday worship services and church activities. We still remain cautious in slowly resuming a schedule more reflective of pre-pandemic times. However, we look forward to welcoming more activities, including the following:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 27 | A concert of the local Suzuki String Academy, |
| May 7 | World Labyrinth Day Community Workshop, |
| May 15 | Blue Jeans Sunday – a clean the church yard event following worship, |
| June 17 | Ukraine Benefit Dinner co-hosted with the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force. |

Regarding the Suzuki String Academy, some of you will remember the Fiddler's Hatchery in the 1980s. Carolyn Hatch directed a Suzuki violin program that taught young students old-time fiddle tunes rather than a classical repertoire. A number of youth from our church participated and we frequently enjoyed listening to their rapidly advancing musical skills during church services and other activities.

We certainly welcome "the sound of music" in our facilities.

On that note, we paused on April 2, to remember Lois Scott for her remarkable century-old life and her dedication to our church. Her memorial service included hand bell music performed by her granddaughter, Amy Scott, and Mickey Quinn. After all, Lois's passion for music introduced us to the hand bells that have enriched our worship for the past five decades. It was a pleasure to welcome the Music Conservatory of Sandpoint Hand Bell Choir playing our bells during Sunday worship on May 1.

The choir singing once again on Easter Sunday worship service added a musical blessing to this glorious resurrection service.

As we "... make a joyful noise unto the Lord," think of these words attributed to Martin Luther, "First God, then music."

Peace and blessings as we emerge from this world-wide health crisis,
Bill Love, Clerk of Session

MISSIONS at FPC

UPDATE ON ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

Our congregation collected \$1,753 for the OGHS offering. Of that total, \$625 was designated for direct Ukraine Relief by our church members and the remaining \$1,128 was designated for OGHS overall, which supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Currently, much of the funds for Disaster Assistance goes to Ukraine Relief.

Judy McComish
Elder, Missions



STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL, MEMORIAL

Greetings,

In reviewing our first quarter financial information, you will note that revenue and expenses are meeting budget expectations. Preliminary information from April indicates we may finish the month with about \$1,000 less revenue this month than budgeted, but overall the first four months are keeping us on track with the budget.

Included in our reported revenue are additional gifts of \$1759 dollars to offset the \$2775 per capita expense that is paid for the support of the Presbytery. We encourage each member to help offset this expense through a contribution of \$37.00 per person (add per capita designation on your check or offering envelope) .

Your generosity continues to be expressed in so many ways, including the recent One Great Hour of Sharing offering that collected over \$1700 to support the OGHS missions.

FPC Financial Snapshot, April 2022

	Quarter 1	April
Revenue	40,519	\$11, 932
Expense	\$40,592	
Budget	39,200	\$13,067

If you have any questions regarding the monthly budget, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,

Paula Vincent, Elder



EARTH CARE

During Lent, the Earth Care Team encouraged our members & friends to give up one or more forms of plastic. We displayed some sample products that are earth-friendly alternatives to plastic, such as "Mighty Fix" items. These posters, created by Lynn Pietz, dramatized the need for this effort. Please continue to learn and act on these important ways to care for God's creation!

Photos by Lexie de Fremery

from the Earth Care Team



EASTER LILIES

Seven Easter lilies purchased by members of the church decorated the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. In Resurrection, joy to honor Christ, these were given by:

June Babcock in memory of Chuck Scott;

Charles and Mary Bauer in memory of their parents

Don and Sue Helander in memory of their parents Bob and Rose Helander and Paul and Mary Hutsell

Other lilies were purchased by:

Victoria Oliver

Carol Curtis

Dyno Wahl

Shirley Parker

Thank you for your contribution to the beauty of Easter Sunday.



VISION & MINISTRY TASK FORCE

Did you know Pastor Andy is our part-time pastor? The hours were trimmed to a 30-hour week at the beginning of the year. As a result of the world-wide and local trend of declining church membership and attendance, hundreds of churches are employing part-time staff.

As a result of that, the ruling elders on Session appointed the Vision & Ministry Task Force. Members are Pastor Andy, Bill Love, Cynthia Dalsing, Judy McComish, Paula Vincent, Dyno Wahl, and Judy Labrie. There have been four hour-long meetings to date with the goal of presenting recommendations to Session for the May meeting.

The context and purpose for the Task Force has been to lead an exploration into an updated vision of ministry and mission of this congregation and recommend how to structure staffing and leadership to implement this vision. A small church has different dynamics than a large congregation. While the financial picture is stable at the moment, ongoing trends in active membership and worship attendance suggest a dynamic, proactive approach.

The Task Force has been reviewing the book, *Part Time is Plenty, Thriving without Full-Time Clergy*, by G. Jeffrey MacDonald which has been very helpful in recognizing that churches with part-time pastors prosper and flourish, particularly when church leaders are curious, flexible and willing to try new ways of being church.

More will be revealed as the Task Force continues to meet, ponder and explore. Please keep this group, the church leadership, and our congregation's vision in your thoughts and prayers for the best, most wonderful outcome for all.

Judy Labrie

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Spring Greetings

Thank you everyone for attending and contributing to our last two fellowship events, Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Meal followed by worship, and our after church potluck, honoring Pastor Andy's 11th Anniversary of serving First Presbyterian Church on April 24th. Great food and good company was had by all! We also got to spend some quality time with Anna Bates, who will be departing for Nevada on Monday, May 2nd. Members of the choir will be singing on May 22, and have committed to singing once a month during the summer, providing enough of our members will be available. Remember we are having a monthly Coffee hour on the last Sunday of every month. Deacons will be inviting the congregation to help with providing cookies, and or help with setting up and cleaning up.

Anna Bates will be doing Pulpit supply this week, May 1st, and we will be having special music with the Music Conservatory Bell Ringers. Don't miss this opportunity to hear our bells. Memorial Day is coming, and that means that our worship service will begin at 9:30, as of June 5th.

I'll be sending out requests again to help with gathering volunteers for June's services. I will attach an updated spreadsheet that shows who has signed up for duties each Sunday in May. Don and I are traveling to Colorado on a road trip, departing Sandpoint on May 23rd. I'm hoping that I can get the spots for June filled before we leave.

Making a joyful noise,

Sue Helander

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Membership Outreach and Mission team has been planning some springtime events. We do hope you can enjoy them with us. If you would like to know more about helping with reaching out to the community for ministry and mission, please contact one of the Judys: Judy Labrie (Membership Outreach Team) or Judy McComish (Mission Ministry).

Spring 2022 - Activities and Events

April 22 - Friday Celebrated Earth Day - Highway Clean-up

Volunteers gathered at the Westmond Store to pick up litter along Highway 95 for the mile long Adopt a Highway project. Last fall efforts were called off due to rain so there was much to pick up. Chuck and Sylvia Humes have been steadfastly organizing this important event. Thanks much for all who came out to help the community in this way.

May 7 - Saturday Celebrate World Labyrinth Day - Illuminating Journey Retreat

Retreat facilitators are Sharon Anderson and Sandee Meade, both certified Spiritual Directors and experienced presenters leading ecumenical Christian and inter-faith retreats and workshops in the region.

The retreat is set for Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The committee will be setting up on Friday, May 6, starting at 1:00 pm.

Send email to Judy Labrie at registration@fpcsandpoint.org or call the office at 208-263-2047 to see if there are still openings. Suggested donation is \$40 includes lunch, collage canvas, art supplies & labyrinth walk.

Scholarships are available. Part of every donation will go toward building a permanent walking labyrinth in the church yard Community Peace Garden. Help with set-up and clean-up would be appreciated, contact Judy if you can lend a hand.

June 17 - Friday Fundraiser Dinner to Benefit Ukraine

FPC is co-sponsoring a community fundraiser dinner where proceeds (after expenses) will benefit people of Ukraine. Our co-sponsor is the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force. We will sell tickets and serve 50-60 people in Fellowship Hall with overflow possible in the Fireside Room and Retreat Room. Tickets will be \$20 per plate or \$50 for a family of 4. It will be a family event with a dessert auction and more.

Time: 6:30 pm gather, 7:00 dinner served family-style

Menu: Ukrainian inspired cuisine

Several Ukrainian and related folks have expressed a desire to help with recipes and making dishes. Help with set-up and clean-up would be appreciated. Contact Judy Labrie if you can lend a hand.

Several people very involved in the planning including Cynthia Dalsing, Lynn Pietz, Sue Helander, Judy McComish and Judy Labrie. Thank you so much for volunteering for this important benefit.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Labrie, M&M Committee

Illuminating Our Journey

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

In-person Retreat exploring Pilgrimage Through Collage
& Labyrinth Walk at First Presbyterian Church

email Judy to register at registration@fpcsandpoint.org or call the office at 208-263-2047.

Suggested donation is \$40 includes lunch plus collage canvas, art supplies and labyrinth walk. Scholarships are available.

Dear friends,

Do you feel the excitement of spring energy and creativity? We are delighted to invite you to an in-person retreat; it's been a while! We are beckoned to the promise of spring renewal as we explore faith journey by walking a labyrinth and creating a personal collage.

Come celebrate World Labyrinth Day on May 7. A labyrinth walk is a unique, ancient spiritual tool that involves walking a path as it winds in a circular pattern toward the center of the circle and then out again. It is a tool used to suggest contemplative faith journey and pilgrimage.

Retreat facilitators are Sharon Anderson, FPC Elder, certified Spiritual Director and experienced contemplative retreat presenter and Sandee Meade, certified Spiritual Director from Scotia House Retreat Center outside Newport, Wa. Ms. Meade has facilitated spiritual retreats at Scotia House for many years. Both enjoy using art and creativity to explore spiritual insights and transformation. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Meade are experienced presenters leading ecumenical Christian and inter-faith retreats and workshops in the region.

The retreat will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church located at 417 N Fourth Avenue in Sandpoint. Registration is required by May 2. Contact Judy by email at registration@fpcsandpoint.org or call the church office at 208-263-2047. Suggested donation is \$40 and includes lunch plus a collage canvas, art supplies and labyrinth walk. Scholarships are available.

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

Blessings of renewal,

Judy Labrie, FPC Retreat Team

Visions

Presbyterian Women of the Inland Northwest

2021-22 PW Presbytery Coordinating Team

Moderator:

Nancy Hobbs (Manito)

Vice Moderator:

Tracey Fletcher (East Valley)

Secretary:

Virginia Ailes (Northwood)

Treasurer:

Tracey Fletcher (East Valley)

Mission Rep:

Sandi Thompson-Royer

(Bethany)

Scholarship Committee:

Sylvia Barney (Millwood)

Horizons Rep:

Sarah Neelands
(Opportunity)



Save the Date:
Saturday, May 28, 2022,
10am – 12pm
Manito Presbyterian Church

401 E 30th Ave

Spokane

Join us as we “**Restore our Connections**” and participate in service activities and fellowship.

Have you been participating in the PW Book Discussion group? If so, let us know if you are enjoying the selected readings. The next selection is “Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice” by Rebecca Todd Peters





PW is celebrating 100 years of the PW Birthday Offering in 2022!

This year's offering recipients are McCleary House Transitional Housing at Mission at the Eastward in Farmington, Maine

and

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand at Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares in Lares, Puerto Rico.

Learn more about these projects and download resources at
<http://ow.ly/Em8J50HQVtf>

Our Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
 to support the mission of the church worldwide,
 to work for justice and peace, and
 to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's



Introducing the 2022–2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study

Celebrating Sabbath

Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight by Carol M. Bechtel

With Suggestions for Leaders by Laura Mariko Cheifetz

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation and that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives. [See page 4](#)

Presbytery News: Your Coordinating Team has been contacting each church within our presbytery to let them know of our activities. While many do not have congregational PW groups, they are interested in sharing our information. We encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about Presbyterian Women, within the local, Presbytery, Synod, or National levels to contact any of us on page one and we would be happy to answer any questions.

The theme for the July/August 2016 issue of Horizon's magazine was "Sabbath: Rest and Restoration". Carole Bechtold and DeeDee Risher wrote articles for the magazinehere are samples. The full articles can be found in the magazine.

"Sabbath."

The word sounds like something from another century. To the extent that we hear the word at all any more, it's used as an old-fashioned way of referring to Sunday—the "Sabbath Day." Unless, of course, we have Jewish friends or live in close proximity to Jewish communities—in which case we may overhear an occasional "Shabbat Shalom" ("Sabbath peace") greeting on the way to the parking lot after work on a Friday afternoon. Or, if you're like me, you may have found yourself puzzling over the "Sabbath" setting on your new stove. In all of these instances, Sabbath may strike us as something strange or old-fashioned—something that doesn't have much to do with us as contemporary Christians.

Worse, many people have negative associations with Sabbath. For them, it conjures up unhappy memories of rigid rules and endless hours stuck inside as a child—forbidden to play or make any noise. One woman told of how she first met her neighbor. On the woman's first Sunday in her new house, she had put some clothes in the dryer. The next thing she knew there was a knock on the door. Her neighbor had come across the street to say that she'd noticed the steam coming out of the dryer vent and wondered whether the newcomer had forgotten that it was the Sabbath Day.

Hopefully, stories like these are becoming a thing of the past. But just because Sabbath sounds like something from another century doesn't mean it is a concept for another century. Rather, I believe, we should recover God's invitation to Sabbath for our own time (Carole Bechtold)

-and-

When I was growing up in South Carolina, Sundays were all about church. While my mother insisted on baths almost every night of the week, Saturday night marked our most vigorous ablutions. While my sisters and I lined up for Mom to curl our hair Saturday night, wrapping the thin ends of our locks in toilet paper and fixing them to our heads with bobby pins, we were allowed to watch television, a rare treat in my household. We each had a Sunday dress and shoes used only for church.

My mother never cooked on Sunday. It was the only day of the week that I remember her staying in bed most of the afternoon, reading. She had the odd perk of managing a dining hall at my father's residential school. So we got a tray of food from the dining hall and ate leftovers for supper. Sometimes on Sunday nights she would lead us in small lessons on the Bible.

"Remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy" whispers the fourth commandment (Exodus 20). For my family, Sabbath was as much about church attendance as about rest and a break from worldly things. Little did I realize then that this observance of Sabbath was quickly growing anachronistic and, in the course of the next 30 years, would largely be lost. (DeeDee Risher)

If you are interested in purchasing this copy of Horizons to use with your bible study, it is on sale for \$2.00 at

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/horizons-magazine-julyaugust-2016/>



Music Conservatory Violin Concert May 6, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

Illuminating our Journey Retreat May 7, 2022

Blue Jean Sunday, Church Yard Cleanup May 15, 2022 after Worship

Belle Note' Recital May 20, 2022



May Birthdays

- 1 Mary Bauer
- 2 Judy McComish
- 8 Jim Shirrell
- 9 Don Helander
- 16 Jack Parker
- 18 Ted Farmin

Regular Monthly Events



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

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

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

www.fpcsandpoint.org