

a letter from the pastor

I've always hoped to visit New Zealand, but anymore I suspect I will need to be satisfied with video documentaries. The island country has no dangerous wild animals or reptiles native to it. Not one! The island has more flightless birds than any other place on earth – the kiwi, the kakapo and the penguins are but a few. The reason the birds are flightless is because their life is easy. They had no predators to escape from and plenty of food on the ground, therefore there is no need to fly thus they lost their ability to fly.

An “easy” life is highly desired and sought after by many, but it has a downside. The parts that cause us to struggle are what makes us into something greater and gives us the ability to “fly” higher and longer. As I pay attention to the world (America in particular), I suspect in time the people who live in comfort will lose their ability to “fly”. The people of the future who fly, will be those who have struggled for generations, for they will be stronger.

I am seeing the same dynamic with the Church. Some people ask why the Church is in a downward spin? I think the answer has much to do with comfort. In my own denomination (United Church of Christ – UCC) over the last 30 - 40 years, there has been a movement for congregations to publicly declare themselves as “Open and Affirming”, which means all people are welcome and accepted as who they are regardless of their sexuality. There have been some knock-down congregational battles over it. Having served 5 O&A congregations, I can say with certainty, they are the most alive and dynamic of congregations. They publicly welcome people who are mostly unwelcomed in other places. Those congregations left the comfort and returned to the struggle, and are flying. This is very near the same thing that happened in the first century of the Church. Excluded people were being included. People who were being rejected by the rest of the cultures of the day were made welcome and included, which is the foundation of Jesus teachings and living. Remember, he did say many times, “follow me”.

It is essential for tension and challenge to be a driving force of life. When Christian life becomes “easy” then Christianity is also vulnerable to becoming less significant as it moves toward superficiality and irrelevance then followed by making the Church into something that will appeal to the public to maintain its survival. The Church and Christians must always guard against the temptation to accept comfort and ease for that threat is the equivalent of a bird living in New Zealand and losing the ability to fly.

The Church lives and grows when the people of the Church seek new, challenging and sometimes dangerous and difficult opportunities to welcome others. Jesus was bold and boldness is what it takes for the Church to be alive and thrive – boldness! Oh, how we fear such boldness because of what others will say. The Church grows when it welcomes people who are marginally (at best) welcomed elsewhere. The Church has the chance to grow and avoid irrelevance when risks of serving the neediest people are taken. History has shown that when the Church and Christians did not make Christianity into a path to easy life, comfort and plenty, then the Church was relevant, growing and world changing. When we are relevant and focused upon the serving, especially serving those who normally do not get served, as was Jesus did, then we will maintain our ability to “fly”. I don't know how to be a Christian without giving efforts to be this kind of Church.

Church Staff

Pastor
Rev. Don Hammond

Office Manager
Susan Riswold

**Organist &
Handbell Director**
Barb Mix

**First Presbyterian
Church**

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Church,
Twin Falls, Idaho

Jesus' twelve disciples were as different from each other as any twelve people can be. Each had his own personality, tendencies, strengths and weaknesses, yet Jesus chose them to be the builders of his Church. Would they succeed or fail? Today has a similar story. The Church has yet to be built as Jesus seemed to want it built and we, like the original twelve, are as different from each other as the original twelve were, and we are given the same responsibility. The same question is as valid today as it was then, "will we succeed or fail?" **Come to this Maundy Thursday Communion Service** and discover how much you have in common with some of those men. With good fortune, you may discover you also have what Jesus saw in the original twelve. **There will be soup and delicious bread in the fellowship hall and tables for 12. Of course, everyone is welcome.**



February 2023

Total Member Contributions - \$25,214
Per Capita - \$540
Total Other Income - \$2,190
Volley Ball Rent - \$
Total Income - \$27,404

Total Expenses - \$24,293
Administrative - \$17,285
Office - \$2,882
Per Capita - \$
Facility - \$4,126
Insurance - \$
Net Profit - \$3,111

Mission - \$3,896 - from outside

Thank you!
Thank you
from the Board Members of
Bill's Place

*Thank You so much for the
donation to Bill's Place. We
will put it to good use helping
these girls transition.
It was greatly appreciated.*

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

John Howar	4/5
Tom Billington	4/6
Camille Flournoy	4/6
Michelle Keller	4/6
Gwenyth Frost	4/8
Gene Baxter	4/10
Eli Daisher	4/10
Jade Mayer	4/11
Nathan Beck	4/11
Charlotte Eberlein	4/15
Miles Daisher	4/16
Debbie Bergen	4/21
Brent Bergen	4/23
Margie Howard	4/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Charlotte Eberlein	4/5
Rod & Faye Potthast	4/12
Kerm & Joan Leir	4/14
Rob & Kelly Probasco	4/25
Robin & Vivian Wells	4/26

Sunday Worship services start at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and conclude around 11:00.

Please join us for Social Time each Sunday in the Fellowship Room, right after worship. Light snacks, juice, coffee and tea are served.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME to remain with their families in the sanctuary for worship. There are worship bags containing items for children to use in their pew during this time.

WIGGLE ROOM FOR CHILDREN: There are two family-friendly spaces in the church:

The Family Room at the back of the sanctuary offers rocking chairs, a changing table and books and toys for the very young.

Downstairs in the Fellowship Room, there is a corner off to the left with a toy bin containing puzzles, soft toys, and board books.

APRIL 30 FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

BYOB POTLUCK

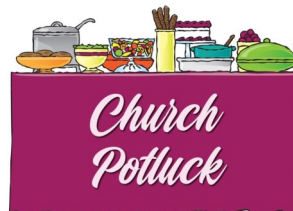
Bring Your Own Bagel/Bread and toppings

Suggestions but really anything goes:

Spreads: cream cheese, plain, flavored, peanut butter, jelly, jam, Nutella

Meat/fish: smoked salmon, bacon, sliced ham, turkey, pepperoni

Fruit: banana, blue berries, strawberries, black berries, sliced apple



2023 SESSION ELDERS

Mark Crothers
(Worship)

Phil Winn
(Stewardship)

Bob Parkinson
(Mission)

Judy Wright
(Fellowship)

Lawrence Flournoy
(Building & Grounds)

Chris Talkington
(Fellowship)

Carol Benson
(Worship)

Judy Pollow
(Personnel)

Mark Koffer
(Worship)

ELECTED OFFICERS

Melanie Halsell, Clerk of Session

Bob Parkinson, Treasurer

GIFTS, MEMORIALS & ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Phil Winn – Chair

COMMISSIONED DEACONS

Darlene Annen & Candee Hawk
(Memorial Dinners)

Charlotte & Bill Eberlein
(Mission | Christmas Project)

Carol Benson
(Card Ministry)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Darlene Annen & Susan Harris
Co-Moderators

Joan Leir – Secretary

Colleen Miltenberger –
Treasurer

MEN'S BREAKFAST

At 7:00 am every Wednesday morning
at Idaho Joe's

for breakfast & topical discussion.

Contact Phil Winn

CIRCLE FIVE

Thursday, April 20 at 10:00am

at Marjorie Gebauer's house

775 Mountain View Dr. TF

Come and join us for fun, fellowship.

Contact Darlene Annen 208-308-6681

ABIGAIL CIRCLE

Thursday, April 20 at 1:00pm

In the Fellowship room.

All are welcome to join us. If you are interested
contact Deanna Baxter, Susan Harris, or Joan Leir

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 27 at 1:00pm

at Great Harvest Bakery

We will be discussing A Gentleman in Moscow,
by Amor Towles



Book club will meet Thursday
April 27 at 1pm at Great
Harvest bakery. Our book will
be "A Gentleman In Mos-
cow". Join us for a hot drink, a
muffin or sandwich. Come
even if you don't get the book
read!

Liturgist and ushers needed for April. If
you or your family would be willing to
serve as a Liturgist or usher for a Sunday in
April please contact Judy Wright, April
Head Usher at
(208)-320-0512.

can you

Sandwich Saturday began
serving sack lunches in
October 2020. We have
grown from preparing 25
sack lunches to 108 sack
lunches. Each lunch in-
cludes 2 Smucker's peanut butter and jelly sandwich-
es, an apple or an orange, 2 cookies, a bag of chips
and a bottle of water. Lunches are packed in an assem-
bly line manner. 20 lunches are placed on a table set
up on the sidewalk in front of the church and banners
are hung inviting anyone needing a lunch. Any left
over lunches are placed in the blessing box. We have
reached out to the community and learned that a
number of families with children are living in the
motels on Addison Avenue West. We now deliver 26
lunches to the Apollo Inn who in turn distributes to
families in need living in that group of motels, as well
as 18 lunches to Main Street Extended Stay, and 18
lunches to Old Towne Lodge. We also learned that the
SureStay Hotel on Blue Lakes has a need and deliver
26 lunches to them. 108 lunches are now being
prepared and distributed every other Saturday. The
motels and their guests often express their apprecia-
tion.



We appreciate all the volunteers who are
helping with the purchasing of groceries, setting up
the assembly line, filling the lunch bags, hanging the
banners, delivering the lunches, and helping with
clean-up. Thank you to all of those who have helped
and continue to help!!! We start filling the bags at
10:30 and are usually finished with that component
by 11:15. The lunches are then delivered and others
stay to help with clean-up or preparation for the next
serving date. We are completely finished by 1:00.
Most helpers are finished by no later than 12:00.

We welcome others to come and join this
ministry. Please contact Darlene Annen at
dcanen@gmail.com or call 208-308-6681.

This ministry not only helps others but provides
an opportunity for fellowship among our congregation
as well.

**If you would like to help, join us on
April 1st, 15th, and 29th.**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Cross necklace project.
We made over 50
necklaces to donate to
the Salvation Army!



Looking for a Local Ministry?

Volunteers needed to Drive People
to Church and Church Events

Or

Do You need rides to Church?



Here is an opportunity for people who want to participate in congregational worship and other church events, but are limited by lack of transportation.

We are recruiting people to participate in this important ministry by being available to drive someone to and from the church. If this is a ministry you can participate in, we would like to hear from you as we organize matching drivers with people in need of transportation.

If you are interested in being transported to the church for worship or other church events, please contact the church and we will seek to arrange a driver to bring you to and return you home from worship and events.

*If interested, please contact the Church's
Administrative Assistant Susan at (208) 733-7023*



WERLI FRANCOIS, ALAMY STOCK

You shall be called Repairers of the breach

— ISAIAH 58



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23 - 04.9.23

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

\$3.1 million-granted by PDA in the United States and 15 countries

80-grants impacting 23 countries given by PHP

over 3,000-people trained in food production around the world

191,182-Gift of the Heart Kits and Blankets distributed

276-certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation

1,500-trees planted in Nigeria, in addition to others around the world

\$15,000-Funded Metropolitan Tenants Organization

\$9,000-Funded the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication

786-Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods

\$15,000-Funded Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing, Inc.



Matthew 25 teaches us that,
in every time and season
the Church finds itself and its Savior
through relationships with
those in need.

Suggested Donations



When refugees arrive in Twin Falls they are set up in houses or apartments with only the bare necessities. For example, a family would only receive enough kitchen utensils (plate, fork, spoon, knife, drinking glass, etc.) for each person to have one item. The list below shows what CSIRP provides brand new to each refugee upon arrival. The majority of the donations we receive are clothes. Our greatest need is for household items. **High need items are starred (**)** below.

Please Note: If we receive brand new donations of the following 10 items, the amount saved is given to the refugee individual or family to purchase other necessities.

1. Kitchen table and 1 chair/person
2. Mattress
3. 1 set of sheets/bed
4. 1 pillow/bed
5. 1 blanket/bed
6. 1 full set of dishes/person
7. 1 towel/person
8. Clothes hangers
9. Rice cooker
10. Couch (for families only)

Suggested Household Donations: (All items must be clean and in good condition)

KITCHEN**

Dishes
Ladles
Crockpots
Microwaves
Mixing bowls
Casserole dish
Pots and pans
Colanders
Cutting boards
Can openers
Knives
Cheese grater
Forks, spoons
Baking trays
Tupperware

CLEANING SUPPLIES**

Dishwasher soap
Toilet brushes
Broom, dustpan
All purpose cleaning spray
Laundry soap
Sponges
Paper towels

BEDROOM

Sheets: flat, fitted
Pillow cases
**Blankets or quilts
**Pillows- *NEW only*
Alarm clock
Window curtains
Laundry basket
Towels

CLOTHING

General Clothing
Is the least needed
Shoes (*gently used*)
**Men's jeans
** NEW socks
** NEW underwear

FURNITURE

Desks
Lamps
Bookshelves
Couches/chairs

HYGIENE

Shampoo
Razors
Women's pads
Combs
Toothbrush, paste
Men's deodorant
Women's deodorant
Bar soap
Hand soap
**Diapers and wipes
**Toilet paper

MISCELLANEOUS

Washer & Dryer
Pens, pencils, school supplies
Binders with zippers
Needle and thread
Clothes iron
Home décor
Bikes
Toys for the kids
Soccer balls
Clocks
Sewing machines
First Aid Kits
Rugs

NOT ACCEPTED

Used mattresses
Used pillows
Car seats
Old TV's
Non-functioning electronics

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30am Sandwich Saturday
2 Palm Sunday Worship 10am Communion Sunday	3 7-9pm NA (FR)	4	5 7am Men's Breakfast	6 Maundy Thursday 	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter Sunday Worship 10am	10 7-9pm NA (FR)	11	12 7am Men's Breakfast	13	14	15 10:30am Sandwich Saturday
16 Worship 10am	17 7-9pm NA (FR)	18 5:30pm Stated Ses- sion (FR)	19 7am Men's Breakfast	20 10am Circle 5 1pm Abigail Circle (FR)	21	22
23 Worship 10am	24 7-9pm NA (FR)	25	26 7am Men's Breakfast	27 1pm BookClubbers Great Harvest Bread	28	29 10:30am Sandwich Saturday
30 5 th Sunday Worship 10am (FR)						



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED