

# October 2023 Edition

*a letter  
from the pastor*



My first congregation after seminary was a challenging effort for me. In addition to learning how to be a full-time pastor, my oldest son started kindergarten and our second child was on the way. Financial resources were limited, and every dollar was carefully cared for. My benefit package included the normal 4 weeks of vacation; however, with the financial demands upon me I thought it best that I use my four weeks working for one of the church members as a farmhand by driving trucks and tractor.

In late August after three weeks of driving truck the wheat was harvested. The farmer put me into his brand new, articulated, air-conditioned, music enhanced, leather seated \$150,000 (a lot of money in 1979) tractor and showed me how to disc the ground. "Be careful not to overheat it," he warned me. "After all, it is 100 degrees outside". Driving a tractor can be a bit boring and I suppose I became too comfortable with the air conditioning and music. While pulling the discs up a hill, the tractor stopped. I neglected to pay attention to the thermostat. "I just ruined a \$150,000 piece of equipment," I thought. In great fear I called the farmer on the radio to tell him what I had done, he laughed and said, "I warned you". Then he added, now you need to sit in the hot sun for about 15 minutes until the tractor cools down, then it will run again". Apparently, the manufacture anticipated people like me and built in an automatic "shut down" when the machinery was in danger. I felt better knowing I would not need to use all my career vacations to pay for a \$150,000 tractor. I was glad for engineers that thought ahead.

Sometimes, in other parts of living, the machinery overheats. Something doesn't go as expected, something gets overlooked, we get distracted and the machinery "shuts down" and trouble seems to be ahead. Not to fear, something was built in to attend to the problem. We face up to our errors, admit our problems and talk about it. The voice on the other end chuckles and says, "I warned you. Take the heat for a while, bear with it, don't fret over your mistakes, and in a little while start it up again, it will run for this is the way it was engineered." We have been well "engineered". Engineered to do great works and pull great loads. Whenever you suspect you ruined the machinery, take the heat for a while and start it up again for that is how God's people have been built. Breakdowns happen, but they are intended to be temporary. Everything still works.

*Peace, Don*



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## Church Staff

**Interim Pastor  
Rev. Don  
Hammond**

**Office Manager  
Susan Riswold**

**Organist &  
Handbell  
Director  
Barb Mix**

**First Presbyterian  
Church**

**Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 557  
Twin Falls, ID  
83303-0557**

**209 Fifth Avenue N.  
Twin Falls, ID 83301**

**208.733.7023**

**[www.twinfallspfpc.org](http://www.twinfallspfpc.org)**

**© First Presbyterian  
Church,  
Twin Falls, Idaho**

## **Church Office Hours**

*Tuesday - Friday  
9am - 2pm*

*Please call the  
office to make an  
appointment with  
Pastor Don  
208-733-7023*



*Please let the Church office know if we are missing your birthday, anniversary, would like to make an announcement or need to make a correction - thanks!*

### **January thru August 2023**

Total Member Contributions - \$87,871  
Per Capita - \$1,020  
Total Other Income - \$24,089  
Volley Ball Rent - \$7,000  
Total Income - \$111,960  
Total Expenses - \$73,754  
Administrative - \$56,661  
Office - \$17,193  
Per Capita - \$7,265  
Facility - (100) (because of  
Insurance payments)  
Insurance - \$  
Net Gain - \$38,206  
Mission - \$12,834 - from outside



### **Session Summary - September 2023**

- Meeting opened in prayer by Mark Crothers in the absence of Pastor Hammond.
- PNC update: Met last Saturday and began to fill out MDP documents. Another meeting will be held in 2 weeks. Congregation input is still being sought. Presbytery has not yet responded with information to proceed on some details.
- Rene Horner will complete Melanie Halsell's Clerk of Session term.
- Acorn Learning Center requests permission to use Sanctuary and Fellowship Room for Thanksgiving program 7am -2pm on Nov. 17.
- Bob Parkinson's Barbershop Quartet to meet in Fellowship Hall from 6-7 pm Tuesdays.
- Thank you to Rene Horner for the plantings in the courtyard.
- Staff evaluations to be completed by end of December.
- Fifth Sunday (October 29) to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Judy Wright has planned game for people to bring a photograph of themselves as children.
- Next meeting will be October 17th, 2023 at 5 :00PM

**Melanie Halsell  
Clerk of Session**



# First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls

## 2023 SESSION ELDERS

**Mark Crothers**  
(People Committee)

**Phil Winn**  
(Resources Committee)

**Bob Parkinson**  
(Resources Committee)

**Judy Wright**  
(People Committee)

**Lawrence Flournoy**  
(Property Committee)

**Chris Talkington**  
(Property Committee)

**Monica Youree**  
(People Committee)

**Judy Pollow**  
(Faith Committee)

**Mark Koffer**  
(Faith Committee)

### ELECTED OFFICERS

**Rene Horner**  
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

Co-Moderators  
**Darlene Annen**  
**Susan Harris**  
Secretary  
**Joan Leir**  
Treasurer  
**Colleen Miltenberger**

## Sunday Worship 10:00am Adult Bible Study 8:30am

Please join us after Worship for fellowship and a light snack in the downstairs Fellowship Room.

### CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

To worship with their families in the sanctuary.

Fun bags are provided for children to use in their pew.

### WIGGLE ROOM FOR CHILDREN

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

Downstairs in the Fellowship Room, children's corner off to the left with toy bin containing puzzles, soft toys, and board books to keep young ones busy.

## Happy Anniversary

**Al & Joanne Smutny October 12**

**Rick & Mary Kuhn October 29**



*Al and Joanne Smutny have moved to be closer to family. We wish them well and will miss them!*  
Riverview Retirement Community  
1801 East Upriver Drive  
Apt. 172  
Spokane, WA 99207-5181



# Happy Birthday!

Joan Leis	10/1
Elsa Mearkle	10/5
Aidan Mix	10/6
Lindsay Probasco	10/6
Candee Hawk	10/8
Joan Leir	10/8
Maçie Youree	10/10
Nancy Hammond	10/12
Olen Foreman	10/16
Don Hammond	10/16
Cathy Talkington	10/17
Judy Pollow	10/22
George Halsell	10/23
Sarita Irwin	10/24
Terry Fletcher	10/26
Michelle Myers	10/26
Sydney Bergen	10/29
Kali Duncan	10/30
Sue Knott	10/30



## Goodbye from Melanie Halsell

There are so many songs in our culture that deal with 'goodbyes.' 'So Long, Farewell,' from *The Sound of Music*, Jimmy Durante's 'I'll Be Seeing You,' and of course, Percy Mayfield's 'Hit the Road, Jack,' which is a favorite of mine and was a huge hit for Ray Charles.

As George and I make our final preparations to leave Twin Falls and move to Bellingham, WA, the song that keeps looping in my head is, 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You.' It was a favorite benediction of our chancel choir during my time as choir director, and I not only 'hear' it as I navigate these last few busy days, I can see the faces of the choir members as I stood in front of them. It was always 'the best seat in the house,' standing up there.

Over the years, those faces changed, of course. New members joined us, some 'retired,' folks moved, and sometimes we were blessed to be asked to sing at the memorial services of choir members and our friends in the pews. It's a special gift to be allowed to do that for someone, and thanks for giving us that privilege. Even though it's hard as heck to sing when you're trying not to cry.

And I'm trying not to cry, too, and so far, have failed. Like right now, for instance. So many of you have said you'll miss us, and if I even need to say it, I will – we'll miss you beyond words. The only words I have left are simply that I know we'll see other other again, if not here, then when we convene in heaven. You know where I'll be – at choir practice, in the alto section, maybe with Gabriel up front. I hope we end each rehearsal and service of praise with 'that' song.

The Lord Bless You, and Keep You.

We will miss you

Melanie & George Halsell  
New address  
2185 Jones Circle  
Ferndale, WA 98248

Melanie



### Top 5 Halloween Candy

- 1) Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- 2) Twix
- 3) Snickers
- 4) Kit Kat
- 5) Butterfinger



### Did you know...

There are more than 45 varieties of pumpkins. They range in color like red, yellow, green and orange. With names like Hooligan, Cotton Candy and Orange Smoothie.

Pumpkins are technically fruits. More specifically, they are winter squash in the family *Cucurbitaceae*, which includes cucumbers and melons.

Every single part of a pumpkin is edible, skin, leaves, flowers, pulp, seeds and even the stem!

Pumpkins are 90% water, which make them a low-calorie food.

Each Pumpkin produces approximately 500 seeds, they take 90-120 days to grow.

Over 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkin are produced each year in the U.S. that's a lot of pumpkins!



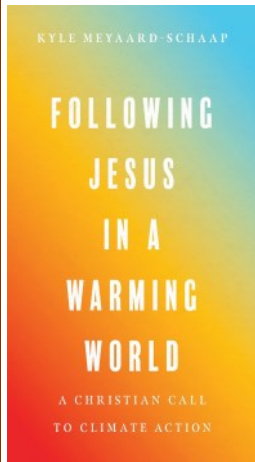
## New Bible Study

Sunday's 8:30am

Starting October 22

Recommended by Pastor Phil Price

We have books!



Sunday mornings 8:30am  
Before worship service  
9 week study  
Starting October 22  
See Bob Parkinson  
if interested



### ABIGAIL CIRCLE

Thursday, October 19 at 1:30pm  
Fellowship Room

All are welcome to join us  
Contact Deanna Baxter,  
Susan Harris, or Joan Leir.

### BOOK CLUB

Thursday, October 26 at 1pm  
at Great Harvest Bakery

### CIRCLE FIVE

Thursday, October 6 at 10am  
Darlene Annen's Home

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Wednesday at 7am  
at Idaho Joe's Restaurant  
Join us for breakfast & fellowship  
Contact Phil Winn

## Book Clubbers

Thursday October 26 at 1pm

Great Harvest Bakery

*Another great and interesting book choice!*

Have You Seen Luis Velez?

By: Catherine Ryan Hyde

**A story of two strangers who find that kindness is a powerful antidote to fear**

Raymond Jaffe feels like he doesn't belong. Not with his mother's new family. Not as a weekend guest with his father and his father's wife. Not at school, where he's an outcast.

After his best friend moves away, Raymond has only two real connections: to the feral cat he's tamed and to a blind ninety-two-year-old woman in his building who's introduced herself with a curious question: *Have you seen Luis Velez?*

Mildred Gutermann, a German Jew who narrowly escaped the Holocaust, has been alone

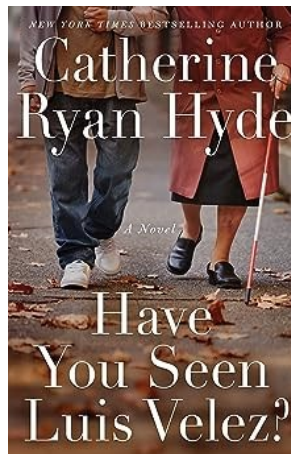
since her caretaker disappeared. She turns to Raymond for help, and as he tries to track Luis down, a deep and unexpected friendship blossoms between the two.

Despondent at the loss of Luis, Mildred isolates herself further from a neighborhood devolving into bigotry and fear.

Determined not to let her give up, Raymond helps

her see that for every terrible act the world delivers, there is a mirror image of deep kindness, and Mildred helps Raymond see that there's hope if you have someone.

***Sounds like a great read!***



## Cooks Night Out

October 16th at 6:00pm

Garibaldi Mexican Restaurant

645 Filer Ave

PLEASE RSVP to Molly Senkbeil

208-869-7651

mngsenk@gmail.com



# **WE APPRECIATE OUR INTERIM PASTOR**

*Pastor Don Hammond*

*We are so blessed to have you here at First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls*

*Thank you for all the ways you lead and guide our Church,  
we appreciate all you do for our congregation!*



## **OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH OCTOBER 8 IS PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY**

Since 1992, October has been observed as Clergy Appreciation Month in the U.S. The call to honor our church leaders' contributions goes back to the time of Apostle Paul. As founder of many of the

first Christian churches, Paul enjoined the congregation to give 'double honor' to the elders who managed the affairs of the church. He was especially concerned about honoring "those whose work is preaching and teaching." Paul the apostle also entreated Christian communities to acknowledge those "who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord, and who admonish you." He believed that holding these spiritual leaders "in the highest regard in love because of their work" is crucial to Christian beliefs.

Even though clergymen had enjoyed special standing in their parishes, it wasn't until 1992 that Focus on the Family, an American Christian organization, would begin promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. In highlighting Clergy Appreciation Month, Focus on the Family urged that there be a national celebration of the clergymen, who play important roles in the functioning of the Church.

From Clergy Appreciation Month came the idea of dedicating one specific day to pay tribute to the pastors. This day came to be known as Pastor Appreciation Day. You may also know this day as Clergy Appreciation Day. As of 2019, the number of people employed as clergies in the United States stands at 458,411.

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.  
**1Timothy 5:17**

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.  
**1Thessalonians 5:12-13**



## Habitat for Humanity - I had the unique opportunity to build a house out of Styrofoam!

The company, Fox Blocks, manufactures ICF or Insulated Concrete Forms which are used to build reinforced concrete walls.

The company provides training for the volunteers and a Fox Blocks representative on site. Volunteers, along with the family members who will be receiving the house, started placing the ICF on a Monday morning and were finished in 7 days.

I loved working on this build. It was hard and easy at the same time. Hard because there was a serious deadline to meet, and easy because, well- it was Styrofoam!

This home will take almost a year to complete but in 7 days we put up the walls!

What an amazing accomplishment.

This unique home is located at 725 Satia Lane in Kimberly.

***Drive by and see what all the excitement is about!***

*Rene*



## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HARVEST PARTY

October 28 / 1-4pm

The River Christian Fellowship

4002N 3300E, Twin Falls

Fun for the Whole Family!

Games - Candy - Fun - Food Trucks

### Donation Drive

Support the Valley House by donating items towards  
your favorite Super Mario character!  
Bring all donations to the Harvest Party!!

Find the event on Facebook



### A Magic Valley Tradition

The Rim2Rim is a Magic Valley tradition! This is a 7.5-mile race that begins and ends deep in the Snake River canyon at the prestigious Blue Lakes Country Club's Bass Lake. The course climbs out of the canyon at a treacherous 6% grade, with a cash prize to the first racers to make it to the top. Competitors then make their way past themed water stations lining the course, cross the amazing Perrine Bridge, pass by the Visitors Center, down the challenging 6% Canyon Springs grade, passing through the Canyon Springs Golf Course to the Pipeline Bridge that will bring them back to the Blue Lakes Country Club and finish line at Bass Lake. Racers are greeted by Habitat volunteers and homeowners, plus served a gourmet luncheon by the Blue Lakes Country Club Chef.

The Rim2Rim is more than just a road race. It is also a charity event to raise funds to help Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley build simple, decent, affordable housing in our community. Current plans include building one new home and renovating three existing homes this next year to house four partner families currently living in substandard living.

*This year the Rim2Rim had over 400 participants! Way to support Habitat for Humanity Magic Valley!*





## Shoes for School Campaign 2023

**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

Presbyterian Women would like to thank our **generous** congregation for their donations to our mission project, "Shoes for School".

We have donated 100 shoe gift cards this fall. The shoe Department (a store in the mall and yes that is their name) has given us a 15% discount. We will continue to accept donations throughout the school year especially if boots are needed this winter.

The At-risk program is so grateful for our donations as expressed in the thanks you notes below. Jenny Herzog, the at risk coordinator, continues to send us many thank you messages and expresses her gratitude... saying that we are an answer to many prayers. It truly is a joy to serve our own community where there is such a great need.

Please read the thank you notes from Jenny, a paraprofessional, and a number of students. They are truly spoken from the heart and are very heart-warming. These thank you notes certainly do confirm the need for the shoe gift cards. Several of them brought tears to my eyes. (The originals are posted on the Presbyterian Women bulletin board in the fellowship room.)

Thank you again for your support of the "Shoes for School" project and allowing us to provide not only a new pair of shoes but an expression of God's love and our love as well.



### **Pray for Howard Neibling**

While traveling Howard had a medical emergency and needed surgery. Please pray for healing for Howard and comfort for his family.

*Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.*

### **Way to go Church!**

We donated over \$250 worth of much needed school supplies to  
Bickel Elementary

*Thank you for your donations!*



Thank you kind folks I am a para at Bickel and had an emergency when a students sole fell off - his shoes were falling apart. H  
Anyway, Jenny was able to give me a shoe voucher and the difficult problem was solved. A great service. Thank you so much.  
Many student are grateful for your vouchers.

Thank you so much for my new shoes. I was very worried about going to school with my old shoes. I am very happy to have new tennis shoes. You are very kind.  
Ava.

Thank you. Mom cant buy me shoes for PE so I wore my old ones but they are too small thanks for PE shoes.

To the people who bought me shoes.  
I love my new shoes. They are awesome.  
Thanks. Callen.

To Darlene and the members of the First Presbyterian Church. We can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. We had so many calls requesting shoe vouchers, but we were super short of them... and then, prayers were heard!! The very next day we got a call from Darlene asking if we needed more. Thanks for answering our 'call' and need, it was and is so appreciated. It has been a hard year financially for many, as I'm sure you are aware, and the shoe vouchers are a much needed relief for so many families. You are so awesome and appreciated.  
with love, Jenny  
TF School District

Western Sunday—Sept. 3,  
Thank you for dressing up, was a great day!



The "Good Guys"



The Sheriff



The "Padre" and  
his wife



The "Settlers"



The "Trouble Makers"



The "Posse"

# October 12 - National Farmer's Day



*Thank a farmer, without them we'd have no food!*

National Farmers Day celebrates and acknowledges the contributions of farmers all across the country. This day recognizes the hard work and unwavering dedication that goes into the agricultural industry, playing a crucial role in maintaining the nation's economy and feeding communities.

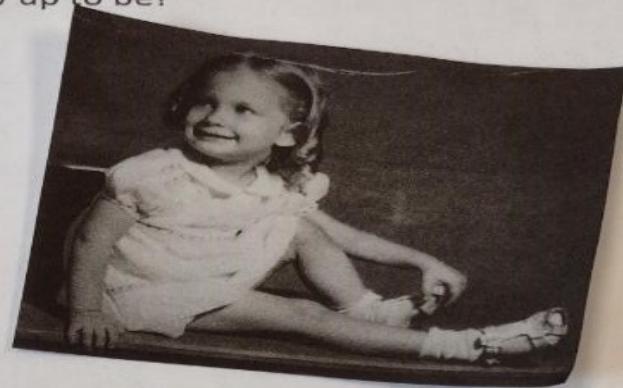
This salute to the American farmers dates back to the 19th century. Believed to have started on October 12, 1800, National Farmers Day was known as 'Old Farmer's Day' and initially celebrated in rural communities during the heart of harvest time. The name may have changed over the decades, but today it remains a vital occasion to accredit the tireless farmers for their crucial input in fostering the nation's growth and development. National Farmers Day is an opportunity to generate awareness about farming, agricultural sustainability, and propagate the concept of 'farm-to-table' amongst the younger generations. It underscores the importance of farming in relation to food supply, biofuel production, and its impact on the economy at large.

National Farmers Day is observed on October 12, marking the end of the harvest season and paying tribute accordingly.



## October 29 - 5th Sunday Service Special Activity

Can you guess who this child grew up to be?



Prior to October 29


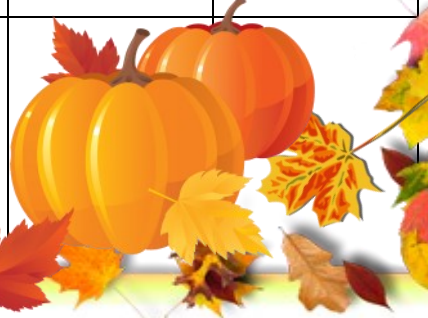
1. Find a Picture of yourself. Preferably 1 to 5 years of age. If a early childhood picture is unavailable any picture of a younger you is OK.
2. Bring the picture to church prior to October 29. Place the picture in the basket on the table under the screen in the fellowship room. Cover the name.
3. Print your name on the list of contestants.

Sunday October 29

1. Pick up and fill out an answer sheet.
2. Write the name of the contestant corresponding to the number on the child's picture.
3. We will exchange answer sheet to score them.
4. There will be prizes for the individuals with the most correct answers and fellowship treats and fun for everyone.

# October 2023

Head Ushers for October  
John & Linda Hower

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Worship 10am	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joes's	5	6 Circle 5 10am	7
8 Pastor Appreciation Day Worship 10am	9 Columbus Day	10	11 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joes's	12	13	14 Sandwich Saturday
15 Worship 10am	16 Cooks Night Out Garibaldi's 6pm	17 Session Meeting 5pm	18 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joes's	19 Abigail Circle 1:30pm (FR)	20	21
22 Worship 10am	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joes's	26 BookClubbers 1pm Great Harvest Bakery	27	28 Sandwich Saturday
29 5th Sunday Worship 10am	30	31 Halloween				



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**P.O. Box 557**  
**Twin Falls, ID 83303-0557**

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*