



The Tower

Monthly Newsletter of

Pocatello First United Methodist Church



June 2022

From Our Pastor

Dear members and friends of First UMC of Pocatello,

As I write to you, I am grieving the recent mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, New York. Considered as isolated incidents, the particular horrors of each are enough to knot up the gut. Placed within the now decades-old pattern of mass killings in the United States, they are reminders of how little we have done - how little we have cared - to strike at the root of our national sickness.



Americans are addicted to guns. As proof, I wish we could simply look to their omnipresence in our movies, shows, and video games, but instead we have actual carnage set before us in the daily news. Even if only ever used as a hunting implement, the fundamental purpose of a gun is to grant a person potential power over other lives, which brings on a rush of feeling that is intoxicating and evokes visions of acts we would never before have considered for ourselves. As disciples of Jesus, the Crucified One, that basic principle of gun ownership should haunt us. Nowhere does Jesus call us to seek power - potential or actual - over one another.

When a person owns or carries a handgun, it signals that they are willing to resort to violence if something in the world makes them angry or afraid enough; it shapes their mind to *anticipate* violence, to evaluate (along with myriad unconscious biases) complete strangers as potential threats. Christians shouldn't do that. Peter drew his sword in the Garden of Gethsemane, but Jesus commanded him to put it away. And there is nothing sane or commendable about an ordinary citizen (let alone a Christian) feeling entitled to own military-grade weaponry. James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to blow up Samaria; Jesus chastised them. If greater access to greater guns meant greater public safety, as many like to claim, then we would live in a very different country. But we don't. We have failed to understand that our possessions possess us. As the Church has always professed about the sacrament of Communion, we become what we consume.

We must repent.

If the news out of Texas and Buffalo has left you with an ache, a despair, a righteous indignation, a sense of helplessness, a deepening fear - please sit with those feelings. Listen to them. Invite the Holy Spirit to take you by the hand and guide you into them, through them, so that you might learn not to be overcome or immobilized by them, but to draw strength and compassion from them for works of prophetic love and for compassionate solidarity with those who suffer.

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From Our Pastor, cont'd

And may we pray together:

God, help us.

Help the families who lost children, and the children who lost friends and teachers in Texas. Help the African American community terrorized in Buffalo. Comfort those who mourn. Vindicate those who suffer. Convict the hearts of those who have the power to bring about change.

As for us, Your people, may our minds “not be conformed to the pattern of this world” but transformed into your likeness (Rom 12:1-2). May we not be seduced by those sleek machines that give us the power to take life where You have chosen to give it. For You have commanded us, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matt. 19:13); and you have promised us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matt. 5:10).

With You, help us to make a world where it is safe for every child to pursue You all their days, where there are many peacemakers. Sanctify us by the truth; your word is truth.

Amen.

A Meditation

Psalm 125:1. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can not be moved, but abides forever.

It was a beautiful day in February. The snow, fog, rain had given away to the sun. The breeze was still and the warmer temperatures prevailed. I was off to run an errand. I was struck by the mountains and the sun reflecting off their snowy peaks.

The sight reminded me that God surrounds me with His love, as our mountains surround our Valley. Looking at these mountains also reminded me that I have a great God who can not be moved. Psalms 125;1. No matter how big the problem that I or we are facing, I can know that I have a God who made the mountains and that God loves me, His child.

The snow on the peaks reminded me that Jesus covered my sins and short-comings with His blood and made them whiter than snow (Psalms 51:7).

Soon the peaks become bare and rocky peaks will appear again when the snow melts. I am so very glad that my sins will not reappear. Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove my sins from me.”

I encourage each of us to see our Lord's truth in nature. Look around you and you will see that the universe is teeming with the truths of God.

Prayer: Thank you Heavenly Father for the signs of love and truth all around us. May we be reminded of our Lord's love around us as we journey daily in this glorious place of nature. Make the way plain for us as we deliberate the mission of this your Church. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

A. Joy

Member Spotlight



Grace will be graduating from Highland High school this June. She has attended Pocatello 1st United Methodist church since she was born! Grace has been involved in Girl Scouts since kindergarten and recently earned her Gold Award by creating nature signs that were placed along the cat tracks at Pebble Creek Ski area. Grace loves to be outside hiking, backpacking, alpine skiing, and cross-country skiing. This fall, she plans to attend Willamette University in Salem, Oregon where she will major in Environmental science and minor in Spanish. She will also be running cross-country and track for the Bearcats! She hopes to be involved with UMCOR in the future to give back to communities across the world.

My dear friend

Written by Marianne Healea

To all who know Esther Benson, you don't need to be told what a special lady she is. We are so grateful to have her in our lives. What a gift! We are blessed to be her friend. She has been such an active member of the church and UMW, always sharing in the various duties and activities. She has such a positive outlook on life, always so gracious, with a heart full of Christian love for everyone. Her sweet personality lights up the room! She is just such fun to be around, she warms your heart. It has been such a privilege to have helped her celebrate her milestone birthdays! #104 is coming up June 7th! Congratulations Esther!! We love you!!!!

**Please join us in celebrating Esther's Birthday
after Church, June 5th 11:00am in the Fireside Room.
We will have cookies, coffee and punch.**

To spotlight a member in next month's *Tower*, email tower@pocatelloumc.org (Subject line: (Member Spotlight))

Church Directory Updates

◆ Please update your Church Directory with the following:

Tom Barthelow - address: 4701 Hawthorne Rd, c-212, Chubbuck ID 83202, cell - 801-349-9515, email - barthelowt@gmail.com

John Bulger - cell: 406-370-4095

Arlene Hurlburt - address: 11873 N. 22nd Ave, Boise ID 83714, cell - 208-705-4007

Trudy Pink - address: 13355 N. Philbin, Pocatello ID 83202, cell - 406-853-3779, email - Trudypink@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Trunzer - address: 420 S. 6th #1, Pocatello ID 83201, cell - 208-406-0098, email - Jeffrey.trunzer@gmail.com

Lori Vaughn - address: 1894 Scottsdale Dr, Pocatello ID 83202, cell - 208-281-7281

June Updates



Our United Women in Faith Circle met May 25th for their last meeting before the summer break. Thank you to Charlotte Cresswell for a wonderful program celebrating mom's and Pentecost. We take the summer off so our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 28th at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. We invite all women to come and join us. Have a great summer! See you in September!

Bridges

Refugee Support Group

As a member of the Portneuf Valley Interfaith Fellowship, our church has worked with Catholic Charities to welcome 26 Afghan refugees to Pocatello. You responded quickly and generously to furnish personal and household items for one Afghan family.

BRIDGES, a local refugee support group also working with PVIF, helps refugees at the CSI Resettlement Center in Twin Falls. The Center is currently working with over 300 refugees, from Afghanistan, Sudan, Congo and Eritrea. In addition to helping with basic needs, BRIDGES works to connect individuals with business, professional and higher education opportunities in Pocatello. Our refugee neighbors are individuals with a variety of physical, psychological, and spiritual needs.

Individual refugees from Ukraine and from Guatemala, staying with relatives in Pocatello, also have valid appeals for help. But Catholic Charities and BRIDGES are the only local organizations to offer us a channel to help the hundreds of refugees in Idaho.

Please join me in responding to God's call and continue giving these refugees the help they need.

Contact information:

Catholic Charities: Afghan refugees - Deacon Scott Pearhill, 208-241-6187;
dcnscott1@gmail.com

BRIDGES: refugees at CSI Resettlement Center in Twin Falls - Donna Boe, 208-233-5651;
donnaahboe@gmail.com

Donations for Twin Falls - call Ann Hunter, 208-233-1981, oakann@isu.edu

Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

- ◆ Henry Bambolo - Home School
- ◆ Grace Kosmicki - Highland High School
- ◆ Jenna Krasa - ISU
- ◆ MaLynna Hope Krueck - Boise State University
Chris and Kathy Leishman's granddaughter
- ◆ Kai Mayer (was an acolyte @ FUMC when in elementary school) is graduating from Pocatello High School
- ◆ Ava Patterson
- ◆ Rachel Phillips
- ◆ Ella Teodorovich - Highland High School

Prayer Concerns

- Andrew Grumbein has been deployed in Turkey - Prayers for his safety and others on his team. (previously, in error, listed Andrew Bambolo).
- Kay Flower's sister Karen had recent surgery - prayers for her healing and recovery.
- Nancy Kell - uplift her in prayer.
- Frances Baker - in a lot of pain from pinched sciatic nerve. Prayers for pain relief and healing.
- Prayers for Kim Mumford whose son Ian passed away.

Classifieds

Congregational Care Card Writing Team

- ♦ You are invited to join us at **10:00am every Wednesday in the Fireside Room**. It is uplifting to be with friends as we write notes to other friends. Know that all are welcome to join us. Contact Nancy Kell if questions, at 208-604-0646.

Worship

- ♦ Would you be a liturgist for our Worship service? The liturgist reads the first and second readings from the Bible and may be involved in other parts of the service. The week that you are liturgist, you will receive an email from the church office telling you which verses you will be reading and if you are involved in any other part of the service. There is a signup sheet for 2022 on the bulletin board outside the office or you may call the church office.

TLC Child Care

- ♦ Tender Loving Care (the daycare that leases our basement) is looking for part-time teacher Assistants. Must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. Call Meg at 208-234-2294 or email: tlcchildcarepocatello@gmail.com for more information.

Tai Chi

- ♦ **Join us on Wednesdays at 4:00pm** in the Wesley Chapel; **for an hour of Tai Chi**. Tai Chi is often described as "joyful movement". Emphasis is on moving, meditation, breathing, and physical balance. We will be learning and practicing the 19 poses. Dress in loose fitting comfy clothes. Contact Linda Fairchild if you have questions. 208-251-2586. No child care will be provided.

How to talk to people of faith about climate change

- ♦ **On Monday, June 6th, at 5:30pm**, join Creighton Hardin. He will introduce the audience to the Faith Statement on Climate. Creighton became involved with Citizens Climate Lobby, in his words, "...out my love for my grandkids and all the other grandkids in the world."

Where: In-person at the Pocatello UU Fellowship's Meeting House, 426 W. Lewis, Pocatello.

Or you may attend virtually via Zoom link: [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 964 4489 2131

Passcode: 806743

Phone-in for Zoom audio only: Dial 1-253-215-8782

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

Upcoming Events

June Birthdays

Roger Boe	2nd
Kathy Grumbein	2nd
Norm Hoyle	6th
Scott Jepson	6th
Esther Benson	7th
Margaret Johnson	7th
Phillip Eastman	8th
Doug Buurma	13th
Juliet Jory	16th
Sharon Fleischmann	17th
Keith Ianacone	19th
Lucas Mildon	19th
Sharon Shore	19th
DeWayne Guyton	20th
Marian Gebhart	24th
Robin Terrell	25th

Henrik Jory	26th
Tanner Morton	26th
Angie Joy	27th
Carolynn Moore	29th
Shirley Beebe	30th

June Anniversaries

Mike & Marky Essinger	21st
Bill & Linda McDonald	23rd
Skipp & Kris Rudd	23rd

Celebrate Esther Benson's 104th Birthday!

- ◆ Join us after worship on **Sunday, June 5th**, to honor Esther Benson in the Fireside room.

Congregational Care Visitation Committee Meeting

- ◆ We welcome all to join us on **Thursday, June 9th at 10:00am** in the church conference room. We will be reviewing visitation needs and scheduling visitation.

Pinochle

- ◆ Want to learn to play pinochle? Join us on **Saturday, June 18th, at 7:00pm** in the Fireside Room. Bring a friend, and a finger food to share. Questions, contact Stacey Jensen at 208-530-0208.

Annual Conference

- ◆ Once again, the Annual Conference will be held virtually this year. Pastor Mike will be attending and representing First UMC at the OR-ID Clergy and Plenary Sessions, and Marlys McCurdy will be representing First UMC at the GNW Laity and OR-ID Plenary Sessions. Mike has also been asked to be the Sage District Clergy Representative at this year's Legislative Assembly, which he has accepted. (That will have taken place prior to the printing of this Tower, but you're welcome to ask him about it!)

GNW Laity Session - June 14, 6:30 p.m. PT, 7:30 p.m. PT

GNW Opening Session - June 19, evening

OR-ID Plenary Session - June 23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. PT, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. MT

OR-ID Service of Ordination - June 24, daytime

GNW Closing Session - June 25, daytime



**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

FR=Fireside Room
CR=Conference Rm
CH=Chapel



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel	2 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's Happy Birthday Roger Boe Kathy Grumbein	3	4
5 <u>Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Offering -Pastor's Discretionary Fund	6 Happy Birthday Norm Hoyle Scott Jepson	7 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study Fireside Room Happy Birthday Esther Benson Margaret Johnson	8 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel Happy Birthday Phillip Eastman	9 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 10:00am-CC Visitation meeting-CR 6:30pm- Administrative Board meeting-FR	10	11
12 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Offering -Millie's Nickels Peace with Justice Sunday	13 Happy Birthday Doug Buurma	14 <u>Flag Day</u> 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible study Fireside Room	15 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel	16 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's Happy Birthday Juliet Jory	17 Happy Birthday Sharon Fleischmann	18 7:00 pm Pinochle Fireside Room
19 <u>Father's Day</u> 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Happy Birthday Keith Iannacone Lucas Mildon Sharon Shore	20 Happy Birthday DeWayne Guyton	21 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible study Fireside Room Happy Anniversary Mike & Marky Essinger	22 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel	23 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's Happy Anniversary Bill & Linda McDonald Skipp & Kris Rudd	24 Happy Birthday Marian Gebhart	25 Happy Birthday Robin Terrell
26 10:00am-Worship Svc Sanctuary Happy Birthday Henrik Jory Tanner Morton	27 Happy Birthday Angie Joy	28 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study Fireside Room John Wesley's Birthday	29 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am Congregational Care—card writing FR 4:00pm-Tai Chi-Chapel Happy Birthday Carolynn Moore	30 Happy Birthday Shirley Beebe		



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First United
Methodist Church
PO Box 4015
Pocatello, ID 83205

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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