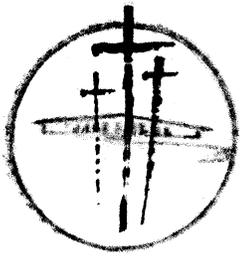

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAMPA, IDAHO



Half-Link



Nampa First United Presbyterian Church Purpose Statement

To bring people together to love and magnify God through worship, to minister to the needs of all His children, to fellowship in God's family, to spread the Good News, and to develop people to Christ-like maturity for their mission in the world.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 1:00pm

Office email:

firstpresnampa@gmail.com

Website:

www.firstpresnampa.org

Phone: (208) 466-7061

Fax: (208) 466-7176

Pastor Aaron Berkowitz

Email: alb733@gmail.com

Phone: 909-953-1011

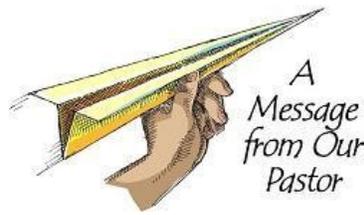
Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays & Thursdays
10:30am - 1:00pm

MID-NOVEMBER 2017

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Below are a few quotes on gratitude from G.K. Chesterton. Chesterton is not appreciated as much as he should be. Some, mainly liberals, do not appreciate him because they too quickly reject, his conservatism. Chesterton was a conservative, in the truest sense of the word, that of commitment to conserve a truth received prior, in contrast to the progressive, who wants to “progress” to a truth yet to be established. On the other hand, many of those who call themselves conservative today ignore Chesterton because he holds to a truth so original, so prior to the sensibility of current culture, that even conservatives find him unfamiliar and disconcerting.

That Chesterton makes both liberals and conservatives nervous seems to me a chief reason to admire and appreciate him. Below, I have some of my favorite quotes of his on thanksgiving, that subject we celebrate this month by sharing a meal with our families.

“The worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank.”

“I do not, in my private capacity, believe that a baby gets his best physical food by sucking his thumb; nor that a man gets his best moral food by sucking his soul, and denying its dependence on God or other good things. I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.”

“The chief idea of my life ... is the idea of taking things with gratitude, and not taking things for granted.”

“The aim of life is appreciation; there is no sense in not appreciating things; and there is no sense in having more of them if you have less appreciation of them.”

“When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.”

The Bible consistently commands us to be grateful, “O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 136. So, when we dwell in negativity, when we allow ourselves to become bitter, we sin against God. Gratitude is not just a nice idea, it is a Divine command. Divine commands require from us one of two responses, obedience, or disobedience. Gratitude therefore is a choice, but not always an easy one. I certainly struggle with it myself. So, for those of us who struggle to be grateful, for those who fall into complaining, we must have *sympathy*, for Chesterton also reminds us:

“Gratitude, being nearly the greatest of human duties, is also nearly the most difficult.”

-Pastor Aaron

Boone Memorial Church Employment Opportunity

Boone Memorial Presbyterian Church in Caldwell is hiring for a Church Administrative Coordinator. This part-time position will be 20-25 hours per week and the pay will be \$13.00-15.00 per hour.

A Church Administrative Coordinator is employed by the Church Session to provide administrative support to the Boone Session with Session Moderator or Administration Chair acting as their direct supervisor. The Administrative Coordinator

must maintain a professional relationship with the Session and congregation and must keep in strict confidence information acquired through the duties of this position, which may be personal in nature to church members and/or staff.

A detailed job description is available if you would like more information about this employment opportunity. Contact Karen in the office for a copy of this job description.

JOB OPENING

© Can Stock Photo

Message from Sean Rogers

"We are all a part of God's priesthood. We are all called to help each other see God's presence, to know God's comfort, to hear God's challenges for our lives and for this world, ... to 'proclaim the mighty acts of God who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light.' ... You are called to be a priest. How might that truth change your life? It could, if you will let it."

—The Rev. Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.

Many of you have come up to me and asked if I might say more about my experiences in touring to small churches and ministering to the people in the community. I felt that there are so many wonderful grace-filled moments to share that it would be best to write them down along with my thoughts. I must say to my Nampa church family that the time ministering as a part of Ring Praise and Sean Rogers Ministries has been an amazing blessing that fills my heart with joy. I thank you, the congregation, for your support and prayers and I still thank you and the Presbytery for the Commissioning service that took place almost 13 years ago. Your name goes with me into prisons, churches, hospice, Assisted Living facilities, homeless shelters, and many other places where God's love and Gospel needs to be heard.

One of the last trips that Phyllis Tincher and I took was into Eastern Oregon. For those of you who might not know, we have a ministry called Ring Praise. We are a Handbell and Keyboard duo and have traveled over 70,000 miles in the past 14 years. We minister to small churches all over the United States. We also go into prisons and were recently in the Two Rivers Correctional Institute. We performed and ministered there on October 9, 2017. We have been giving concerts and a grace-filled message here for nearly four years. Our first concert was held in the chapel. We have performed here quite a few times and so we know some of guys. It is always good to catch up with many of them. I always enjoy hearing about their kids and what is going on in their life outside of the facility. One of the guys, we will call him "Doug", is a very accomplished pianist, who has performed with orchestras and has an amazing gift at the piano as he played the first movement of the Rachmaninoff 3rd Piano Concerto for me as we were waiting to start

the concert. "Doug" is also a very accomplished composer and played the Bridal March that he wrote for his daughter who just got married this past year. They were able to record it and get it sent out in just enough time so it could be played as his Daughter walked down the aisle. I have grown to love the hour or more that we have to wait before performing. This is always the time that we have to reconnect with these guys who have become friends.

Our second concert was not held in the chapel. Phyllis and I were treated to lunch and a tour of the kitchen which is open 24/7 to provide for the approx.. 1,700 prisoners. The kitchen is run by prisoners and the food is always amazingly good. The second concert was held in the Administrative Segregation Unit which is the unit that is locked down for prisoners who have a reason to fear for their life. The Unit has about 50 rooms and is in one very large unit. The prisoners have full-time surveillance and access is limited. We shared a concert and the Gospel message with the prisoners. The prisoners are allowed to have somewhere around an hour a day for recreation. We had around 25 men stay for the concert. There was one gentleman who told us that he had been in isolation for over 40 years and that this concert gave him hope to continue. He was very moved. It is in moments like the ones that are experienced in the Correctional Institute that I remember that ministering to others is a 2-way event. I always feel that in sharing the Gospel with the men at the prison, I end up experiencing the fullness of the Gospel back in return from fellowship, unconditional love, and the Holy Spirit working to bring us all together. Phyllis and I continue to hear stories of many of the men at all of our prison concerts. It is exciting to see the work that God is doing in their lives. It is also humbling to realize that these men share their Gospel message with us. In one concert, I was asked if some of the guys could pray over me and the success of the ministry. What a blessing! God's grace and love is amazing in that it is the one thing that makes us all equal in worth and purpose.

In closing, I would like to share a statement from a sermon I preached about 3 weeks ago. I wrote this after experiencing the Holy Spirit's

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John & Ann Gentry

John Gentry

We recently moved to Nampa from Tucson, Arizona. We have three grown children; Leslie, Remi, and Jack. Leslie is married and in the process of moving to Nampa. Jack lives in Boise and Remi lives in Portland, Oregon.

I am a land surveyor for Idaho Power Company and enjoy hunting and fishing in my spare time.



Ann Gentry

I am an RN by trade and currently work part-time for Nampa School District. We have three grown children and two grandkids. My interests include quilting and pottery and gardening. I also love to fish - we have a boat and get out as often as possible. We also recently got a fishing kayaks and look forward to adventures on the water in these. I have served as a parish nurse at Immanuel

Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona.

A Creative Approach to Charitable Giving by Gary Hindman

If you are 70 ½ or older and have funds in a traditional IRA you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for that year according to a set formula or pay a stiff tax penalty. (At 70 ½ the amount is 3.65% of the value of the IRA and increases each year to about year 92.) Therefore you might want to consider giving a gift(s) to your favorite church or charity by using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). According to Robert Carlson of his newsletter *Retirement Watch*, this approach has a double advantage for the giver because “the QCD...is not included in (your) gross income, yet it counts as all or part of the RMD for the year. You don’t take a deduction for the contribution so there effectively are no income tax consequences to the QCD.”

Note that the contribution must be made directly from one’s IRA custodian to the church or charity of choice, or you can be given a check made out to the organization and deliver the check yourself. Companies like Charles Schwab will give you the forms you need to fill out with instructions to them as to the church or charity of choice and specific amounts you want to give. For more information on this excellent way to give to church and charity and other RMD strategies, refer to the custodian of your particular investments or consult the article “Strategies for Managing Required Minimum Distributions” by Robert C. Carlson in the October, 2017 issue of the *AALJ Journal*, Volume XXXIX, No. 10.

Message from Sean Rogers

Continued from page 3

presence at the prison and the bond that Phyllis and I have had with these men.

Through our problems, we are apt to discover the radical love of God. God’s love is radical in that, no matter what we do or how much we mess things up, no matter what shame we carry because of our struggle, God’s love is always present. In fact, the end of Psalm 23, it says “Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me all the days of my life”. In actuality, the original language didn’t say “Follow”, the original word had a meaning more like “pursue” or even “chase”. Next time, you site Psalm 23, try changing the sentence to “Surely Goodness and Mercy will

chase me all the days of my life” That is Radical Love. But Radical love doesn’t just help us when we are down. Radical love has a power to it. It transforms. it changes you. The famous author and Theologian N.T. Wright wrote: We want to hear that everyone is all right exactly as they are, that God loves us.

It is through men like “Doug” and many other inmates that God’s radical love for ALL people shines and reminds us that the fullness of the Gospel can be found in everyone.

Blessings and Peace,
Sean

Dates for Youth Activities

- ♦ Youth Group & Presby Kids Club will go bowling on December 3rd after the worship service.
- ♦ The Youth Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 10th during the worship service. The students will start rehearsing during Sunday School starting November 12th.
- ♦ Youth Group & Presby Kids Club will have an ugly sweater potluck, gift exchange and movie on December 17th after the worship service.



Movie Night



The next movie night will be **Saturday, November 18th** at 5:30 PM. The movie is "Megan Leavey" available for viewing at Redbox.

Watch the movie ahead of time and then bring a potluck dish to share, your own table service and beverage and join in the discussion and fellowship.



Christmas Is Coming!

Please reserve **Saturday morning, December 2nd, for decorating the church for Christmas!** We will meet at 10:00 AM and should be finished by noon! We will need some strong, healthy young people for climbing on ladders and

reaching the higher up places. Plan to come and help in what way you are able and get yourself in the spirit of the season. The Worship Committee offers many thanks in advance! Any questions or comments, contact Jean Stansbury.

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the PW Holiday Bazaar such a huge success. You lent us tables for the vendors to use, donated baked goods, handmade items, slightly used items for Granny's Attic, and soup and pie for lunch. So many of you (men too) donated your time to help set-up and take down or work at the bazaar. The Boy Scouts also assisted with set-up and take down. We received over \$2,000 and this couldn't have been done without ALL OF YOU. We have been talking

about Stewardship for several weeks and giving of your time and talents so our bazaar would be a success is part of your stewardship commitment to our church. Thank you, thank you, thank you. The bazaar is PW's fundraiser for the year which enables us to generously donate to projects within our church and the community. Disbursements for various projects will be made in 2018 and a report of PW activities and donations is always a part of the church's Annual Report published each January.

PW Happenings

Thank Offering

In November PW is promoting the Thank Offering. Envelopes will be out. There is a poster on the bulletin board and a list of the 15 grants that our gifts can help; five are international and ten in the U.S.

The theme is "For the Healing of the Nations". Scripture is Revelation 22:2. On either side of the river is the tree of life and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

It all began with one women's group in 1888 and now the church wide offering since the merger of the northern and southern churches in 1988 has



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

give over 25 million to over 2,000 projects. These include health, educational opportunities and improved living conditions for many.

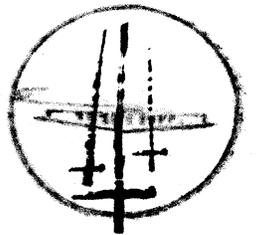
Those who give are reminded to put Thank Offering on their checks.

Christmas Tea

The Christmas Tea will be Saturday, December 9th at 2:00 PM. Watch for more details coming soon.

As always, our PW is open to all women of the church. Our monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. Join us! We appreciate the support our church gives our organization! Thank you!

If this publication is no longer needed, please notify the church office.



**FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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