

First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY MESSENGER

FROM THE PASTOR

We have journeyed through this pandemic wilderness for nearly a year. No doubt that we will learn many lessons as we reflect on this wilderness in the years to come. The pandemic, as terrible as it has been, has also already taught us many lessons. The pandemic has taught many of us greater patience, compassion, and ingenuity. For others it has become a time to draw closer to Christ or closer to certain friends and family. It has certainly taught us to appreciate with greater fervency our need for human touch and in-person interaction. All this is why I continue to use the wilderness as my chosen Scriptural image for the pandemic. It is through the wilderness that God teaches his people his most important lessons. It is through the wilderness that the Lord would shape us into a people who reflect his image into the world.

We begin Lent at the middle of this month. Part of the role of Lent is to draw God's people into the wilderness leading to the cross. It is a season to reflect upon our mortality and sin, and, consequently, our dependence upon the Lord in body and soul. It was, of course, during Lent that the pandemic wilderness began. In some ways, it feels as though we have yet to leave the Lenten wilderness. Words we usually reserve for Lent have stayed with us all year: wilderness, lament, mortality, "dust to dust," and so on. Our Easter celebrations last year looked and perhaps even felt far more "Lenten" than "Resurrection."

Regardless, for the church, we are the people of the Resurrection. Even when the texture and territory of our lives looks more Lenten, the Resurrection defines us. This is what enables us to go forward. By his Resurrection and Ascension, the Lord Jesus poured out his Spirit upon us so that we might begin living the Resurrection life -- the salvation life, the Spirit empowered life -- *now*. The season of Lent is meant merely to train us in the art of living in full dependence upon our Resurrected Lord. As it happens, I think this may be one of the most important lessons of the pandemic for the people of God. The people of God are a resurrected people. That is to say a people who value the body and its life while also looking forward in hope to eternal life. We humans do not live on anything less than bread, but nor do we live on bread alone. May the Lord continue to deepen our understanding of our dependence on him in body and soul.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Summary of Session Meeting

- During time of study, Session read and reflected on Mark 1: 14 – 20. In this scripture Jesus starts his ministry and calls his first disciples, the four fishermen, Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John. They immediately left what they were doing and responded positively to Jesus' call. The church is called to the high priority ministry of discipleship. This is not just for Sunday mornings at worship within the church buildings, but is our calling seven days a week.
- Session gave permission for Union Gospel Mission (UGM) of Spokane to hold planning meetings in Hendrick Hall if they need it. UGM is starting a presence in the valley to minister to our LC homeless population. UGM has been a positive Christian ministry to the homeless for many years in Spokane.
- Session considered how we can use our large financial gift from Betty Miller to support our church ministry.
- Landscaping of the church courtyard area and around church property will start soon.



Preaching Notes

[I continue to use the Revised Common Lectionary to shape my preaching. Recall that the Lectionary is a calendar of Scripture readings on a three year cycle. The RCL assigns four readings to each Lord's Day -- an Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament Letter, and a Gospel. Ideally, these readings relate to one another. Each year roughly follows the life of Christ through a particular Gospel.]

For February and much of this year, I will focus on the readings from the Gospel of Mark. Mark tells the story of Jesus with great urgency (especially from the perspective of Peter), recognizing that God's people cannot sit on the sideline and wait to follow our Lord. (I am greatly indebted to Jim Edwards, whose tutelage and fine commentary, have provided my understanding of this Gospel.) Mark shows Jesus on the move, always exercising his authority, forming the church, and moving towards the cross. Two primary questions that shape Mark's Gospel: Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow Jesus? These are the most important questions that we can ask and we will explore them in the coming weeks.

Feb. 7	Mark 1:29-39
Feb 14.	Mark 9:2-9
Feb 21	Mark 1:9-13
Feb. 28	Mark 8:31-38

Financials

Finances as of December 2020

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 414,201.44	\$ 400,248.00
Expense	<u>\$ 415,640.58</u>	<u>\$ 400,248.00</u>
Inc./Exp.	\$ (1,439.14)	\$ 0.00



***Every Thursday at 10 a.m.
in the Narthex***

~New Catechumenate Study~

Thank You

We, members of Session, want to express our thanks and gratitude to all who have generously supported the church with financial gifts during 2020. While opportunities to meet were limited and it was a trying year for many, you still steadfastly gave to our church. Thanks to you, at the end of the year, our annual expenses were only about slightly greater than our income and we remain in good financial shape. We are so blessed. Thank you.

Sincerely,,

Dave Webster (Moderator), Lloyd Wallis (Clark), Doug Anderson,
Jim Babino, Lois Devereaux, Don Greggain, Margo McCroskey,
& Christi Vallendigham,

*let all that
you do
be done in
love.*

1 COR 16:18

Church Family & Friends News

by Pat Paasch

Each month I try to talk to several people for a quick update and then do a little longer feature on one or two of the people in our church.

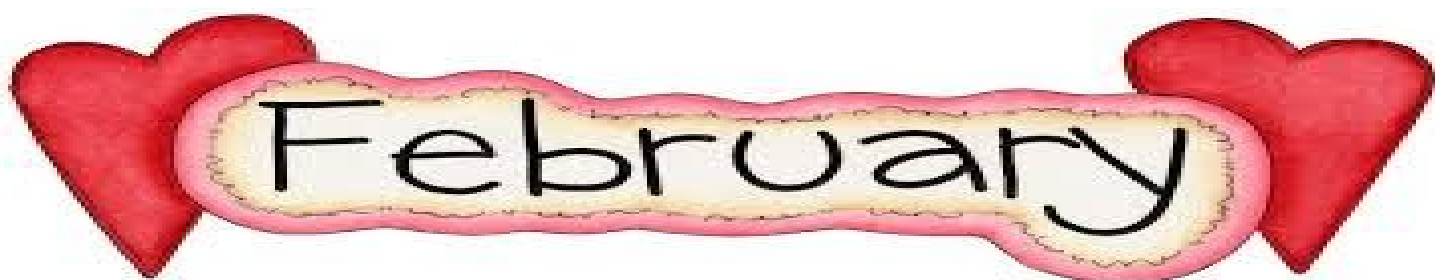
Robin Krause-McPeak & Family: "The only thing that's changed is 'how' I go out into the world – face masks, hand sanitizer, and cleansing wipes. My personal travel was limited because of COVID, so I was not able to physically visit my kids and grandkids. I have four kids and 5+ grandkids. We stay in contact daily with an app called 'Houseparty' or by using Facetime. Someday my family and I will all be able to get together again and catch up on our missed pinochle games. My oldest son, **Michael**, lives in Pocatello with his wife, Nikki, and their two kids, Liam (6) and Emma (3 ½). Michael is the director of the Chi Alpha ministry at ISU, and his ministry has proven to be such a blessing to the students there. He is taking online classes to become a pastor and recently interviewed for ordination, which should be at the end of April. My second child, **Moir**a, lives in Puyallup with her husband, Chris, and their son, Axel (7 ½). Moira is a driver for a company similar to FedEx and her husband works as a security guard. My third child, **Marissa**, lives in Colorado with her husband, Bryce, and their two kids Olivia (4 ½), Aubrey (3). They are expecting their third child by the end of April. Marissa works as a dental hygienist. Bryce works for the city Aurora as a part-time firefighter and is studying to become an EMT. My last child, **Matthew**, is a marine stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA working as a combat engineer, which he loves doing very much. Thankfully, Matthew was able to come home to visit during Christmas. I miss the hugs of the church family."

Heather Blazier: is doing well. The foster child she was caring for was with her until October of 2020 before being returned to his mother. (Foster parents are such special people.) Heather and her son, Kevin (age 8), have been home like most of us. Heather works at the Chaz Clinic. She has worked from home during the pandemic, which has been a blessing because it has freed her to work while also being with her son. To keep busy and have a fun out-of-house activity, Heather and Kevin take drives in the car while listening to books on tape together (which I thought was a great idea).

The Charlton Family: Renee owns Clarkston's Baskin-Robbins. (I was excited to hear from Renee that their family and business are doing well.) The Baskin-Robbins' drive-thru has been a lifeline for the business, though year has brought many challenges. Brad and Renee's son, Jake, married Karlee Kirking in October of 2019. They live in Seattle where Jake works as a mechanical engineer and Karli is an international food law analyst. Brad and Renee's daughter, Karli, started a physician's assistant grad program at Rutgers University in New Jersey this fall, which has been going well for her. Karli was able to come home for Christmas and will be home again for the summer. Blessings to all from Brad and Renee.

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The Clovis family has created a memory book and invites each of you to come in to fill it with all the different memories that you have of Steve Clovis. The book can be found in the receptionist's office at First Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions about the memory book, please contact our administrative assistant, Bree Miles, at the church office number.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3 4 p.m. Prayer Service	4 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	5 7 p.m. Al Anon	6
7 Communion 10 a.m. Worship & SS	8	9	10 4 p.m. Prayer Service	11 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	12 7 p.m. Al Anon	13
14 10 a.m. Worship & SS	15 OFFICE CLOSED -Presicent's Day 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting 2:30 p.m. CASA	16	17 4 p.m. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m. Ash Wed.	18 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	19 7 p.m. Al Anon	20
21 10 a.m. Worship & SS	22 6 p.m. Deacon's Meeting	23 1:30 p.m. Kairos Meeting	24 4 p.m. Prayer Service	25 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	26 7 p.m. Al Anon	27
28 10 a.m. Worship & SS			ABS - Adult Bible STudy CASA - Social Services Training Program NCS - New Catechumenate Study SS - Sunday Service			

Toni Mason 02
 Chris Reade 05
 Inez Inghram 11
 John Guillotte Sr. 11
 Barb Auer 21
 Joel Profitt 23
 Peter Williams 28



★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!