



## THE GRAPEVINE

### First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

### November 2024

#### From the Pastor...

There are some major items on the calendar in the next couple of months. One is an election with a focus on local, state, and national life, with ripple effects into the international realm. As things seem to go these days, it will likely be weeks to months of contested instability and varying levels of conflict over election results. People I've spoken with seem tense, stressed, and nervous. But another event helps us remember that we have much to be thankful for. Thanksgiving. A holiday at the end of November, the most travelled one in the United States as families and friends come together to feast. Then there is Christmas. Weeks of preparation, anticipation, and waiting come to an end as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This religious holiday overlaps into the culture with other stories that mix in, such as reindeer, gift exchange, and stockings hung on a chimney that Santa comes down sometime Christmas Eve night. From ballot boxes to turkey dinners to candles and singing Silent Night, these all take place within less than two months.

In this mix, it may be helpful to lean into spiritual disciplines even more over these next weeks. Quiet prayer that experientially calms our heart, mind, and spirit to claim our center in divine Presence may not extinguish anxieties or stresses, but reminds us that there is more going on

at deeper levels that can be trusted. Walking prayer helps our body get in on it as we feel with each step an inner experience that has a grounding effect. No wonder scriptures share images, like Jesus inviting people to follow on "the way," or about springs of living water, both involving movement. Springs bubble up from the unseen, they are not stagnant but provide fresh, potable water that gives life basic sustenance and allows things to flourish. Sometimes springs are small and quiet, other times they have quite the flow, even a current that bubbles up.

On Saturday, December 14, I'll offer an Advent Journey Labyrinth Workshop from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to introduce this unique tool of prayer and provide a shared group experience. There will be a sign up in advance.

As we navigate the calendar's events with their mix of challenge and opportunity, we're reminded of what James Finley says about God's love. God's love protects us from nothing, but sustains us in all things.

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Andy



Prayer Labyrinth

## Personnel

The personnel committee met with Pastor Andy to review the annual Terms of Call and a 2025 draft was presented to Session for review in October. Session will take action on the Terms of Call at the November meeting in preparation for consideration and adoption by the congregation at the Congregational Meeting in December.

Tim Cochran, Dyno Wahl, Paula Vincent

Personnel Committee

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

### Stewardship Reflection

Growing up, my siblings and I each had chores that were our responsibility. At an early age these chores were as simple as setting the dinner table, feeding the family pet, gathering and sorting the laundry, etc. While we didn't have a weekly allowance, we were gifted with a dime each week that we could put in the Sunday School offering to support a mission that we had selected as a Sunday School group.

When we were a little bit older and received monetary gifts or had part-time jobs, we were taught to set aside one tenth of each gift or paycheck as a tithe, one tenth to take to the bank and deposit into our savings account (remember those fun little paper passbooks?) and the remainder going into our checking accounts. These simple strategies were our parents' way of teaching us about stewardship. In reflection, these childhood gifts to the church weren't very large in terms of monetary value; however, being able to participate and give back as part of a community of faith brought joy then even as it does now.

All of us have an opportunity this month to join together in support of the mission of FPC through participation in the annual pledge drive. Some of the highlights of that mission in action this past year are captured in the enclosed narrative budget.

We are thankful for the many ways each of you contribute to the ministry of FPC and hope you will complete a pledge form and service matrix no later than **November 24<sup>th</sup>**. As you participate in this collective activity, may you find connection in being a part of a the FPC community... loving, living and learning the joy of faith.

### Finance Summary

**January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024**

*Received through September 30: \$90,127*

*Expenses through September 30: \$99,811*

*Budgeted through September 30: \$99,000*

**Per Capita Received this year:** \$1199 (\$2496 expended in 2024 or \$39.00 per member). For anyone wishing to make a *per capita* gift, please designate this on your check, pew envelope, etc.

Thank you for your continued financial support for the mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint. If you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Judy McComish and Paula Vincent, Elders

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial (cont.)

*We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Thessalonians 2-3

Greetings and blessings,

Apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians sets the intention to greet the church with thankfulness and prayer, to rejoice in actions that spring from love and faith. As we focus on stewardship this month, we also celebrate a wonderful past year and commit ourselves to continue our journey as a loving community that seeks to love, live and learn the joy of faith.

In the narrative budget for 2025, you can review some highlights of the past year and our ministry plan for the new year. Join us to proclaim with joy the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thank you,

Judy McComish, Paula Vincent, Elders

### Called to serve? Share your gifts of time and talent.

Please indicate areas in which you have an interest (check all that apply) and return via email to [office@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:office@fpcsandpoint.org), US mail to First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, 417 N 4th Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864, or place in the Sunday offering plate.

<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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial (cont.)

### 2025 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

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.

Please return this form by **Sunday, November 24th** in the manner most convenient for you.

Place in the Sunday offering plate.

Drop in the secure box located at the Alder Street church entry.

Mail to First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, 417 N 4th Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864.

Give online through your personal financial institution's bill pay system.

Utilize the link on the church website, <https://www.fpcsandpoint.org/give/#stewardship> to set up on-line giving through the Presbyterian Foundation.

Email this info to Susie Haskins, Financial Secretary: [willandsoozie@gmail.com](mailto:willandsoozie@gmail.com).

Thank you for your generosity!

Please select gift frequency and indicate the amount below.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /week      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /quarter      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /  
year

Total Annual Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Per Capita Information. Each year, FPC sends dollars as requested to support our connectional church with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. The current assessment is thirty-nine dollars (\$39) per member. For members and friends wishing to make an additional gift to offset this expense, please write "per capita" on the designation line of checks, offering envelopes, etc.

Please complete the information below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial (cont.)

### 2025 Narrative Budget

#### Our Plan for Ministry:

<i>To provide meaningful, life changing <b>WORSHIP</b> every week of the year.</i>	<b>\$102,000</b> <i>(75% of general budget)</i>
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#### *Highlights from 2024*

We held weekly worship services where, on an average week, 30 worshippers gathered together in-person to praise God and hear God's word

Live Streaming of weekly services allowed for anytime viewing; a few individuals made regular use of this format

Special worship services were held Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve

Over 20 church members assisted Sunday worship serving as worship assistant, usher, or Live Streaming technician

During Pastor Andy Kennaly's study leave and vacation weeks, Sunday worship services were led with a blend of visiting ordained clergy and lay leaders from the church

Worship services were enhanced with special music from the choir with the leadership and musical voice of Dana Stockman and the talents of Annie Welle at the piano

One summer worship service was held on the lawn in the community Peace Garden

<i>To <b>NURTURE</b> people on their faith journeys.</i>	<b>\$20,400</b> <i>(15% of general budget)</i>
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#### *Highlights from 2024*

Christian Education provided Sunday morning adult nurture and study

**Adult Nurture**, facilitated by Sharon Anderson, Judy Labrie, and Pastor Andy

Explored volunteer activities and ways group members are participating in community and outreach in Sandpoint and beyond

Explored Mathew 25 resources with 10 to 15 participants

With coordination by Sylvia Humes and the help of many volunteers, weekly fellowship was provided following worship

A reception honoring Pastor Andy and his 13+ years of service at FPC and recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was held

One new member reception was offered for anyone interested in exploring church membership and the ministry of FPC and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## Stewardship, Finance, Memorial (cont.)

### 2025 Narrative Budget

#### Our Plan for Ministry continued:

<i>To <b>WITNESS</b> to our faith in ministry and <b>MISSION</b> beyond ourselves</i>	<b>\$13,600</b> <i>(10% of general budget)</i>
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#### *Highlights from 2024*

Provided financial support through mission giving and participation in special offerings including One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness and Christmas Joy

FPC meets the per capita request of \$39 per member to support our connectional church with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery in addition to missional gifts to General Assembly and Presbytery

Pastor Andy's sermon is posted weekly on the church website and on Andy's Substack profile; the Live Stream video is on You Tube

Providing Fellowship Hall space and use of the kitchen in partnership with the Wednesday Soup Kitchen which regularly provides a hot meal for 25-30 individuals

Meeting space is offered for community use and local chapters of AA, Al Anon, and TOPS

FPC partners with the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force by providing and supporting space for retreats, training and community gatherings

The sanctuary is frequently used by many of the local music schools and groups for recitals and community concerts

FPC also hosted a concert for the community that was provided by the Wesley Bell Ringers, a music ministry of Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City; additionally, congregants provided dinner, lodging and breakfast for the youth ringers and sponsors

The gift of space in the Peace Garden, including a "Little Free Library" gets frequent visitors

Over 3000 pounds of food were contributed to the Bonner Food Bank during November and December 2023 through the cooperative efforts of the FPC and UMC congregations

Congregation members volunteer in many ways at Sandpoint Senior Center serving as meal delivery drivers, food service helpers, and helping with special/fundraising events

Financial donations and FPC volunteers support the Bonner Community Food Bank and Bonner Homeless Transitions

The congregation hosts benefits, e.g., the St Patrick's Day dinner to support the Senior Center

FPC sponsored a stretch of Highway 95 through semi-annual clean up drives

<i>Total needed to fulfill our <b>VISION</b>: To follow Christ's light as a congregation of people, loving, living, learning the joy of faith.</i>	<b>\$136,000</b>
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## Session Notes for October

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on October 16, 2024. Present were Moderator, Pastor Andy, Clerk, Kirsten Thompson, and Elders, Sharon Anderson, Sue Helander, Judy McComish, Judy Labrie, Mary Sturgis, and Paula Vincent. Sylvia Humes was excused.

The Session approved its Consent Agenda including approval of several events at the church. New member, Nova Dodd was welcome by Reaffirmation of Faith, the Letter of Transfer for Gary Jones to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Oregon, was noted, and Dan and Jill Murphy were removed from the Active Member Roll.

Several items from the prior meeting were discussed, including website replacement. Kirsten will work with Dana Stockman to follow up on this with Lynne Stockman and David Harper. No decisions made yet.

**Finance:** Liability insurance is up for renewal, and there is a need to review building use policies to see whether our forms and agreements need to be updated. A small group including Judy L., Judy M., Paula, and Kirsten will meet on October 28 to discuss and share information.

Paula has prepared a draft budget for 2025 based on prior year expenses, and estimates of future costs.

**Personnel:** Draft Terms of Call were prepared and reviewed. Insurance costs have increased by 3%. It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve a 4% increase in Pastoral compensation as described in the draft Terms of Call.

**Finance, Memorial, and Stewardship:** Visioning team efforts were discussed. It was agreed that a visioning team should include folks with knowledge of the last visioning process, though not all would be available. Paula and Sharon will work together on starting this process. There may be grant funds available to assist with church improvements suitable for newer building uses.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Andy reported that several members/friends who reside at the Bridge were recently left without a ride. He will follow up with adding some of these folks' names to the church directory. Transportation help may be available from some members. Pastor Andy also officiated at the graveside funeral service for Phil Bricker. The Session celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Andy's ordination with him at the Session meeting with a gift of a beautiful fountain pen from the Personnel Committee.

**Building Administration** shared a building use report. There will be a meeting with Session members and building users on Sunday, October 20 to review building uses, policies, and share information.

**Building and Grounds:** Sue's proposal for a "Day of Arakening" for fall clean-up was approved. The date was set for November 3<sup>rd</sup> via post-meeting email decision. Some new signs will be going up to encourage day use only in the Community Peace Garden. Other seasonal tasks include gutter cleaning will be done. New panic door hardware will be installed at two exits around the church soon.

**The Worship and Music Committee** met recently. An acknowledgement of All Saints' Day including playing bells to honor members and friends who have passed in the last year will occur on October 27. The Reformation candle will also be lighted on October 27 to acknowledge Reformation Sunday. An Advent Labyrinth workshop led by Pastor Andy will be held on December 14. Other dates approved for coming weeks include church decoration for Advent on December 7 from 10 a.m. – noon. The advent wreath will be removed December 29 after church. Removal of Advent/Christmas decorations (undecorating?) will be scheduled for January 5, 2025, after worship.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Andy. The next Session meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kirsten Thompson, Clerk

## **Building and Ground**

Sunday, Nov. 3rd "Day of Arakening"

Wear your grubbies and join us after worship for raking leaves. Bring a rake and gloves; we have a few spare rakes as well. Soup will be shared afterwards. We will recycle leaves and place them on garden beds. If you're able to provide a pot of soup or some rolls let us know. If unable to rake, help with set-up and clean up would be appreciated.

In addition, First Presbyterian Church had an energy audit done in June to explore upgrades of LED lighting. We will receive a rebate of \$10,505.70; our out-of-pocket expense is set at \$398.30. We will also be reducing annual electricity use by 22,960.59 KWh.

Sue Helander, Elder

## **Building Use**

Autumn Building Uses

How does a church make good use of the building that mostly sits empty on weekdays? The friends and members open it up to affordable meeting space to encourage missional, supportive participation in the community.

On October 20, 2024, FPC hosted a gathering of representatives from most of the groups that meet weekly in various places in the church. Included were Pastor Andy, several elders on session, our faithful custodian, Ken, and about 10 folks who came from the eight regular meeting groups. Around 144 people benefit from affordable meeting space each week at FPC! That ripples out to the community, too.

As we went around the room telling the stories of the individuals and groups, it was heartening to hear about the appreciation and impact of the meeting spaces. Each representative mentioned their willingness to help the church maintain the facilities.

Keeping in mind the importance of meeting spaces for the non-profit sector, there is a committee of elders meeting in November to review the church liability insurance, the building use agreements and the expenses that may be involved as we head into winter.

Other "one-time" groups continue to request space for music rehearsals, concerts, and trainings. One example is the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force that will celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10. More information about upcoming events for the public will be shared as they develop.

Blessings of this gorgeous late autumn,

Judy Labrie, Building Use Administration Committee





# UPCOMING EVENTS



- November 3** Day of “Arakening” - fall cleanup after church
- November 20** Session, 1:30
- November 26** December Grapevine articles due!
- November 27** NO choir practice
- November 28** Thanksgiving





**11/1 Lynn Pietz**  
**11/2 Jim Dustman**  
**11/3 Jane Clark**  
**11/14 Kelly Curtis**  
**11/14 Paul Vincent**  
**11/16 Esther Inselman**  
**11/26 Tim Cochran**

Did we miss your birthday or get the date wrong?  
Email the office and let us know!  
[office@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:office@fpcsandpoint.org)

## Regular Monthly Events



*Thank you, Judy Labrie, for the church history collage wall!*

### ***Sunday***

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, In-Person and Livestream (<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyteriansandpoint>)
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

### ***Monday-Saturday***

- 7:00 a.m. AA meeting

### ***Monday***

- 9:00 a.m. TOPS meeting (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
- 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

### ***Tuesday***

- 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

### ***Wednesday***

- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Choir practice in sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rainbow Soup Kitchen community meal
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

### ***Thursday***

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





## *First Presbyterian Church*

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

208-263-2047

[office@fpcsandpoint.org](mailto:office@fpcsandpoint.org)

[www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org)

### *Ministers*

Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

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

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

### *Office Hours*

Tuesday 9:00-12:00

Wednesday 9:00-11:00