

November 2023 Edition

*a letter
from the pastor*



Asking the right question. Do you remember playing the game “if you were stranded on a desert island and could choose one book to have, which would it be?” G.K. Chesterton said his book would be *How to Build a Raft*.

The right question is not: “how do we embrace the bible more?”. The right question is more like, “What does the bible tell us about God’s expectations of me/us and

how can we/I pursue that? With that question, answers begin to appear, vision becomes focused, and living grows in a new way.

Stephen Mattson is a writer/theologian who contributes to various platforms including Sojourners and Patheos. Among his recent challenging writings to Christians is this:

“Many Christians fail to grasp the basic point of the bible - to follow Jesus. Unfortunately, many Christians love the bible more than they love Jesus, or at least his expectations of us. They say things like ‘a biblical worldview’ and ‘we’re a bible-believing church’ and ‘we believe in the bible.’ But in reality, they should be having a Christ-like worldview where they live the words and actions of Jesus. Even Satan quoted the bible in an effort to tempt Jesus.

People sometimes say that the bible is like a love letter to humanity. But imagine if someone gave you a love letter and instead of loving that person who wrote it and who gave it to you, you actually obsessed over the letter. Can you picture someone becoming so obsessed with the love letter yet ignoring the person who sent it? This is what many Christians are doing. They are using the bible to avoid Jesus and his hopes and expectations for us to follow him; live as he lived, care for people as he cared for people, seek justice and love as he sought justice and love. You are needed to love Jesus and his ways more than you love the bible. If a Christian limits Christian life to bible worship, and ignores the challenges and difficulties of being Christ-like, then that is being a “Biblelican”, not a Christian. The most important part of the bible’s message is to live and love as Jesus lived and loved.” That is the point, power and message of the book.”



Yes, I understand that is difficult, then again, that is likely the reason some people prefer to be “Bible worshipers” - It simply requires less. Perhaps the real question is: do I call myself Christian because I worship a book or am I Christian because I attempt to do the tough work of following Jesus? You will need to answer that one for yourself.

Peace, Don

A Monthly Newsletter Publication from Twin Falls First Presbyterian Church

**T
H
E
T
R
U
M
P
E
T**

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.twinfallsfpc.org

© First Presbyterian
Church,
Twin Falls, Idaho

Twin Falls First Presbyterian Church **Session Meeting Minutes**

October 17, 2023 in the Fellowship Room

Unfinished Business:

-PNC update: The PNC will be meeting Saturday, October 21 to finish the MDT.

New Business:

Letters sent by the Resource committee to 16 people on congregational roles. Mailed October 11. Replies requested. If committee does not hear back from individuals or families, they will be removed from the rolls.

Janitorial for gym area: Approved cost for Keeping Clean to clean every Wednesday during Volleyball season.

Office Security: Susan reports 2 instances of strange men entering fellowship hall and office area recently. Unlocked exterior doors are a continuing problem. Approved new security policy: Exterior door to the office will be locked at all times; Lawrence will obtain wireless doorbell camera/microphone, so that Susan can control entrance; Susan will check all exterior doors Tue thru Fri; door joining fellowship hall to office area was modified so that it can be locked from the office side.

Committee Reports:

Property: Report received - Lawrence Flournoy, reporting on behalf of the Property Committee, moved 'to approve retention of Pinecrest security deposit of \$12,333.33 to offset repairs to buildings and grounds.' The motion was adopted after debate.

Treasurer: Report received - Bob reported that funds are adequate for right now; Judy suggested emails be sent out to remind members that pledges are due Nov. 4. Bob will send this letter.

Pastor's Report: Fifth Sunday (October 29) to be held in the Fellowship Hall; Ray Harris' back surgery went well; Howard due home Tuesday, October 17; Robin Wells recovering from infection.

Upcoming Events/Dates: Closing down Camp Sawtooth Oct. 21 & 22.

Next meeting: November 21, 2023 @ 5:00 PM

Rene Horner, Clerk of Session



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 September 2023

Total Member Contributions - 111,315

Per Capita - \$1,020

Total Other Income - \$27,060

Volley Ball Rent - \$7,000

Total Income - \$138,375

Total Expenses - \$91,564

Administrative - \$62,008

Office - \$17,948

Per Capita - \$7,265

Facility - 11,608

Insurance - \$

Net Gain - \$19,751

Mission - \$15,578 - from outside

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9am - 2pm

Please call the office to make an appointment with Pastor Don



Welcome

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.



Mark & Kelly Ford	11/3
Rick & Rene Horner	11/16
Scott & Candee Hawk	11/24



Janice Geist	11/7
JoAnn Irwin	11/8
Sadie Knott	11/8
Marty Harris	11/9
Linda Howar	11/12
Analise Probasco	11/13
David Jensen	11/14
Shirley Harris	11/15
Margie Ward	11/17
Leonard Anderson	11/18
Darren Ford	11/22
Mark Ford	11/25
Doug Frost	11/25
Lawrence Flournoy	11/26
Bob Wright	11/29
Brennan Ford	11/30
Phyllis Gerber	11/30



October 8th
Pastor Appreciation Day

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)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PHYLLIS GERBER NOVEMBER 30



YOU'RE INVITED

The Gerber family are having an "open house" for Phyllis' friends and Church Family to come celebrate her 94th birthday!

Date: December 9, 2023
Time: 3:30-6pm
Address: 612 Cindy Drive, Twin Falls

Drop by anytime between 3:30pm to 6pm to wish Phyllis a happy birthday and say hi!

Please call Stacey Gerber if you have any questions or want to set up a specific time 917-826-3453

Every one of your birthdays is a gift to the rest of us who have had the pleasure of having you in our lives for another year.
Every one of your birthdays brings joyful memories of your bright smile and your love of life.
Every one of your birthdays reminds us of your sensitivity and service to others, and other delights too numerous to name that we are gifted with just by knowing you.
Happy Birthday to one in a million.
May you, and we enjoy many more.

By Joanna Fuchs



A Grandmother's mind
Is full of wisdom.
A Grandmother's heart
Is full of love.
A Grandmother's soul
Is full of sacrifices
Made on behalf of God
above.



— Michael Smajda

Cooks Night Out

November 15th - 6pm
The Cove Restaurant
496 Addison Ave W.

*To ensure enough
seats please
RSVP*



Cathy Talkington
catherinetalkington@gmail.com
or text 208-404-9498

Everyone is Welcome!
Take a break from cooking
(and dishes) enjoy fellowship
and support a local restaurant!



Book Clubbers

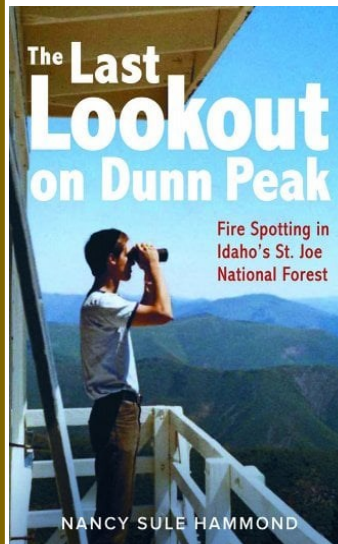
Thursday November 30 at 1pm
Great Harvest Bakery
The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak by our
very own Nancy Sule Hammond.

*Nancy will be joining us for the discussion
of her book!*

Some summers are destined to generate cherished memories. For married high school sweethearts Don and Nancy Hammond, they happened in 1972 and 1973, when Don's lifelong dream of being a United States Forest Service fire lookout came true.

Don's first post, the Dunn Peak Lookout, was located eight miles northwest of Avery In Idaho's St. Joe National Forest. Once they arrived, they breathlessly lugged provisions and water up steep stairs to its fifteen-by-fifteen-foot cab two stories above the forest floor. Furnishings included a single bed, small bookcase, cabinet, and table, and a wood stove. There was no electricity or running water. A battery powered two-way Motorola radio would be their only connection to the outside world. That night—engulfed by lightning strikes and filled with adrenalin—they faced their first storm.

In The Last Lookout, Nancy shares stories from those two exciting, magical fire seasons, along with their return as volunteers 37 years later. Interspersing regional fire history as well as dangers and details of the work, she journeys back to the narrow catwalks and stunning panoramas—a place where storms are building, the forest is dry, and any lightning strike could ignite a raging wildfire.



ABIGAIL CIRCLE

Thursday, November 16 at 1:30pm
Fellowship Room

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

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, November 30 at 1pm
at Great Harvest Bakery

CIRCLE FIVE

Thursday, November 16 at 10am
Fellowship Room

MEN'S BREAKFAST

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



Presbyterian Mission
Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance

PRAY FOR ISRAEL

***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Matthew 5:9***

On Oct. 7, 2023, Israel suffered its deadliest attack in decades. Hamas-armed militants breached many security sites and launched a barrage of rockets to Israel. More than 1,300 people were killed, at least 3,000 people have been injured and 200 people were taken as hostages. In response, the Israeli government declared both a “state of emergency” and a “state of war,” which has initiated a series of airstrikes on the densely populated Gaza Strip. This offensive has led to the tragic loss of thousands of Palestinian lives, over 50% of them women and children, and over 6,000 injured. The ongoing response from Israel has created a dire humanitarian crisis, with homes, schools, medical facilities and critical infrastructure extensively damaged or destroyed. Access to water and power is a major concern. The impact of this conflict has forced approximately 1 million of Gaza's 2.2 million residents to flee their homes, either out of fear for their lives or due to the ongoing bombardments.

The situation is dreadful. Civilians, including women, children and the elderly, are trapped in a war zone, facing a severe humanitarian crisis. They are enduring unimaginable hardships, and the need for immediate humanitarian relief is paramount. We cannot stand by and watch their plight without taking action. Our partners and other humanitarian organizations are imploring a cease-fire so that medical assistance and humanitarian corridors may be provided for those ordered to leave their homes or forced to flee. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) joins these voices as we pray for peace and safe passage for those seeking help and fleeing the ongoing chaos. Through PDA, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of neighbors and strangers in their midst, no matter their religious beliefs, political views or nationality. We are called to care for all of God’s children, especially those in war-torn communities, by responding to the urgent needs of those directly affected by the current conflict.

***The needs for the response will be great. God’s people are called on to stand in the
“GAP” — Give. Act. Pray.***

PRAY FOR ISRAEL

Prayer for Israel

Dear God, the source of all peace and compassion,

We come before you with heavy hearts, burdened by the ongoing conflict in the land of Israel and Palestine. As we listen to the stories and see the news of what is unfolding, we pray for all the people affected by this strife, for the innocent civilians, the children, and the families who endure the pain of violence and unrest.

We pray for the countless individuals who have lost their lives, been injured or displaced by this conflict. Comfort their families and loved ones in their grief, and help them find healing and hope in the midst of their pain.

We lift our hearts in prayer for the countless victims of war who have endured unspeakable suffering, loss and trauma. We come before you, seeking your mercy and compassion for those who have borne the heavy burdens of conflict. Be with them in their moments of despair, and grant them strength to endure and rebuild their lives.

Lord, we humbly ask for an end to the cycle of violence and destruction. Guide the leaders and governments toward peaceful resolutions, diplomacy and understanding. May your divine wisdom inspire them to seek alternatives to war and to prioritize the well-being of all people.

In times of darkness, help us remember that we are all your children, and that love and compassion can transcend the divisions and hate that lead to war. Grant us the strength to work tirelessly for a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue, justice and respect for one another.

May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help. May we reach deeply, give generously and welcome extravagantly. May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy. May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And let us walk the path of peace and compassion, as we repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

We offer this prayer with hope for a future where the horrors of war are but distant memories, and where peace, love and harmony prevail.

In Christ, our prince of peace, we pray. **Amen**

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
P.O. Box 643700,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
(800) 872-3283**



Join Us for a Baked Potato Bar

Sunday, November 12th

Following worship in the Fellowship Room

Thank you to our generous congregation for donations to the Shoe Project Campaign 2023!

Hosted by Circle 5

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

Update on Howard Neibling

Howard was well enough to travel home on Oct. 16th. He is currently in physical therapy. Please continue to pray for Howard.



Ray Harris had back surgery on Sept. 27, surgery went well and he is at home recuperating. Please pray for continued healing.

Elbert Glenn Davis

August 26, 1939 - October 22, 2023

Beloved family man, friend to all and Church Member Elbert Davis went home to be with the Lord.

Elbert is survived by his wife, Susan, children Wendy, Glenn and granddaughter Jolie.

Memorial contributions can be made to Rising Stars Therapeutic Riding Center, where Elbert served on the advisory board and was a patron supporter.

www.risingstarsriding.com
(208) 751-0557

Please pray for healing and strength for



Marty Mead



Robin Wells



2023 DEACONS' CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The Deacons are planning their annual Christmas Project and we welcome your help. Our primary focus again this year will be working with the CSI Refugee Center to assist adults and children who have recently arrived in Twin Falls. The CSI program supports our newest neighbors in becoming fully integrated, self-sufficient, contributing members of our community. We'll be partnering with the Refugee Center to provide needed items such as warm coats, socks, towels, blankets, and various dry goods.



We'll also put together and deliver small gift bags for our home-bound seniors.

For those of you who like to shop, a "Giving Tree" will be set up in the Upper Narthex on Sunday, November 12, 2023, where you may select a gift item to purchase and return to the church by Sunday, December 3. If you would prefer to give a cash donation towards the project, we'll do the shopping for you! We will collect cash donations from November 5th through December 3rd. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and be sure to note "Deacons' Christmas Project" on the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your help with the Christmas Project.

If you have questions please feel free to call Charlotte or Bill Eberlein at (208) 733-0543.



It's that Time of Year...Cold and Flu Season.

Reminder best defense is clean hands, wash them often with soap and warm water . Don't touch your face, germs get introduced through our mouth and eyes. Stay home if you don't feel well and if someone else is sick stay away from them. Stay hydrated and get plenty of rest.

November 25

Small Business Saturday
Shop local to support small businesses!

Blessing Box

Our Local Outreach Ministry is Working! Everyday someone from our local community is visiting our blessing box taking food or leaving some. What a blessing to be helping our local community. We are getting low on food, any donations would be appreciated.

Special Thank You to all the volunteers that keep this ministry going!!

"I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year." — Victor Borge



REMINDER
November 5th
Daylight
Savings Time
Fall Back 1 hour

Dear Church,
We have sent out letters asking for tithing pledges, if you have not sent yours in please return to Church office soon—thanks!

God Bless!



Veterans Day Facts November 10

HONORING OUR
VETERANS



1. Veterans Day is NOT Memorial Day

Veterans Day is a federal holiday recognized each November to celebrate and honor all U.S. veterans — deceased or living. Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day, a day to remember those service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. Memorial Day is in May of each year.

2. November 11 is ALWAYS Veterans Day

No matter the day of the week, Veterans Day always falls on November 11 each year. It's also a federal holiday recognized nationwide. With 18.2 million vets living in the United States, it's a holiday most communities celebrate with festivals, parades, and recognition of local vets.

3. Other Countries Celebrate it Too

Because World War I was a multi-country effort with thousands of lives lost, other countries involved in the war honor their veterans around this time of year, too. On or near November 11, France, Australia, Canada, and Great Britain pay respects to their vets. The UK and Canada call the day of honor Remembrance Day.

4. Arlington National Cemetery Hosts an Annual Event

Each year on November 11 at exactly 11 am, Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia holds a Veterans Day event. It starts with a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The public is always invited to attend.

5. There's NO Apostrophe in Veterans Day

You've probably seen it spelled different ways — including veteran's or veterans' but the Department of Defense firmly states it's simply "Veterans Day".



Thanksgiving - November 23

Thank you Sarah Josepha Hale for Thanksgiving!

Sarah Josepha Hale lobbied Congress for years to make Thanksgiving an official holiday. If it wasn't for this determined woman, Thanksgiving wouldn't exist today. Hale's allegiance to Thanksgiving began in 1827 and was based in national pride; she hoped to make it "permanently, an American custom and institution." It wasn't until 1863 that President Lincoln finally declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. Seeing as the President did this in throws of the Civil War, Thanksgiving is considered by some to be an attempt on behalf of the president to bring some peace back to the country. Way to go Sarah!



5 facts about favorite Thanksgiving Dishes

1. Green Bean Casserole was invented by a Campbell Soup Employee.

Campbell's test kitchen supervisor Dorcas Reilly was responsible for developing recipes for the backs of soup cans in the 1950s. Her most successful dish—green bean bake, or green bean casserole as it later came to be known—featured condensed cream of mushroom as one of its six ingredients. Home cooks are still making her original recipe 60 years later.

2. Cranberry Sauce is canned upside down.

We love the sight of a cylindrical, perfectly ridged mass of cranberry sauce sliding out of the can. Ocean Spray packages the sauce upside down which creates an air bubble vacuum at the top of the can and when you open the can it slides beautifully out—yum!

3. Sweet potatoes aren't really potatoes.

True potatoes like russets are members of the nightshade botanical family, while sweet potatoes belong to the morning glory family. But that doesn't make sweet potatoes yams either; though they aren't actually potatoes, orange sweet potatoes are their own thing. Yams, which are often white or yellowish on the inside, are related to lilies and grasses and mostly grow in tropical environments.

4. Turkey probably won't make you sleepy.

Many people feel tired at the end of Thanksgiving dinner, which is a natural reaction to gorging on heavy foods and washing it down with alcohol. Despite this logical explanation, people have chosen to blame the amino acid L-tryptophan for their drowsiness instead. It's true that tryptophan is present in turkey, but the bird doesn't contain enough of it to put you to sleep. The stuffing, pumpkin pie, and three glasses of merlot are more likely to blame for your post-dinner nap.

5. There's a "Brussels sprout gene".

If you're the only person you know who can't stand the taste of Brussels sprouts, blame your genes. Some people have a variant gene called TAS2R38 that allows them to taste certain bitter compounds, such as those found in Brussels sprouts. The presence or absence of the so-called "Brussels sprouts gene" may explain why some people hate Brussels sprouts and others can't get enough of them. Yuck!



November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Head Ushers The Flournoys</div>		1	2	3	4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Volleyball Practice Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fridays Thru Feb. 28, 2024 Gym </div>			Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's		
5 Communion Worship 10am Daylight Savings	6	7 Barbershop Quartet 6pm	8 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	9	10 Veterans Day	11 Sandwich Saturday
12 Worship 10am Potato Bar Luncheon	13	14 Barbershop Quartet 6pm PEO Meeting 10am-2pm	15 Cook's Night Out 6pm Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	16 Circle 5 10am (FR) Abigail Circle 1:30pm (FR)	17 Acorn Academy Private Event 7-2pm	18
19 Worship 10am	20	21 Barbershop Quartet 6pm	22 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 Sandwich Saturday Small Business Sat.
26 Worship 10am	27	28 Giving Tuesday Barbershop Quartet 6pm	29 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	30 BookClubbers 1pm Great Harvest Bakery		