



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
March 2023

From the Pastor...

Last newsletter, my article started with, "Happy Epiphany! God is with us! This season we especially celebrate Christ in our midst." On the heels of Christmas, that Epiphany introduction had a cheery sound. Now we are in Lent, so we would need something more like, "Happy Lent! Jesus is calling! This season we especially celebrate repentance and suffering." I don't think that sounds very inviting. Christmas is more fun.

But the lessons of the two seasons are similar, like last month says, "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." That could be very helpful in Lent as well as Epiphany. But to this, it takes practice and intention. Like Jesus sent into the wilderness by the Spirit, we too can learn to listen deeply, trust sincerely, and focus on divine Presence unfolding in the world.

This season of Lent, instead of our usual Taizé Tuesdays, the congregation is invited to participate in online devotions on a daily basis.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/> this link is an overview page, and where you can download regular or large print Luther Lenten Devotional.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/email/> this link is where you sign up your email address to receive the daily devotional email from Luther Seminary.

https://cac.org/email-sign-up/?tfa_5118=1 this link is the Center for Action and

Contemplation's sign up page for the daily devotional emails.

I hope you enjoy these email devotions as they trace themes that help shape our faith. One of those themes is Silence. Jesus in the wilderness would have embraced the silence of the desert. Ancient wisdom was shared in the early church by desert Fathers and Mothers, people who went into the wilderness of Egypt, Syria, and other places to claim the holiness of silence, rather than be co-opted by the noise of Empire religion. Finding time to sit in prayerful meditation is something our culture and larger church don't teach very well. It must be sought out.

In late March, I go to a Benedictine Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado for a ten-day silent prayer retreat hosted by Contemplative Outreach of Colorado. This was founded by Father Thomas Keating, a leading teacher of Centering Prayer. This retreat filled up over a year in advance. After arrival and a time of orientation, everyone goes silent, and even eye contact is avoided if possible. We share as a community without the layers of pressures we usually must navigate on a daily basis. Even the mealtimes of lunch and supper, everyone has their own table. (Breakfast is solo in our room). Please keep me in your prayers during this special opportunity. It will be full immersion into Lenten prayer, silence, and Christian hospitality, an invitation to notice fresh winds of the Spirit. Like I said on a recent Sunday, we need to give God room to work in our lives. I need to practice what I preach.

Peace and All Good,
 Pastor Andy

Christian Education - Retreat

The *Tree and Me - Connecting Our Roots* half-day retreat was held after worship on Sunday, February 26, 2023. It was facilitated by Jennifer Folayan who is the Cultural Specialist at The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations in Spokane. Jennifer has native ancestry and is passionate about learning and sharing native stories and ways from tribes around the northwest. Jennifer and her partner, Tony joined the Sunday morning Adult Christian Education group in the Fireside room and attended the worship service that followed.

Participants gathered in Fellowship Hall for an impressive lunch which was generously donated and arranged by Paula Vincent.

After lunch Jennifer skillfully used the power of storytelling, guided meditation, and art so participants could explore relationships to each other, to themselves, and to Creation. She also is an amazing vocalist, and she sang three songs that were taught to her by her native friends. It sounded like beautifully sung prayers.

There were 21 people participating and the cost was by donation. All donated funds went to Jennifer.

The feedback from participants was very positive and appreciative. It was a delight to spend the afternoon together with Jennifer and Tony. On the following Sunday, Jennifer and Tony joined the Sunday Adult Christian Ed group by Zoom. It is lovely to have them share their time and insights.

Many thanks to all who attended and helped make the gathering so meaningful.

Warmly,

The Retreat Committee





THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS
FAMILY FUN(DRAISER) NIGHT

BENEFITTING THE SANDPOINT AREA SENIOR CENTER
 AND DEACON MISSIONS



DOORS OPEN AT
 5:30
 DINNER SERVED
 AT 6:00

**WEAR SOMETHING GREEN
 AND JOIN US!!**

TRADITIONAL
 CORNED BEEF
 AND CABBAGE
 DINNER
 BY DONATION
 AT THE DOOR

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PLEASE CALL 208-263-6860
 RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED



FOOD  **FELLOWSHIP**  **FUN**
LIVE AUCTION AND RAFFLE



Grapevine

Stewardship, Financial, Memorial

Finance Update:

With one month of the year's financial reports complete and the second month pending, FPC is off to a good start for the 2023 budget year.

Monthly Budget	Income received through Feb. 19	Expenses through Jan. 31
\$10,542	\$21,042	\$14,062

Comments:

January income included some annual pledges that are paid in one yearly lump sum.

Similarly, some larger expenses were paid in January including the quarterly liability insurance premium of \$1405, \$2500 for snow removal, and \$600 for workers compensation insurance.

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. Through mid-February FPC had received \$924 dollars toward this cost.

2022 Audit

If available this year, we will request an outside auditor from the Presbytery to assist in auditing the 2022 financials. The FPC audit committee has a meeting set this month to review internal financial processes and procedures.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vincent, Elder Stewardship, Finance and Memorial



Choir Practice Sunday's at 11:45

Sacrament of Communion Sunday March 5 during worship

Deacon Meeting Sunday March 12, 2023 after worship

St Patrick's Day Dinner March 17, 2023 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Session Meeting March 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH



March Birthdays
1 Kathleen Huntley
13 Chuck Humes
23 Dee Dreisbach
25 Dick Sandall
28 Cathy Eastwood

Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Livestream
Adult Christian Formation Class 9:00 a.m.*

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

Monday - Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Contemplative Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. to 2p.m.

Book Study Group 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 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

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