



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

From the Pastor...

In October we had the highway cleanup and six of us worked the one mile stretch of Highway 95 along the north end of Lake Cocolalla. We collected 14 big orange bags of trash. All that garbage having piled up since our spring cleaning. It's amazing how fast the litter happens when people either intentionally throw it out as they drive, or through inattention as it blows from the back of trucks, or some other ways of mysteriously appearing. The attention of one day helps clean the side of the road, and for a few hours, or days, nature is restored to a pristine cleanliness.

One of the things that I notice along the highway is how loud it is. When driving, from the inside of a vehicle we notice "road noise" as the hum of the tires, the sound of the engine, and the wind all combine to add decibels to our experience. More expensive cars promote a lower noise level. But on the outside, along the shoulder of the highway, cars are loud, trucks are really loud, and trains can be painfully noisy. A "travel corridor" is often considered no-mans-land, abandoned as collateral damage to the efficiencies of modern transportation systems. Most of the time we just drive oblivious to the impact we make.

Our lives are similar. Seasons help us take inventory. The season of Advent begins at the end of November. This is a time of preparation for Christmas. It may not take much, such as a devotional here, a worship service there, a short study or reflection;

some effort goes a long way. It may not have a long-term effect like we had hoped, but it makes a difference along the journey and when moments are transformed by grace, it is refreshingly noticeable.

Also in November are a couple of clean up days. One is at the church on Saturday, November 12 beginning at 10 a.m. for leaf raking and yard preparations for winter. The other is on Sunday, November 13 at 1:30 p.m. as the Deter family invites the church to help in an Adopt-a-Highway mile in honor of their son Kurt, who died from cancer in 2020. That highway mile is on West Highway 2 between Laclede and Priest River, along the highway by those tall cliffs, around the corner, and over the long straightaway. Text Patti: at (208)484-5388 for information.

Also in November the Advent devotions begin on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The first one of this series is on Tuesday, November 29. Some folks will be in-person at the church while others may be on Zoom. December 20 features a labyrinth walk.

These are external opportunities to help grow our internal faith. God be with us as we not only are involved in helping the world through local action, but also as we offer our heart to Jesus.

Peace and All Good,  
 Pastor Andy



## THE SESSION SUMMARY

Session met on September 20 and October 18, 2022. This summary of both meetings begins on a musical note.

The Suzuki String Academy appreciates using our sanctuary with its excellent acoustics and comfortable atmosphere. They reserved dates in late November, February and May 2023 for rehearsals and recitals.

Remember the outstanding handbell performance the Music Conservatory of Sandpoint shared during a Sunday worship service several months ago? Well, they have again requested borrowing our handbells and chimes. Amy Scott participates with this group which allows her to share the joy of Lois Scott's love of handbell music.

The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force will use Fellowship Hall on November 9, to host a program titled, "Building Community in Difficult Times."

Speaking of building use requests, Lorraine Carter is interested in using our facilities for a Montessori-based Parent/Toddler Program. The program will be one or two days per week for one and a half hours. We received this request just prior to our October Session meeting and have not fully considered it. Further discussion will review this request in November.

Session approved spending up to \$15,000 to replace the furnace in fellowship hall. The new electric HVAC system will provide both heating and cooling to Fellowship Hall, Fireside Room, and the kitchen. Funding will be divided equally from the Building Fund, Memorial Fund, and a capital fundraising campaign. As a temporary measure, the current natural gas furnace has been repaired. Don Deters, Building and Grounds Elder, is negotiating bids and services with several potential contractors for the new, more efficient system.

In early 2022, Session appointed a Visioning and Ministry Task Force to provide direction for "... how a small church with a part-time pastor can thrive, not simply survive." During the course of eleven meetings, this effort culminated in the *Visioning Task Force Team, Report to Session, June 28, 2022*. It was presented to the congregation during a "town hall" meeting this past summer.

Following its normal summer recess, Session focused on recommendations contained in the report. These discussions coincided with normal fall duties of the Personnel and Finance Committees. The Personnel Committee, chaired by Cynthia Dalsing, routinely meets with church staff which, among other things, includes establishing the Pastor's Terms of Call for the upcoming year. Paula Vincent, Finance Elder, carefully monitors the current year's finances while developing budget recommendations for the next year. This integrated approach of considering the pastoral, programmatic, financial, staffing and facilities is necessary as we chart a future direction for our church. You will begin hearing the results of these efforts in November and December.

As we move forward with these important discussions and decisions, we are intentional and prayerful as we strive to be the church that God calls us to be.

Peace as we listen for God's call,

Bill Love, Clerk of Session

## **Press Release: Building Community in Difficult Times**

Travis McAdam will give a presentation on “Building Community in Difficult Times,” on Wednesday, November 9 at 5:30 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church at 4<sup>th</sup> and Alder. This non-partisan event is being offered free of charge by the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force.

Travis is the Project Director of the Montana Human Rights Network and is an expert on the challenges communities in our region face, as well as strategies that have helped them choose discourse over discord, and unity over dissension. He will explore how to have calm, productive dialogues about difficult questions.

"We face a situation where many of our communities are divided right now. We need to understand the challenges we face and come together to address real problems. We should never underestimate the power of people coming together to do good work," McAdam said.

For over 20 years, McAdam has sought to understand what drives extremism, what pulls people apart, and what brings them together. His theory is to know your community, know your goals, focus on what's working, build on strengths and work together to sustain stability.

Brenda Hammond, co-president

Bonner County Human Rights Task Force



The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force

*invites the community to attend a presentation by*



## Travis McAdam

Project Director for the Montana Human Rights Network

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

As the Project Director for the Montana Human Rights Network, Travis McAdam has sought for over 20 years to understand extremism—both what divides and what unites us. He is an expert on the challenges communities in our region face, as well as strategies that have helped people choose discourse over discord, unity over dissension, and “how to fight the bad by supporting the good.

**Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 5:30 PM**

**First Presbyterian Church**

4<sup>th</sup> and Alder • Sandpoint, Idaho

*Free Admission • Everyone is welcome to attend!*



## EARTH CARE UPDATE

The main activity of the Earth Care Team during the summer was maintaining the gardens in the church yard and delivering the fresh produce to the Food Bank: at least 31 pounds. More deliveries are still planned, because tomatoes are ripening indoors and the bean plants are still producing.

We know that recycling and using less single use plastic are important year round. We have also become aware that some paper goods are not as Earth Care friendly as their commercials imply. Charmin bathroom tissue and Puffs facial tissues are made from prime large trees in forests of British Columbia and are produced by smaller companies controlled by Proctor & Gamble. Preserving trees is one vital method of controlling the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere: it is important to buy paper products produced from recycled paper. Simple, thoughtful purchases by all of us contribute to Earth Care and advance it from awareness to action.

Marilyn Robertson, Earth Care Team



## November 2022

### Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

Fall provides a wonderful palette for reflecting on the beauty of our surroundings. Perhaps you've enjoyed a brisk walk soaking in the fall color and crisp air or noted the busy scurrying of neighborhood birds and animals making the most of every day. Along with the changes in the season, this time of year may turn our attention to the many blessings in our lives and inspire us to express gratitude through plans for year-end charitable giving. With that thought in mind, I've included some information about a few of the most common means of providing financial gifts as identified by the Presbyterian Foundation.

**CASH-***When you itemize your tax deductions, gifts of cash may be used to eliminate federal income tax on up to 60% of your adjusted gross income. You may be eligible for both federal and state income tax savings.*

**RETIREMENT PLANS-***Donors age 70 ½ or older can make a qualified charitable contribution (QCD) up to \$100,000, directly from their IRA to the church or other qualified charity. It's generally a nontaxable distribution made by the IRA trustee directly to the charitable organization. QCDs can lead to tax benefits such as having the amount of the gift count towards an individual's required minimum distribution (RMD) while being excluded from income for federal income tax purposes.*

**APPRECIATED SECURITIES-***Using long-term appreciated securities for your charitable giving, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, can provide you with additional tax savings. Donors do not realize long-term*

Recognizing that each person's financial situation is different, it may be helpful to speak with a financial advisor to help determine the most effective gift plan for your situation. Please note that FPC will credit all gifts received by Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> on your 2022 giving statement.

Another fall activity includes preparation of the 2023 budget. Part of the budget development process includes a review of the current financial status. To summarize the financial picture for FPC at the end of the third quarter... anticipated revenue is under budget while expenses are as expected. Monthly giving has been trending down each quarter throughout the year with average monthly revenue of \$13,391 in the first quarter, followed by \$11,987 during the second quarter, and \$10,248 during the third quarter. It is too soon to tell if typical increases in revenue in the fourth quarter will be adequate to meet 2022 budget expectations; however, Session is anticipating the need for budget reductions in 2023.

FPC 2022 Budget (9 months)	Gifts Received (9 months)	Expenses (9 months)	Revenue/Expense Difference
\$117,600	\$106,877	\$117,169	-\$10,292

An additional part of the budget development process includes information gained from the annual stewardship drive. Stewardship information will be sent separately from this note and your consideration of an annual pledge is encouraged. While individual information is confidential, the total amount pledged is used to help establish the annual budget. For example, at the end of September we had received \$77,327 or 74% of the pledges for this year which is only slightly below the amount budgeted. **The generosity of this congregation continues to amaze! Thank you!**

Hoping fall brings you much joy,

Paula Vincent  
Ruling Elder for Finance

### FIRST PRES & FIRST METHODIST TEAM UP on a FOOD BANK CAMPAIGN

There is a concern that our Bonner Community Food Bank has increased numbers of clients, and decreased amounts of food to give out. Before, people had “points,” and they could exchange whatever items they wanted for those points—canned goods, fresh vegetables, fish, etc. Now, those items must be rationed. A reason for this is the increased price of food. More people now must supplement their food supply, and others must purchase fewer items to donate.

It was Jean Babcock’s idea: team up with Sandpoint United Methodist Church to compete for which church can donate the most pounds of food to The Food Bank. And guess who wins this—The Food Bank and the people they serve!

During the months of November and December, the two church congregations will be donating, and they and The Food Bank will keep a record of pounds donated. The competition will continue until the end of December.

In January a potluck will be hosted by the “non winners,” the church with the fewest pounds donated.

We expect our two churches to make a difference together!

Lynn Pietz



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN KNITTERS**  
**CONNECT with UKRAINIAN CHILDREN**

Winter is coming soon, and it promises to be a cold one. Imagine being a Ukrainian refugee and having only what you could fit into a suitcase in a rush to leave the dangers at your home. Then imagine being a child, possibly walking for miles in the cold, being given a new warm hat or a new teddy bear to hold close.

This is the warm feeling of our First Presbyterian knitting group as they constructed seven (7) hats and seven (7) teddy bears. Dee Dreisbach, Millie Rinker, Cynthia Dalsing, and others made these, in about three weeks. Now they will be mailed to “Knitting Without Borders,” ([knittingwithoutborders.jigsy.com](http://knittingwithoutborders.jigsy.com)) a group in Arizona that knits items for people all over the world. Many teddy bears go to hospitals around the U.S., or immigrant children in south Texas, or Native American children in Arizona; others have been sent to children at a hospital in Kenya. These hats will be for Ukrainians.

A quote on the Knitting Without Borders website is: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” ~ Dr. Maya Angelou





## **WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS**

All Saints Sunday will be on November 6th. We will remember and honor our family and members who have passed away. A bell will be rung for each name publicly spoken.

The choir has started back up this fall, and we sang our first anthem on October 30th. Our next anthem will be on November 13th. If anyone likes to sing, it's good therapy and we are a happy group. Please consider joining us. Choir starts at 5:15 every Tuesday, and lasts for 45 minutes.

Mark your calendars to take part in our Advent Devotions, that begin on Tuesday November 29th at 6:00 p.m. Advent Devotions helps us prepare spiritually for Christmas in remembrance of Christ's first coming into the world. Join us in Taize singing and reflections of the journey to Bethlehem and birth of Jesus. The dates are as followed: 11/29, 12/6, 12/13 and 12/20. The thirty minutes of heart centered reflection, will help tune out the commercial noise of the season. We will have a Simple meal of chili and bread following the first devotional on 11/29.

Christmas Eve falls on Saturday this year, our service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Sunday 10:30 a.m. Service will be filled with Christmas Carols to sing.

## **FELLOWSHIP FUN**

### **Chili Supper**

We are having a chili supper following the first Advent Devotional on November 29th. Come and enjoy a cozy meal. Devotional starts at 6:00 p.m., with dinner to follow. We'll be taking a head count of those who want to attend, as we get closer to the end of November, please consider providing your favorite chili for the evening.

### **Deck the Halls—December 3rd, 1-3 p.m.**

Join us for a casual afternoon of decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. We'll be stringing lights on swags and hanging the evergreens along the windows, decorating the trees, putting up the nativity scene and adding boughs for the outside porch, so wear some warm layers and be ready to put your creative talents to use. If you have some pruning shears bring a pair along and gloves.

## **MUCHO GRACIAS**

Thank you to Dave and Lynn Pietz for organizing a Sunday hike on October 6th after church. It was a beautiful fall day to enjoy a hike that took us along the Clark Fork River and into the wooded area that has recently been developed as a nature trail, called Cabinet View Nature Preserve. Looking forward to more hikes, weather permitting.

Thank you Don Deters and Don Helander for discovering and cleaning clogged drainage pipes, that were discovered under sidewalk that had masses of tree roots obstructing the draining process. Their efforts may greatly reduce the water that accumulates along the sidewalk during winter months.

Sue Helander

Worship and Music

## FOOD BANK

The United Methodist Church of Sandpoint has issued a challenge to the Presbyterian Church to collect food for the Food Bank. This will be for the months of November and December. We will tally the pounds donated for the two months. At the end of the two months, the loser will host a potluck for the winner, to be held in January. A donation basket is at the front entrance and a table will be placed at the front of the sanctuary to accept donations. If you donate directly to the Food Bank, be certain that the Presbyterian Church is marked for the donation. Any amount is gratefully accepted - large or small. OPEN YOUR WALLETS AND LET'S GO!!

Millie Rinker





Choir Practice every Tuesday 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice Sunday's November 6, 20, 2022 at 11:45 a.m.

Sacrament of Communion Sunday November 6, 2022 during worship

Membership and Mission Meeting Tuesday November 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m

Bonner County Human Rights Task Force Wednesday November 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Leaf Raking at the Church Saturday November 12, 2022

Deacon Meeting Sunday November 13, 2022 after worship

Deter's invitation to highway cleanup Sunday November 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. with lunch to follow

Session Tuesday November 15, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving Thursday November 24, 2022

First Sunday of Advent Sunday November 27, 2022

Suzuki String Academy concert Wednesday November 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Remember to "Fall Back" Saturday night, November 5, 2022 . One hour time change - an extra hour sleep!



## November Birthdays

**1 Lynn Pietz**  
**2 Jim Dustman**  
**3 Jane Clark**  
**14 Kelly Curtis**  
**14 Paula Vincent**  
**16 Esther Inselman**  
**26 Tim Cochran**



## Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Livestream*

*Adult Christian Formation Class 9:00 a.m.*

*Choir Practice every other Sunday 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.*

*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 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

*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*

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

*Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488*

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