



# The Tower

Monthly Newsletter of  
Pocatello First United Methodist Church



August 2022

## From Our Pastor

Dear members and friends of First UMC in Pocatello,

At a time when so much sickness is being transmitted in our community, it can be difficult to know what to offer in terms of encouragement that has not already been said with regularity over these past two and half years of pandemic. As I've wrestled with a few bouts of sickness myself this month, my heart goes out to everyone who's come down with COVID or some other illness, as well as to all enduring and managing long-term health issues. I've mostly been holed up at home resting, taking care of Sus and Loren, and doing my best to be attentive to our congregation from afar.



During this time, I have felt some kinship with Noah, about whom I've been preaching this summer. Noah was shut into the ark day and night for months. Do you know that some interpretive traditions suggest that during the entire Flood ordeal Noah never slept? That he was kept so busy attending to the feeding needs of all the beasts, birds, and creeping things (not all creatures eat on the same schedule!) that he was denied any rest for himself? It makes a lot of sense, though I must admit my earlier picture of Noah during that time was more of a man brooding in the darkness, puffing on a pipe and playing cards with his family.

Noah's name means "rest," yet it is precisely when rest is being doled out liberally with both judgement and grace – the cessation of sinful activity upon the earth, the preservation of the animals – that Noah doesn't get any! Instead, his focus, his energy, and his time are dedicated to doing what God asked him to do: "keep them alive" (Gen. 6:19), 'them' being the animals. This is part of the irony of the story. When things fell apart, when exterior conditions were chaotic and unsafe, the caregiving work of God's redemptive agent went into overdrive.

A writer named George Santayana once observed that, in prayer, "the soul may be said to accomplish three things important to its welfare: it withdraws into itself and defines its good, it accommodates itself to destiny, and it grows like the ideal which it conceives."

Like the church of the pandemic years, like Noah in his ark, like any one of us who "steals away to Jesus" for relief, a withdraw (chosen or imposed) from previous activity allows us to focus on essentials: What is worth doing right here, right now? An "ideal" like compassionate care undergoes a sobering and humbling process based on the actual possibilities and complications that we face in offering and receiving it. I doubt any of us has escaped the "Should we? Should we not?" conundrum of entering the orbit of another during this pandemic.

Even so, this very process of definition and accommodation yields a new center of gravity, a new wisdom, a practical knowledge that can actually be lived; in this case, it might be a desire to make of our whole lives an offering of care, whenever and however we can. And my hope is that with each passing day, we are learning better how to make of the church, as it's famously been said, "a hospital for sinners."

Are your needs being met? Are you actively working to meet the needs of others? Do you have places or persons of refuge? Are you opening your life, your resources as a refuge for others? These are *good* questions. Answering them honestly and trying to get them right internally will mean a lot when our attention broadens again to include mission and service in our wider community.

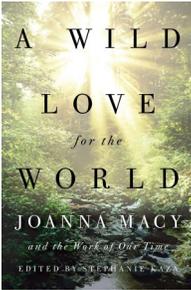
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## From Our Pastor, cont

On a final note, I enjoy the fact that Noah's caregiving ministry was focused on animals. There's a whole ecological ethic there, but I find myself wanting to acknowledge that, in spite of everything, the natural world has continued to be a source of blessing to me these days. Our eco-theology walks this month have been delightful and intellectually stimulating, and I've had a fair share of birding "firsts": two common nighthawks circling over Cherry Springs; western meadowlarks and green-tailed towhees in the sage; lazuli buntings, yellow warblers, and warbling vireos in the trees along creeks. I wish I could say that I've been feeding them. Truth is, they've been sustaining me.

Pastor Mike

## Book Review



Oh Gosh this book fits right in with the conversations we have been having on our Monday evening walks with Pastor Mike. **"A Wild Love for the World - Joanna Macy and the Works of our Time"** edited by Stephanie Kaza, is a group of articles/essays by Joanna Macy and others who have been with her doing "the work that reconnects".

Joanna Macy has been a speaker for our planet for many, many years. In 2020, when this book was written, they said she was 99. In her opening essay "Trust in Life" she talks about 1945 and being 16 years old at a weeklong Presbyterian conference, where she asked all the questions I have found myself asking, and realizing, "If we are all connected enough to belong to one another...we are all connected enough to hurt one another - a lot." She was speaking inclusively about not just humans, but also her profound sense of connection to the world around us.

The other essays in the book speak of her leadership and focus on healing each other and thus the planet. I really found the concept of the process done with a group that she called creating a "truth mandala" very inspiring and would love the opportunity to do this work with a group here within our own church community.

"Lou" Laurie Engelhardt

## The Courtesy Rules of Blindness

When you meet me, don't be ill at ease. It will help us both if you remember these simple points of courtesy:

1. I'm an ordinary person, just blind. You don't need to raise your voice or address me as if I were a child. Don't ask my spouse what I want—"Cream in the coffee?"—ask me.
2. If I am walking with you, don't grab my arm; let me take yours. I'll keep a half-step behind, to anticipate curbs and steps.
3. I want to know who's in the room with me. Speak when you enter. Introduce me to the others. Include children, and tell me if there's a cat or a dog. Guide my hand to a chair.
4. The door to a room, a cabinet, or a car, left partially open, is a hazard to me.
5. At dinner I will not have trouble with ordinary table skills.
6. Don't avoid words like "see." I use them too. I'm always glad to see you.
7. I don't want pity. But don't talk about the "wonderful compensations" of blindness. My sense of smell, touch, or hearing did not improve when I became blind. I rely on them more, and therefore may get more information through those senses than you do—that's all.
8. If I'm your houseguest, show me the bathroom, closet, dresser, window—the light switch too. I like to know whether the lights are on.
9. I'll discuss blindness with you if you're curious, but it's an old story to me. I have as many other interests as you do.
10. Don't think of me as just a blind person. I'm a person who happens to be blind.

## Beloved Members in Our Church Family

The last week of July we had two deaths in our church family. On July 19th Phil Burkhart died and on July 24th Esther Benson passed away. They will be missed.



Phil Burkhart (93) had been an active member until his health started to decline. He had been living at Quail Ridge Assisted Living. He had been on Trustees, Finance, Missions and was on the Board of the Wesley Foundation at ISU. Phil was also organizing involved in Creation Vacation. He, along with his wife Pat would come in on Saturday and prep the egg casserole for the Community Breakfast and donated supplies for it. Pat, who died August 17, 2019 was a United Methodist Women and involved in many areas. Phil has requested no public services and will be interred in the Veterans Cemetery in Boise, Idaho. We send our sympathy to their family.



Esther Benson (104) has been attending our congregation since she moved to Pocatello from California in 2003. She was a member of United Methodist Women, had been involved in several Bible Study groups, attended Rev. Lee Baker's Sunday school class, was active on FaceBook and would call and check in with friends just to see how they were doing. She was an inspiration to all and had a quiet presence and was so loving and generous. She drove herself to church and other activities until her health started to go down. Then her son Floyd and daughter-in-law Katie made sure she was taken to the places and events she wanted to go to. Our love and sympathy to Floyd, Katie and the family.

## Prayer Concerns

- Barb Hanson, Roger, and the rest of the family. Barb is home on hospice care..
- Svitlana Hoskin - previous church Admin - is asking for the safety for her mother, father, & brother who are in western Ukraine.
- Floyd & Peggy Anderson- ongoing recovery and healing.
- Skipp Rudd - heart health.
- Beverly Klug (Marv McCall's wife)- healing from back surgery on July 11, 2022
- Family of Phil Burkhart who passed away July 19th
- Family of Esther Benson who passed away July 24th
- Monica- (friend of Lori Vaughn)-kidney complications from diabetes
- Doris and Bob Authenrieth- ill with COVID
- Floyd and Katie Benson- ill with COVID
- Gary and Marlys McCurdy- ill with COVID

## Classifieds

### Liturgists Needed

- ♦ We are looking for anyone who would be interested in being a liturgist for our worship service. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office or you may call Debbie and she will help you get signed up.

### Altar Flowers

- ♦ Please sign up to provide Altar Flowers for the rest of 2022. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. These are placed on our Altar and you may take them home after Worship that Sunday. The cost is \$30.00 or if you have flowers from your garden you would like to provide, please put your name on the sheet and specify you will supply the arrangement. Please specify on your check or offering envelope that it is for Altar Flowers.

### Camp Sunday

- ♦ On Sunday, August 21st we will celebrate Camp Sunday. This will be a service of singing camp songs and hearing about experiences of church camp. If you would like to participate please call Judy Del Debbio at 208-237-2098.

## Upcoming Events



August 1	Jenna Krasa
2	Asher Hill
	Brenna Patterson
4	Tony Lachman
5	Sue Farnsworth
6	Roger Hanson
	Gordon Jones
7	Donna Boe
8	Frank Farnsworth
10	Rebecca Anderson
	Tiffany Bulger
11	Alan Johnson
	Darlene Wilson
14	Caroline Bulger

15	Jane Streubel
19	Griffin Jory
22	Addie Hill
23	Harold Farnlund
24	Evelyn Hitchcock
25	Marky Essinger
28	Mary Lou Lancaster
29	Ruth Lish
	Judy Taylor



August 5	Stacey and Dyke Jensen
9	Floyd and Peggy Anderson
11	Heath and Maggie Mann
14	Robin and Steve Terrell

### Ecology and Faith Walking Group

- ◆ There are two weeks left in Pastor Mike's Faith and Ecology Walks. The group has met at various trails around town for a walk and discussion about the relationship between Christian faith and love of creation. Each week, Mike will share the location through the bulletin and a Signal and assign an optional reading for folks to engage with before coming. Of course, we'll also help each other notice what we're seeing and hearing out there on the trail - birds, rocks, vegetation, etc. If weather conditions prohibit a Monday night walk, the "rain check" will always be the next day (Tuesday).

**Dates:** Mondays, August 1, 8 from 7:00 - 8:30pm.

From Jane Streubel about the walks:

Pastor Mike has guided a purposeful walk focusing on Ecology and Nature on Monday Evenings starting at 7. We have walked the paths at Edson Fichter Nature Area, Cherry Springs and Sacajawea Trail. To begin our walks, we have a centering activity. On our walks we share our thoughts regarding nature and faith, pointing out: geese quietly moving down the river, cedar waxwings perched in trees, a large, old, black Poplar, and plants motivating us to identify them.

I have believed in nature's interconnections and it seems the unlimited connections through which God speak to us and how we must respect and more importantly "tune in" and listen.



Edson Fichter Nature Area

### Congregational Care Visitation Committee Meeting

- ◆ We welcome all to join us on **Thursday, August 11th 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, August 20th, at 7:00pm** in the Fireside Room. Bring a friend, and a finger food to share. Questions, contact Stacey Jensen at 208-530-0208.

### Arts and Crafts

- ◆ Do you like to do **Arts and Crafts**? We have a group that meets periodically and their next meeting time will be Saturday, August 20th at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. Everyone is invited to come and join them. Hope to see you there!



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



# AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																																																	
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday-Friday 9:15am-1:00pm  FR=Fireside Room CR=Conference Rm CH=Chapel	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Ecology & Faith Walking Group- <b>Location TBD</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jenna Krasa	<b>2</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Asher Hill Brenna Patterson	<b>3</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am - Congregational Card writing- FR	<b>4</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Tony Lachman	<b>5</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Sue Farnsworth  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Stacey & Dyke Jensen	<b>6</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Roger Hanson Gordon Jones																																																	
<b>7</b> 10:00am-Worship Sanctuary <b>Offering</b> -Pastor's Discretionary Fund  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Donna Boe	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Ecology & Faith Walking Group- <b>Location TBD</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Frank Farnsworth	<b>9</b> 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study-FR  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Floyd & Peggy Anderson	<b>10</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am - Congregational Card writing- FR  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Rebecca Anderson Tiffany Bulger	<b>11</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 10:00am- CC Visitation Team- <b>Conf. Room</b> 6:30pm-Administrative Board -FR  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Alan Johnson Darlene Wilson  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Heath & Maggie Mann	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>																																																	
<b>14</b> 10:00am-Worship Sanctuary <b>Offering</b> - Millie's Nickels  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Caroline Bulger  <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Robin and Steve Terrell	<b>15</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jane Streubel	<b>16</b> 10:00am Seasoned by Grace Bible Study-FR	<b>17</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am - Congregational Card writing- FR	<b>18</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's	<b>19</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Griffin Jory	<b>20</b> 10:00am- Arts & Crafts- FR 7:00pm- Pinochle Fireside Room																																																	
<b>21</b> <b>CAMP SUNDAY</b> 10:00am-Worship Sanctuary	<b>22</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Addie Hill	<b>23</b>  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Harold Farnlund	<b>24</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00am - Congregational Card writing- FR  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Evelyn Hitchcock	<b>25</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Marky Essinger	<b>26</b> 5:00pm-Betty Moore Memorial Service	<b>27</b>																																																	
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PO Box 4015  
Pocatello, ID 83205

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Pocatello, ID  
83201

## Address Service Requested

### 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-Friday  
9:15am-1:00pm

You may contact us by phone at  
(208) 232-1353

[office@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:office@pocatelloumc.org)

### Margaret's Potatoes and Peas (curried Indian style)

#### Ingredients:

Potatoes – 6 medium	Peas (frozen) – 1 cup
Tomato – 2 medium	Serrano pepper – 4
Oil – 1/8 cup	Onion – 1 large
Salt – 2 tsp	Garlic – 6 cloves (peeled)
Ginger (fresh) – 1 inch	Turmeric powder – ½ tsp
Cumin seeds – 1 tsp	Fennel seeds – ½ tsp
Black mustard seeds – ½ tsp	Whole black pepper corns – 10
Cilantro – 1 bunch	

#### Method:

Peel potatoes and cut in 1 inch cubes. Wash them & leave them in clean water. Measure out the frozen peas ( 1 cup). Wash and slice tomatoes. Wash and finely slice/chop the cilantro.

Peel the garlic and peel and wash fresh ginger. Chop both of them in a chopper.

Peel and slice onion. Wash and slice the serrano peppers. In a medium size skillet, heat oil, add the sliced onions. Brown the onions. Turn down heat to low.

Make room in the middle of the skillet. Add cumin seeds, mustard seeds, whole black pepper corns, fennel seeds. Lightly roast them for 1 minute. Add turmeric, chopped garlic and ginger. Roast for about a minute. Add sliced tomatoes. Add ½ cup of water. Cover. Let the tomatoes soften and cook. About 5 to 10 minutes. By then the water should be dried up and tomatoes are slightly sticking to the skillet. Just keep scraping them up a few time. You should be able to see the oil separate.

Add cut up potatoes and peas. Add salt, stir well.

The potatoes and peas should be able to cook with the water given off from the potatoes and the peas. Let it cook about 10-15 minutes or until potatoes are soft. It will need stirring 2 or 3 different times. The flavors have to be well combined. Stir gently so the potatoes keep their size.

When potatoes are done. Turn off and garnish with finely chopped cilantro. Stir in gently.