



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
January/February 2023

From the Pastor...

Happy Epiphany! God is with us! This season we especially celebrate Christ in our midst. But do we really know what this looks like as one day leads to another? Perhaps the best we can do is trust the moment while we lean into an unfolding future with the eyes and ears of our heart open.

This January, I took some time to focus on creating a plan for this year's Sabbatical, which will be in May, June, and July. Unlike the previous Sabbatical that featured an extensive application process for the Lilly Foundation's Clergy Renewal program, this year's approach has been less intense. For the 2023 Sabbatical, only one grant is in process, this one with the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) for sabbatical support. The maximum award is \$4,000. This combines with just over \$4,000 that is saved from the Pastor's unused Study Leave funds, and the congregation has another \$5,000 plus for the congregation side to cover pulpit supply and other expenses.

As the days of planning unfold, it is amazing to see an itinerary take shape, then morph, then reshape, then get closer to a conclusion. The active work of God is visible in having a hand in bringing things to awareness along the way that may have otherwise been overlooked. Through patient partnering with the Spirit, the power of

creativity is revealed. There is energy and excitement with that process, a deep knowing that we are not alone charting a course in ministry, but instead we serve a risen Savior who invites us to follow.

Themes have emerged that focus on contemplative prayer, God's unfolding creativity inviting us to an integral consciousness, and eco-spirituality through Celtic wisdom and the art of beekeeping. These all intertwine through periods of travel and reflection. It may be possible to visit, for example, ancient forest groves while camping in Redwoods National and State Parks in California. Then, to see the evolution of consciousness revealed through the artwork of Picasso at the museum in Barcelona, Spain. Celtic Christianity will teach while claiming sacred silence and thin places of awareness on the Emerald Isle of Ireland. As Sabbath rest takes shape and an itinerary comes into focus, may God be glorified.

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy



FOOD BANK is BIG WINNER!!

Thanks to an idea from Jean Babcock, First Presbyterian Church and The United Methodist Church entered a competition during November and December, about which church could donate the most pounds of food to The Food Bank. Each church would keep a tally, as would The Food Bank, and in the end, we would have a potluck dinner together to celebrate.

In October, our congregation witnessed “hints” from Deacons about what was coming, building enthusiasm (picture Carol Curtis wearing a Safeway bag one Sunday), and by November we began filling the Food Bank box. Every two weeks on Monday, Victoria Oliver, Dave & Lynn Pietz, and Chuck and Mary Bauer would fill the back of the Bauers’ truck with our donations and take them to The Food Bank.

Now it is over. We have preliminary tallies, but all information is not in yet. We know that together, The Methodists’ and Presbyterians’ competition bringing donations of over 2,000 # has made a huge difference for the increasing number of people visiting The Food Bank. Monetary donations have also been wonderful; truly a blessing.

Shelves will be full for a while, but we’ve learned that Second Harvest has stopped delivering food donations to smaller communities, including those in Bonner and Boundary Counties. This is a huge loss, so our work is not over. We must keep donating to The Food Bank in 2023! More families and seniors find themselves in the position of needing supplemental food to make it through the month. First Presbyterian can continue donating and help offset the tremendous load The Food Bank is carrying.

Well done, congregations! The light of our love and caring for others in the community shines bright over First Presbyterian Church and United Methodist Church.



Grapevine Article Membership and Outreach for January 2023

When the Membership Outreach and Mission team met in November, loads of exciting opportunities were explored in the brainstorming session. The next MOM meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 2:00 pm**. At that time the team can sort out priorities, create a 2023 calendar and develop plans.

One common theme is to safely get back together in person after the covid years of separation. Let's keep pondering how to reconnect with our friends, members and community. This is an ambitious list and these can not be accomplished without the help of volunteers. If you would like to be involved on this team or get involved in one or more of these opportunities please contact Judy Labrie or Judy McCommish.

Here is a taste of what may be to come in the coming year:

Membership Outreach Ministry:

Interfaith Spring Event - invite representatives from other faith traditions to share how they observe common themes of spring holy days. This peacemaking invitation could also include one of the local Tribes.

100,000 Poets for Change - September 23, 2023; support the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force & Lost Horse Press as they continue to host the 100,000 Poets for Change event at on the church lawn. Perhaps invite someone from the Kalispel Tribe to read or present something.

Hikes, walks, experiences in the natural world - These events could be informative and/or a spiritual guided experience. Dave Pietz has ideas of trail locations.

Place a photo next to the names of people in the church directory - request simple black & white photos from members and friends so they can be added to the church directory.

Send cards to visitors, members, home-bound, etc. Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023 cards; explore other ways to reach out with cards.

Fellowship hour every Sunday - Let's start meeting after worship again so friends and members can catch up and visit. Explore hosting options so set-up & clean-up are shared by helpers.

Greeting visitors - explore how to make sure visitors are warmly, properly greeted.

House dinners - explore how church friends and members can rotate hosting small-group dinners again.

Mission Ministry:

Bike & Build in August, 2023 - 3 days, 2 nights hosting young adults biking across the country to shed light on helping people who lack housing.

Ukrainian family support in Sandpoint - apparently there are at least 2 families from Ukraine who are resettling locally. We would like to know more about what the families need and how they can be gently, respectfully supported under these circumstances.

Food Tax Project - explore the bills before the Idaho legislators that would eliminate at least some of the taxes levied on food in Idaho. This is would help people in poverty.

Workshops and Retreat possibilities:

Series on the Spiritual Practice of Simplicity; present on local food (why factory farming is harmful), consumerism/materialism, travel, composting-urban and rural, recycling & reusing, avoiding plastic and refilling. Show the astronaut video. Partner with the Earth Care Team

End of life series - caretaking self-care, how to show up, resources, hospice, 5 Wishes planning

Dream Workshop - exploring how can looking deeply into our dreams help understand ourselves

Blessings of Light and Love in the coming year,

Judy Labrie and the Membership Outreach Team

COFFEE HOUR

Don Deters, Chuck Bauer, Dave Pietz spearheaded the clearing of our Christmas Boughs on Sunday, January 1st. Many additional elves, I mean hands, Lynn Pietz, Mary Bauer, Judy McComish, Marian Cox, Jane Fritz, and Pastor Andy pitched in to take all the Christmas decorations down.

Coffee hour will be on January 29th after worship. We will be circulating a sign up sheet for volunteers to help either provide some cookies or to help with setup and clean up for future monthly Sunday Coffee hours.

Food Bank Challenge Update

A combined total of 2000 pounds of food was donated during the months of November and December. Drum roll please.....Bonner Community Food Bank was the Big Winner! Potluck planning has not been announced as of this date.

Three Claps For:

Cynthia Dalsing, Mary and Dave Sturgis, Lynn and Dave Pietz, Marilyn Cox, Darcy Taylor, Sally Moon and Judy Labrie, and Pastor Andy, this crew's work can be enjoyed by all who enter the Sanctuary. Great job in decorating and bringing the outdoors inside!

Don Helander for chipping away ice on sidewalks and being attentive to posting signs as needed to avoid walking on portions of sidewalk due to ice.

January 2023

Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

Happy New Year!

As we start a new year, many of us may be accustomed to reflecting on the past year and at the same time making plans for the year ahead. That is certainly the case for this finance update as we look at preliminary 2022 end of year information alongside 2023 projections.

2023 Stewardship Pledge Update: Much appreciation to those completing a stewardship pledge. This info helps establish the budget for the coming year. At the end of December FPC pledges for the 2023 budget totaled \$91,140.00. The chart below shows the change from 2022 to 2023 with total pledges about \$19,000 less in 2023. If you haven't done so and still wish to complete a pledge form, a copy of the pledge information is included at the end of this note. Based on this information, the projected budget for 2023 has been reduced \$30,000.

| PLEDGE INFO | 2022 | 2023 | CHANGE |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| REGULAR | \$94,414 | \$60,980 | \$ (33,434) |
| ONLINE | \$10,680 | \$13,560 | \$2,880 |
| RMD | \$5,000 | \$16,600 | \$11,600 |
| TOTAL | \$ 110,094 | \$ 91,140 | \$ (18,954) |

Per Capita Update: Each year, FPC sends dollars to support the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. The assessment for 2023 is thirty-nine dollars (\$39) per member or \$2730. FPC pays this assessment in March. Many members and friends wish to make an extra gift to the church to offset this expense; to do so, simply write "per capita" on the check memo line, offering envelopes, etc.

Finance Update:

Giving statements from 2022 will be sent prior to the end of January. If you have any questions or comments, please let Susie Haskins or me know.

Final 2022 finance information will be available next week and provided as part of the annual report. Data available at the time of this note is listed below.

| FPC 2022 Revenue and Expense Budget | YTD Income Received (through Dec. 30 th) | Expenses through Nov. 30 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| \$156,800 | \$154,765 | \$141,712 |

Respectfully submitted,
 Susie Haskins, Finance Secretary
 Paula Vincent, Elder Stewardship, Finance and Memorial

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint

2023 Pledge Information

Thank you for your support of the ministries and mission of FPC of Sandpoint. We believe God calls us to be generous and joyful givers of our time, talents and resources. This pledge form may be mailed, placed in the secure drop box or placed in the Sunday offering plate at First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, 417 N 4th Ave., Sandpoint, Idaho 83864. Alternatively, you may give online <https://www.fpcsandpoint.org/give/#stewardship> or email this info to Susie Haskins, Financial Secretary willandsoozie@gmail.com

I /we pledge \$ _____ per (week month quarter year). Please circle one.

\$ _____ total annual gift

For record keeping purposes, please indicate your planned payment method(s) below.

I/We plan to make pledge payments with cash/check (Yes No)

I/We plan to utilize the online giving portal (Yes No)

I/We plan to request a direct distribution from a Qualified stock or security fund (Yes No)

Per Capita Information

FPC sends dollars each year to support the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. The assessment in 2023 is thirty-nine dollars (\$39) per member. For members and friends wishing to make an extra gift to offset this expense, please write "per capita" on the memo line of checks, offering envelopes, etc.

Time and Talent Information

In addition to financial support, we welcome gifts of time and talent. Please indicate areas you have interest in (check all that apply).

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian education | <input type="checkbox"/> Retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth care | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Visioning Task Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | Other: _____ |

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



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

Choir Practice Sunday's January 8, January 15, January 29, February 5, and February 19 at 11:45

Sacrament of Communion Sunday February 5 during worship

Deacon Meeting Sunday January 8, 2023 after worship

Session Meeting January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Suzuki String Academy Concert February 10, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Session Meeting February 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January Birthdays

2 Shawna Kennaly

10 Mary Sturgis

11 Mickey Quinn

16 Leslie Linendoll

19 Jane Fritz

21 Dave Sturgis



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February Birthdays

1 Victoria Oliver

2 Sarah Casey

13 Laura Forsberg

13 Joanne Olson

16 Gary Pietsch

25 Dyno Wahl

26 Dawn Linendoll



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

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