



# THE TOWER

The monthly newsletter of  
**Pocatello First United Methodist Church**



February 2022

## From Our Pastor

Dear members & friends of First UMC,

On January 13, the church's 2022 Administrative Board convened for its first meeting.

This group of nine individuals, elected by our 2021 Charge Conference, functions according to what's called a "single board model" of church governance. If you've been a United Methodist for some time, you know we have a reputation for being a denomination of many committees. Well, as membership across North America has declined, many churches have run into a situation where the same people are caught serving on every committee, which burns them out and does not necessarily reflect their unique gifts. To address this, many churches, including ours, have adopted a polity that combines the work of the traditional Staff-Parish Relations, Finance, and Trustees committees into a single team, which here at First UMC we call the Administrative Board.

Here are the nine members serving on our board this year:

Chair of the Board	Kris Rudd
Chair of Staff-Parish Relations	Lynda Montgomery
Chair of Finance	Emma Morton
Chair of Trustees	Roger Hanson
Lay Leader	Robin Terrell
At-Large Members	Doris Autenreith
	Roger Boe
	Kay Flowers
	Stacey Jensen



What an incredible team! These are the folks you can approach and talk to about any ideas or concerns related to finances, property, and personnel. For example, want to do some landscaping or painting? Talk with Roger Hanson. Want to get involved as an usher or money counter? Talk with Emma Morton. Think I need to start preaching in midair, suspended by invisible wire? Now, now...

The goal of the single board model is to free up as much energy as possible within the congregation for participating in ministry, to do the work of provision (looking ahead) so that we all can be present to the movements of God among us here and now. This is an important distinction. If you've been dreaming up a vision for a new ministry (of care, hospitality, service, justice, evangelism, or education), the best persons to bring it to initially are your 2022 Lay Leader, Robin Terrell, and me. We'll listen, encourage, and strategize, and if it turns out that you'll need some funding, or space, or assistance from staff, then the Administrative Board will get involved.

Because the truth is: *You* are the church, the people of God, the body of Christ. *You* are brimming with creative potential, which overflows in your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.

Subsequent editions of *The Tower* will include a short narrative write-up of anything notable that was discussed and decided at the most recent board meeting (the board meets on second Thursdays), and official minutes are kept on file in the church office and available for review at any time.

Pastor Mike

*The Tower*

February 2022

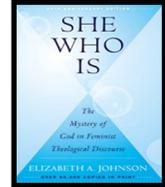
# Feature Article

If you would like to write a feature article for next month's *Tower*, email [tower@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:tower@pocatelloumc.org)  
(Subject line: Feature Article)

---

## Monthly Book Review

***She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse***  
by Elizabeth A. Johnson, first published 1992  
Reviewed by Lou Engelhardt



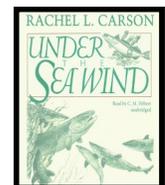
The book I share with you “jumped off the shelf” when I wandered into Walrus & Company on a Saturday afternoon. It was lying on its side, right at eye level, as though someone had just set it there for a minute waiting to be picked up. I was provoked immediately by the suggestion that there might be a feminist conversation around what has always felt to me like a very patriarchal path.

Elizabeth A. Johnson describes the ways that Christianity has been masculinized over the course of time. Of interest to me was her discussion of the nature of Wisdom and the early church's recognition of *Sophia* (identified with God) as being female in nature. Below are favorite words of hers to give you a taste of something wonderful, hoping to open doors for how we speak about God:

“We have seen that God dwells in unapproachable light so that no name or image or concept that human beings use to speak of the divine mystery ever arrives at its goal: God is essentially incomprehensible. ...[Yet] the Spirit's presence and absence is known in effects - new life and energy, peace and justice, resistance and liberation, hope against hope, wisdom, courage, and all that goes with love.”

---

***Under the Sea Wind: A Naturalist's Picture of Ocean Life***  
By Rachel Carson, first published 1941  
Reviewed by Michael Conner



You may know Rachel Carson's name from her 1962 clarion call, *Silent Spring*, which chronicled the disastrous effects of agricultural pesticides on soil, water, animals, and food chains; outraged the public; and led to a federal ban of DDT. But before Rachel Carson (1907-1964) ever became the face of the modern environmental movement, she was a patient and perceptive student of the natural world. She cut her literary teeth publishing books about the world's oceans for an increasingly curious public.

Carson's first book, *Under the Sea Wind*, is written in three parts. The first part, "Edge of the Sea," interweaves the stories of the many creatures who live on a barrier island off the coast of the eastern United States as they experience the annual cycle of seasons. The second part, "A Gulls Way," dramatizes the story of a Mackerel fish from its miraculous survival as a fetus to its near-capture by a fisherman's net as an adult. Finally, "River and Sea," draws readers into the mysterious life cycle of the world's eels, which return to spawn, and then die, in the deep abysses of the ocean.

In our time of ecological devastation and impending catastrophe, Carson's early works are reminiscent of a lost naivete in which the natural world was, primarily, the frontier of scientific discovery and childlike wonder.

To submit a book review for next month's *Tower*, email [tower@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:tower@pocatelloumc.org) (Subject line: Book Review)

# Member Spotlight

## “My World in Black and White” by Dr. Roger Boe

is a 40 year retrospective of photographs about significant experiences in my life and the people that I met along the way. Open January through March. It is at the ISU Oboler library, Main Floor Gallery. Open 7am-6pm. Open to the public. No admission charge. "There are rare experiences in our lives that seem to be weighted with unusual significance. They beg to teach us something about our world and ourselves and then demand us to tell one another, and share what we feel".



If you would like to spotlight a member in next month's *Tower*, email [tower@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:tower@pocatelloumc.org) (Subject line: (Member Spotlight))

# Classifieds

## The choir is in need of male singers!

(A voice that blends, a good ear, and some ability to read music is helpful.)  
Please contact Judy Del Debbio at: [deldebbiojudy@gmail.com](mailto:deldebbiojudy@gmail.com)

## Volunteers Needed

Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI), in conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are partnering with the Department of State to assist with resettlement efforts in Eastern Idaho, specifically Pocatello, for a small number of Afghan individuals, 25 to begin with, which represents approximately 9 housing units, and 14 cases.

### Ways to get involved

Non-Direct Service Work  
Direct-Service Work

All volunteers who are interested in working directly with newcomers will receive valuable training so that everyone is prepared to work with those arriving from Afghanistan. Additionally, CCI volunteers and staff work in pairs to ensure the safety of clients and volunteers.

### How can someone get involved in non-direct service work?

Contact Wendy Lahmon at Catholic Charities of Idaho at 208-350-7490

### How can someone get involved in direct-service work?

Contact the church office for links to the volunteer application, background check, and reference form.

*The church office also has a complete listing of what the Non-Direct Service Work and the Direct-Service Work volunteer opportunities entail.*

## A call to Prayer and Action for Tonga from-UMC Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky, Greater Northwest Area

On Jan 15th an underwater volcanic eruption occurred close to Tonga, triggering Tsunami waves. Many homes were destroyed, and ash blankets the land, killing crops, polluting air, water, and fish, the primary source of protein.

1. Pray for encouragement in the long, silent waiting; pray for rain to clean the air and settle the ash that has fallen everywhere.
2. I encourage you to designate donations to your local church for “*Tongan Relief*” now.

*Your gifts can be sent to your Annual Conference with this designation and will be channeled for this purpose.*

Read the entire message: <https://greaternw.org/a-call-to-prayer-and-action-for-tonga/>

To submit a classified for next month's *Tower*, email [tower@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:tower@pocatelloumc.org) (Subject line: Classifieds)

## Prayer Concerns

- Rachel Dingman-prayers for friend Peggy who has Covid, for healing and recovery
- Linda McDonald-prayers for healing with Covid
- Former pastor Tom Tate and his wife Caroline as Tom battles another round of cancer.
- Linda Fairchild's sister Kathy and her family, all sick with COVID.
- Grant Kosmicki has a friend whose father passed away, prayers for that family as they grieve.
- Prayers for the school system - teachers, administrators, parents, students - as they endure another difficult round of closures and sicknesses.
- Catina Tharp - healing of lungs; safety in travel.
- Pastor Mike's aunt Kim, who lost her husband Bob last week after a long battle with colon cancer.

## Upcoming Events

### February Birthdays

01	Kathy Leishman
03	Doris Autenrieth
05	Michelle Orgill
07	Debbie Sturm
14	Bert Huth Charles Sloat
21	Claire Kosmicki
23	Stephen Kiboko Ken Ryan
26	Catina Tharp

### February Anniversaries

22	Norm & Dana Hoyle
----	-------------------

### \*\*Camp Sawtooth Upcoming Dates

Memorial Day Work Party	May 28-30, 2022
On-site Training	June 17-19, 2022
Elementary Camp	July 10-16, 2022
Junior High Camp	July 17-23, 2022
Senior High Camp	July 24-30, 2022

The details on each opportunity above will be shared in future *Towers*.

- Girl Scouts-World Thinking Day, Saturday, February 19th
  - **United Methodist Women Circle** will meet **Wednesday, February 23rd at 10:00am** in the Fireside Room. Because of COVID, we did not meet in January. Lynda Montgomery will be facilitating our program. After our meeting we plan to go out to lunch. The place will be determined at our meeting. All women are invited to join us. Bring a friend-we would love to meet her! If you have questions, please call Charlotte Cresswell, 208-233-6852.
- 
- Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent, March 2, 2022
  - **Kids, Youth, and Families Go Camping at Camp Sawtooth!**  
There is still snow on the ground but in a few short months summer will be here and it will be time for church camp! Start thinking about camp and getting registered. There are many different camping opportunities for everyone from kids to adults. Our local church coordinator is Debbie Wheeler. There will be more information in future *Towers*. If you have any questions please give her a call at 208-251-4180. You can go online at: [www.gocamping.org](http://www.gocamping.org) for more information. \*\*

To submit an event for next month's *Tower*, email [tower@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:tower@pocatelloumc.org) (Subject line: Event)



**Pocatello First  
United Methodist Church**  
200 N. 15th Ave.  
PO Box 4015  
Pocatello, ID 83205  
(208)232-1353  
www.pocatelloumc.org

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:15am-1:00pm



**2022**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FR=Fireside Room CR=Conference Rm CH=Chapel		<b>1</b> <b>First Day of Black History Month</b>	<b>2</b> <b>8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's</b>  <b>12:00pm First UMC Online Prayer</b> <b>7:30pm First UMC Online Prayer</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Michelle Orgill
<b>6</b> <b>10:00am First UMC Online Prayer</b>  <b>Offering-Pastor's Dis- cretionary Fund</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Debbie Sturm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's</b>  <b>12:00pm First UMC Online Prayer</b> <b>7:30pm First UMC Online Prayer</b>	<b>10</b> <b>7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's</b>  <b>6:30pm Administra- tive Board Meeting</b> <b>7:00pm- Volleyball Gym</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR</b> <b>10:00am-Worship- Sanct</b> <b>Offering-Millie's Nick- els</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Valentine's Day</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Bert Huth Charles Sloat	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's</b> <b>6:30pm- Leader- ship Team-FR</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's</b> <b>7:00pm- Volleyball Gym</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>8:00am Girl Scouts World Thinking Day Gym</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR</b> <b>10:00am-Worship- Sanct-</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>President's Day</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Claire Kosmicki	<b>22</b>  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Norm & Dana Hoyle	<b>23</b> <b>8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's</b>  <b>10:00am United Methodist Woman- FR</b> <b>Happy Birthday</b> Stephen Kiboko Ken Ryan	<b>24</b> <b>7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's</b> <b>7:00pm- Volleyball Gym</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Catina Tharp
<b>27</b> <b>9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR</b> <b>10:00am-Worship- Sanctuary</b>	<b>28</b>					



Pocatello  
First United  
Methodist Church  
PO Box 4015  
Pocatello, ID 83205

Address Service Requested

US Non-profit  
postage paid  
Permit #13  
Pocatello, ID  
83201

### United Methodist Men

All men of the church are invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am.

### Women's Fellowship

Please come and join us for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Thursday morning at 7:00 am.

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:15am-1:00pm  
You may contact us by phone at  
(208) 232-1353  
[office@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:office@pocatelloumc.org)  
February 2022