



**THE GRAPEVINE**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO**  
 May 2024

**From the Pastor...**

When I arrived to the office at First Presbyterian Church on May 2, 2011 (which was 13 years ago), Sondra Woller was the office presence that welcomed me. After a few years, she resigned and moved away. Susan Bristol was hired and worked in the office for many years. Sometimes, when Susan was out of town, Geri Stockman would fill in and keep the wheels on the wagon. When Susan retired five years ago, Ramona Jewett was hired. When Ramona takes time off, Susie Haskins often fills in. But recently, Ramona decided to simplify her employment focus. During April, the Personnel Committee recommended Dana Stockman to the Office Administrator position, and the church Session approved. Welcome Dana!

Thanks goes out to all those mentioned, and to anyone else who helps from time to time to keep the office humming along. Over the years, each person brings their set of gifts and talents to share with the church community. As Dana is also the choir director, both positions will have her dedicated focus.

Along with the staff transition, a schedule change takes place. The Office Hours are adjusted, beginning April 30, 2024. The Office Hours are:

- Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and
- Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Another change in the schedule takes place after Memorial Day Weekend. Following discussion at their April meeting, the Session approved the summer worship time of 9:30 a.m. beginning the week of Sunday, June 2, 2024. But remember, prior to that, on Sunday, May 19, 2024, be sure to wear the color red to symbolize the flames of fire as the Holy Spirit moved on Pentecost.

The Spirit is active, and the Church is Christ's body called and sent. Blessings on FPC of Sandpoint as we journey through the seasons, and the years.

Peace and All Good,  
 Pastor Andy



## Membership, Outreach, Mission

We have an interesting missional opportunity hosting an accomplished bell choir this June. Katie Lay, Director of the Wesley Bell Ringers (WBR) of Christ United Methodist Church, Salt Lake City, had this to say, “The Wesley Bell Ringers are one of the premiere youth handbell choirs in America. Each year, the choir performs a Christmas concert series, and performs on a two-week summer tour to a different area of the United States. This year we are traveling with 16 ringers and 7 adults (chaperones) and are traveling throughout the Southwest and into the Northwest...”

The session has approved the request for the FPC congregation to host the group on Tuesday, June 18. The group will arrive around 4:00 pm to set up the equipment and practice in the sanctuary. Then break for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Following the meal, they will perform a bell concert for the community. After the concert, they will go to homes for the night. After a light, easy breakfast in the host homes, they then meet back at the church to load up the equipment and proceed on their tour.

Katie has given us the criteria for home-stays and she writes, “one of the most important aspects of our summer tour, which is getting to know the congregations that host us! I was a ringer in The Wesley's for five tours during my teenage years, and some of my best memories come from host families. We have been very successful with our 'buddy system' for host homes. We keep the physical address and phone number of every host as well as the cell phone numbers of the tour personnel placed there, and we have a rotating 'on-call' chaperone who is available to both hosts and ringers for any needs during the night. All of our chaperones are certified by Safe Gatherings, a training protocol designed for those who volunteer or are employed with churches, schools, and organizations that serve or work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.”

Here is a review from a host on their 2023 tour:

*“Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Savannah, GA. was so blessed for the opportunity to host the Wesley Bell Ringers as a part of their 2023 tour. When Katie reaches out to your congregation to be a tour host, do not hesitate, and immediately start confirming your congregation’s support as a host. Your congregation and community will not regret it. Our entire congregation was involved as a tour host and was such a positive event for our congregation. We had so many from our church and the surrounding community attend the event. It was so refreshing to see how committed and hard working the youth were in presenting the concert. The youth were responsible for all aspects of the event and were really interested in establishing relationships with our congregation. Many of our congregation hosted youth and chaperones and have continued to share their stories and the impact it has had on them and our community. My family and I hosted one ringer and a chaperone and had such a great visit getting to know more about them and the organization. Without reservation, it was one of the most inspirational events our church has hosted and would recommend your congregation be a tour host!”*

Jim Heater, Church Council President, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Savannah, GA”

This is a big undertaking and FPC will extend invitations to our friends at the United Methodist and First Lutheran Churches to see if there is interest in helping with the home-stays. Since the Bike-and-Build programs seem to have fizzled at least for this year, it’s going to be interesting to extend this form of hospitality and ministry to support the talented youth of the WBR’s tour.

If you are interested in hosting individuals in your home or helping with this hospitality, please contact Judy Labrie at 208-290-3119 for more information.

Respectfully,  
Judy Labrie

## April Session meeting notes and highlights

The Session's regular April meeting was held on April 17 at 1:30 in the Fireside Room at the Church. Pastor Andy opened the meeting with prayer. The session has migrated from an evening to a daytime meeting; more convenient for the current members of Session. The Session agreed to aim for meeting to begin at 1:30 and end at 3:00, to help keep our schedules predictable.

The Session decided that the large Session books maintained for elders will be recycled, and Session members will begin utilizing electronic copies of documents to the greatest degree possible. Master copies of printed documents will also be available in the church office if needed, and provided for elders who request paper copies.

The Session confirmed the email votes to approve use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for a Passover celebration on April 25 by the local Jewish community, as well as approval of the family building use of Fellowship Hall and kitchen on April 6 for a celebration of life for Judy Labrie's cousin David Baysinger.

The building use committee has been fielding a number of requests for use of church facilities recently due to the closing of the The Gardenia Center. In that regard, the Session approved the use of Fellowship Hall for an AA group which meets Monday – Friday from 7-8 a.m. This group understands they may be displaced several times each year for church use. They will pay rent for building use and have expressed interest in helping out with some building upkeep from time to time. This group has 35 -50 members in summer, and 25 – 30 in winter. This would be the fourth 12-step group meeting at First Presbyterian church. This group will pay rent, as they have to the Gardenia Center, and will be responsible for cleaning up after meetings and abiding by building use policies. After discussion, the Session approved this request.

The Session reviewed a request for building use, and hosting of the Utah Bell Choir Summer Tour. The choir includes 16 ringers and 7 adults traveling throughout the Southwest and into Alberta, Canada. The choir is performing as the featured youth choir at the *Ringin' Up!* festival of Area 11 of the Handbell Musicians of America this June. The choir asked to perform at First Presbyterian on Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>. They ask that congregation members provide the choir with dinner, beds for the night, a simple breakfast the next morning, and transportation back to the church. The choir anticipates arriving about 4:00, setting up, breaking for dinner at 6:00, performing at 7:30, dispersing to host families, and returning the next morning to get back on the road. A free-will offering will be requested at the performance. If host families are not available, the group does travel with camping gear. After discussion, the group's request was approved. Look for more information to come, and requests for help from the church, and perhaps the local bell choir community.

Annie Welle will host the Sandpoint Piano Group gathering on Sunday, April 28, from 3:00-4:30 making use of the sanctuary and the nursery for socializing.

The Session approved Paul Gunter's request for use of the Sanctuary for the Festival at Sandpoint's Youth Orchestra on May 13 from 4-8 p.m.

## **April Session meeting notes and highlights, cont.**

The Live Streaming team of Sue and Don Helander, Mickey Quinn, Cynthia Dalsing, and Dyno Wahl plan to meet on April 19 to review how to transition streaming from Facebook to YouTube. Look for more information on this here in the Grapevine. YouTube promises to be a more user-friendly and stable platform for streaming. More remains to be done on the church's webpage, Facebook, and assistive listening devices need to be explored for those who attend and have difficulty with hearing.

The Session approved (with enthusiasm) the hiring of Dana Stockman as the church's new Office Administrator. Dana has been shadowing Ramona Jewett, who is leaving this position after five years of faithful service. A card for the congregation to sign, and a gift will be given to Ramona. Welcome to your new and expanded role at the church, Dana!

A church clean-up day was approved for May 5 in the afternoon. The highway cleanup will take place on May 18 rather than closer to Earth Day in April. Earth Day Worship planning is underway with a Earth Day focused service on April 21.

Pastor Andy reported that he attended a recent Presbytery workshop in Spokane on Matthew 25 in the PCUSA. Matthew 25 was the focus of the recent service led by Christian Education. Individual churches who have identified as "Matthew 25" churches respond as their neighborhood needs are revealed. Expect to hear more about this as time progresses perhaps on some of Pastor Andy's planned vacation dates. Pastor Andy shared that he had been approached about a pastor share arrangement from a Lutheran Church in Deer Park, which he declined, but he also shared that only 1/3 of congregations with fewer than 150 members have an installed pastor. We are grateful for Pastor Andy's presence and service here in Sandpoint.

The Session meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:10 (really close to our newly determined "on-time" mark) by Pastor Andy. At our next meeting on May 15 at 1:30, we'll review a new online Session tool that Paul has shared with the Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Thompson, Clerk of Session

## **Calling all Ushers, Live Streamers, Worship Assistants, and Singers, or “how to get involved with your church?”**

First Presbyterian Sandpoint is a busy place, with many opportunities for members and friends to grow in their faith and support each other in service. Several of the most satisfying opportunities are service as Ushers, Live Streamers, and Worship Assistants.

When retirement led me to relocate from Portland, Oregon, back to Sandpoint, Idaho, over the past few years, I began looking at ways to get involved in the local community. Attending church at First Presbyterian was a logical first step since this is the church where I was baptized and confirmed, and where my faith was nurtured as a young person. I was delighted to be welcomed in by church members I'd known for many years, and church members who have become new friends.

The first step was asking Dana Stockman if it would be okay if I started singing in the choir. Her enthusiastic yes made me feel very welcome. Singing in the choir enhances the worship experience for both the congregation and the members of the choir. If you're sitting in the pew, singing joyfully, and wondering if you could join the choir, please feel free to speak with Dana, or any choir member. We meet on Wednesdays at 11:00 for a one-hour rehearsal, and sing a couple of Sundays each month. If you're unsure whether your schedule and your voice are up to it, come and visit a practice or two and see what you think. Singing is good for body, soul, and mind!

The next step for me was speaking to Bill Love, and letting him know that I'd be happy to help out as Worship Assistant or Usher. (Livestreaming is still a mystery to me.) Ushering is pretty simple. People are welcomed and provided a bulletin and any other handout information, they assist with receiving the offering, and a count of how many people are attending is made. Easy! And enjoyable to meet and greet folks as they come into the sanctuary for worship.

Worship Assistant is also enjoyable, and for those who cherish reading Scripture out loud it's a meaningful part of the worship experience. Pastor Andy provides direction to the Worship Assistant so they can practice reading the Old Testament scripture, and points out the portions of the service where the Assistant will help – such as taking the offering, and taking the microphone around for the prayers of the people.

Livestreaming is the most technical part of the Worship team. Currently we have five volunteers who operate the livestream presentation of the worship service which goes out onto Facebook Live. We'll be transitioning to YouTube soon. This takes some skill and training, but is a very “doable” service for those who may feel like the other categories aren't quite right for them.

Interested? That little nudge you may be feeling to get involved in one of these areas could lead to a greater sense of belonging within the church, and is a wonderful way to get involved. A schedule of volunteers is maintained, and recruitment/reminder emails are sent out on a weekly basis. Please feel free to contact the church office, an usher, or me to get your name added to the email chain. We'd love to have you join in the fun!

Kirsten Thompson, Ruling Elder, Worship  
[thompsonkj2019@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonkj2019@gmail.com) 503-816-6384



## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

### May 2024

#### Stewardship Reflection

An article in the Presbyterian Mission news this month reminded us that stewardship is about more than financial giving. A few suggestions of ways to love God and reflect God's love in and around us included:

**\*Pray.** Pray for Pastor Andy, FPC staff, the congregation, the community, and the world.

**\*Step up and show up.** Commit to showing up to worship. Become more active in the life of the church by finding ways to serve that use your talents.

**\*Write a note of thanks or care.** A letter or a card with a personalized note is a priceless way to show you care and to provide encouragement to others.

I'm sure you can add many more ideas to the list; thank you for all of your expressions of love!

#### Finance Summary

**Budgeted** through April 30: **\$33,000** **Received** through April 28th: **\$43,263**

**Expenses** through March 30: **\$36,167**

#### Special Offerings

\$1236 was collected through the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering

**Per Capita:** Received: \$1004

**Expended** \$2,496 (\$39/member)

TOTAL ASSETS	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1
CD-1	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$51,980
CD-2	0	0	0	\$25,120
Savings	39,772	39,781	26,513	\$26,533
Checking	71071	74,337	45,818	\$22,082
Petty Cash	100	\$100	\$103	\$100
Pledge prepay	-3772	-3,878	-3,881	\$0
<b>Dec. 31/YTD Balance</b>	<b>\$107,171</b>	<b>\$110,341</b>	<b>\$118,553</b>	<b>\$125,815</b>

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

## **Personnel**

**May 2024**

### **Thank you to Ramona Jewett**

After serving as office administrator for the past five years, Ramona completed her last work day at FPC at the end of April. We are thankful for her cheerful service and wish her the very best.

### **Welcome to Dana Stockman**

It is a delight to welcome Dana as the new office administrator in addition to continuing to serve FPC as the choir director. Session unanimously approved Dana's hire during the April meeting. She began work in the office during April with support from Ramona and Susan Haskins. Thank you, Ramona and Susie, for supporting a smooth transition!

### **Anniversary Celebration**

Pastor Andy Kennaly celebrates thirteen years with FPC during May. We are grateful for his visible use of his imagination and intellect in living his call and appreciate his faithful service with FPC. Thank you and happy anniversary, Pastor Andy.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Cochran, Paula Vincent, Dyno Wahl

### **Personnel Committee Members**

## Family Favorites

Welcome to our new newsletter column, featuring family favorite recipes. Do you have a treasured (non-copyrighted!) family recipe that you'd like to share with the church family? Drop them off in the church office or email them to Dana at [Office@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:Office@fpcsandpoint.org). And please share a little info about the person who created the recipe, if you can. Our first recipe comes to us this month from Lynn Pietz. Thank you, Lynn!

A STRONG WOMAN, Bertha Smith:

Bertha was a tiny, red haired woman, in her seventies, who brought endless desserts to the Fellowship at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Lubbock, TX. The desserts were all delicious. Bertha had been a single mother, raising two children and working at the local Air Force Base as a secretary. She was proud of her accomplishments and very proud of her son, a professor at William & Mary University in Virginia. She also appreciated people telling her they liked her dessert the best.

### APFEL KUCHEN (Apple Pie)

Bertha Smith

1 recipe pie crust; line deep dish pie pan.

6 cups pared, cored thin-sliced apples

1/2 cup sugar

6 Tbsp. flour

1/4 cup brown sugar firmly packed (dark)

1/4 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Mix apples and other ingredients. Spoon mixture into crust.

Top with:

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1/3 butter (room temp.)

1/4 cup sugar

1 cup flour

1/4 cup brown sugar, packed

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

### Changes Coming for Online Viewers

Live stream of our Sunday worship will be streamed through YouTube starting May 12th. We are currently using Facebook to stream our service. You might want to visit our channel on YouTube. You can go to the YouTube site and search [First Presbyterian Sandpoint](#). You should see a small photo of our front windows. We are spending the next couple of weeks getting acquainted with the system. You won't need to subscribe to YouTube to watch a worship service.





## Highway Cleanup Time!

Hello All!

Ok, here we go again. Our highway pickup is scheduled for **May 18th** (Mt. St. Helen's Day).

We will be meeting at the **Westmond Store, Hwy 95 S, at 10:00 AM** with good shoes and gloves. The vests will be provided.

After the pick up, if you choose to attend, there will be lunch at the Helanders at 2105 Winchester Way, Sandpoint. The pick up usually takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours and then lunch depends on you.

There will be a sign up in the church bulletin, but if you want to RSVP directly to Sylvia that would be fine. (208)304-2995 or [poppy3942@gmail.com](mailto:poppy3942@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing a good-sized crowd. Pastor Andy says we may have our work cut out for us.



## Building and Grounds

Blue Jean Sunday, May 5th

Wear your work clothes, and work up an appetite for lunch. Bring your gloves and gardening tools. Power trimmer and edgers would be great, too. We'll split up into groups and tackle the side alley, entrance to Christian Ed building, and front flower beds. I will also have a white board set up with some other areas we could work on independently. Lunch will be provided.

Sue Helander

Building and Grounds



## **Presbyterian Women**

We may not have an active PW group here at FPC anymore, but that doesn't mean that there aren't still activities in the area for Sandpoint Presbyterian Women.

### **Walking in the Light**

#### **PW Spring Gathering 2024**

Join Us!

*When: May 11 at 11:00 a.m.*

*Where: Opportunity Presbyterian Church*

*202 N. Pines Road*

*Spokane Valley, WA 99206*

*Why: Lunch and Fellowship*

Lunch provided by Millwood Presbyterian at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$8.00 to cover expenses. Our guest speaker will be Leona Eubanks from Project ID.

### **Other Up-Coming Events**

#### **May 4**

9:00 a.m. Spring Fling Craft Sale at Millwood Presbyterian

#### **May 11**

9:00 a.m. Plant Sale at Opportunity Presbyterian

2:00 p.m. Tea at Opportunity Presbyterian

#### **May 18**

1:00 p.m. Tea and Fashion Show at Millwood Presbyterian

## SPRING EARTH CARE THOUGHTS

Springtime seems to awaken our awareness of Nature's wonders. With that awareness, we should be kind to our Earth, as we care for our own yards, and our church yard. We should avoid using pesticides and other chemicals. We should try to plant some native flowers and shrubs, to provide the best pollens for pollinators, including bees, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, and others. Fruits and seeds from native plants and trees also provide the best nutrition for birds.

Of course, in all seasons, we should maintain some basic good habits for Earth Care: conserve resources, reuse, and recycle. Avoid single-use plastics by finding alternative materials for food storage items, using fabric or other reuseable bags for carrying groceries, etc. All of the "little" efforts added together can make a "big" difference!

Submitted by Marilyn Robertson

## In Memoriam

The Rev. Robert Burdett passed away March 19, 2024. He was the minister at FPC Sandpoint from 2008 through April 2011. Keep the Burdett family in your prayers. A celebration of life gathering will be held later this summer in Iowa. Memorial donations / in lieu of flowers may be made directly to the family at 24721 347<sup>th</sup> St., Van Meter, Iowa (IA) 50261.



**Robert Wallace Burdett**



**May 3 Bella Noté concert**

**May 10 Suzuki concert 6:00 p.m.**

**May 13 Festival Youth Orchestra concert**

**May 15 Session Meeting 1:30 p.m.**



**May Birthdays**  
**5/1 Mary Bauer**  
**5/2 Judy McComish**  
**5/8 Jim Shirrell**  
**5/9 Don Helander**  
**5/18 Ted Farmin**  
**5/30 Nancy Albanese**



## Regular Monthly Events



### **Sunday**

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

### **Monday-Friday**

- 7:00 a.m. *AA meeting*

### **Monday**

- 6:00 p.m. *Al-Anon meeting*

### **Tuesday**

- 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group*

### **Wednesday**

- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *Choir practice*
- 6:00 p.m. *Al-Anon on Zoom*
- 7:00 p.m. *AA meeting*

### **Thursday**

- 12:00 p.m. *Al-Anon meeting*
- 7:00 p.m. *AA meeting*





**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)*