

# Presbyterian Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
BURLEY, IDAHO JANUARY 2023

In the same way, let your light shine  
before others, so that they may see  
your good works and give glory to  
your Father in heaven.  
**Matthew 5:16**

## How to Face 2023!

Charles F. Kettering (1876—1958), electrical engineer and inventor, gives these words of wisdom: "We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there." Concern about the future is what motivates people to try to predict what the future holds. But in the words of another: "The highways to history are littered with wrong calls, false insights, and bad guesses." That's true!

Scripture says:

*"Since no one knows the future,  
who can tell someone else what is to come?"*  
**Ecclesiastes 8:7**

It's true no person knows the future. But God knows! God knows what the future holds. And He can teach us how to face the future. Let's begin with three things to not do when facing the future.

1. Don't presume about tomorrow.

*"Do not boast about tomorrow,  
for you do not know what a day may bring."*  
**Proverbs 27:1**

2. Don't panic about tomorrow.

*"So do not worry about tomorrow,  
for tomorrow will bring worries of its  
own. Today's trouble is enough for today."*  
**Matthew 6:34**

3. Don't procrastinate until tomorrow.

*"Through sloth the roof sinks in,  
and through indolence the house leaks."*  
**Ecclesiastes 10:18**

Those are three things not to do. So what are we to do about 2023? The short answer is to pray!

Heavenly Father, I want your will to be done in my life in 2023. Help me to stay in the Word and enable me, through the Spirit of the Indwelling Christ, to be a doer not merely a hearer. In 2023, guide and direct me. Be my Lord and Leader. I want to trust that whatever You allow to come into my life will be used by You for good!

In Jesus' Name,  
*Pastor John*

**WELCOME  
2023!**



## Proof of light


On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star. How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."

## Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!

—Janna Firestone



*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and hope."*  
**Jeremiah 29:11**

## Baptism is serious business!

Baptizing people into God's family has always been a ministry highlight for Pastor Stan Purdum. One Sunday, he had the privilege of welcoming three infants and two young boys to the baptismal font, along with all their parents. After baptizing the babies, Purdum turned toward the families with older children, who'd been instructed to have their boys step forward one at a time.

Immediately, the 3-year-old shouted, "Not me!" and bolted for the exit. His father caught the youngster and carried him back as the congregation chuckled. This time, Purdum wasted no time completing the sacrament.

"Maybe this young boy was not greatly wrong to try to duck baptism," he later pondered. "Far from being a harmless little ceremony, baptism begins a lifetime commitment to God, which over the long haul is no easy thing. It lays upon us the responsibility to live up to the vows we have made." How seriously do you take your baptismal vows?

## Another year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love; another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal



# Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

Session met on December 14 for the regular monthly meeting. Four elders were present; one was excused and one came late. Pastor John Z moderated the meeting. He gave a short meditation and opened the meeting with prayer.

The clerk reported that Frieda Gebauer passed away on Nov. 28, 2022. Her funeral was held on Dec. 13th and she was buried in the Paul Cemetery. We will miss her and send sympathy to her family.

June Stoller passed away on Dec. 15, 2022. Her service will be in the spring. Our sympathies to her family as well.

The minutes for November were read and approved.

Susie McCall spoke to the Session about taking care of the laundry facilities at Spring Creek Apt. Complex. Someone would collect the money from the washers and dryers and maintain a fund to take care of washer/dryer repairs and purchase new ones as needed. No action was taken pending further discussion.

Christmas Eve service and the Children's program service were both done well and enjoyed by all those who attended. Thank you to the Wittmans, the Pughs and Pastor John for their work in preparing meaningful messages. Kudos to all of the musicians! All were wonderful!

Session agreed to not have church services on Dec. 25, 2022. The offering taken on Christmas Eve went to the Women's Shelter in Rupert.

John's contract will be renewed with some changes. This will be done after the first of the new year.

Session is still trying to find and hire a contractor to repair the roof over the front door, redo the gutters, and put metal trim around the south facing stained glass windows. Please be aware that the walkway could be slick during these winter months.

Members went caroling on Dec. 18. They sang to 5 homes and a care center while dropping off cookies made by the Presbyterian Women. Those who went had a great time followed with chili and cinnamon rolls.

Session will hold a budget hearing on Jan. 11, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. with the session meeting to follow. Please get your budget requests to Carleen Clayville ASAP.

All committees are reminded to get your year-end reports to Barbra by Jan. 15, 2023. The Annual congregational meeting will be on Jan. 29, 2023 after worship. Plan to stay and participate. There will be some discussion as to how to proceed with the future of our congregation. Your input is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M. and prayer was given by Paul Pugh.

Thank you to everyone who made Christmas 2022 a wonderful, meaningful, joyful experience! Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the church this year! Good health, happy times, peace and contentment and joy to you all in 2023. Happy, Happy, Happy New Year!!!

Respectfully submitted  
Kathy Poulton, Clerk of Session

## God's peaceable kingdom

Once in a while — too seldom, it seems, but often enough to give us hope — Isaiah's prophecy comes true: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together ... The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together" (Isaiah 11:6-7, NRSV).

In February 2022, a Minnesota photographer captured a rare event: a wolf and a deer lying feet from each other in the snow — and neither was eating the other! Occasionally we hear of Palestinians and Israelis partnering to teach peacemaking skills, a rally protester helping an injured counter-protester, a crime victim and perpetrator embracing. A divorced couple I know, deeply estranged, decided they could sit together at their son's high school graduation to demonstrate their love for him.

In a world sadly torn apart, glimpses of mending, tolerance and love are signs of God among us. Isaiah (11:6) declares what makes such goodness possible: "A little child shall lead them." We know this child as the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

# January Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

**January 1** [1st Sunday of Christmas / Communion Sunday]

Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148;  
Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

**January 8** [Baptism of the Lord]

Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 29;  
Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 3:13-17

**January 15** [2nd Sunday after Epiphany]

Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 40:1-11;  
1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**January 22** [3rd Sunday after Epiphany]

Isa. 9:1-4; Ps. 27:1, 4-9;  
1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23

**January 29** [4th Sunday after Epiphany]

Micah 6:1-8; Ps. 15;  
1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matt. 5:1-12



*For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper  
than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the  
dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow,  
and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

## Committees & Chairpersons

**BUILDING & GROUNDS:**

Paul Pugh

**FELLOWSHIP:**

Brent Germann

**FINANCE:**

Carleen Clayville

**MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:**

Dan Wittman

**PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:**

Jerry Vegwert

**WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:**

Erika Wittman

**DEACONS:**

Darla Holl, Linda Smith,  
Julie Germann, Tyson  
Germann, Gary Hollinger  
and Susan McGee



**Don't Forget  
Your Tithe**

**2022 Year to Date  
Tithes and Expenses**

November

Tithes \$4,390.00  
Expenses \$6,302.18

YTD Totals:

Tithes \$82,651.00  
Expenses \$68,382.68

## January Birthdays

03 David Shockey  
03 Cecil Napier  
10 Erika Wittman  
15 Kristi Pugh  
16 Ruthy Rayburn  
16 Melissa Fuelling  
19 Susan Shockey  
22 Pam Hoffbuhr  
28 Dan Shockey  
29 Monday Matlock  
30 Zoey Germann

*God Bless Your Special Day!*



| December 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

# January 2023

| February 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |

| Sun                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tue | Wed                                                                                                         | Thu                                   | Fri                       | Sat                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1<br>New Year's Day<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:45 am Worship & Communion<br>Cupcake Sunday              | 2<br>JANUARY SERVERS—THANK YOU!<br>Head Usher: Carleen Clayville Head Greeter: Dan Shockey<br>Liturgist: 01Dottie, 08 Dan S., 15Gary, 22 Dottie., 29Dan S.<br>Coffee Hour: 01Fellowship, 08____, 15 Fellowship, 22____ | 3   | 4                                                                                                           | 5                                     | 6<br>Epiphany of the Lord | 7                                |
| 8<br>Baptism of the Lord<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:45 am Worship &                                     | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10  | 11<br>6:30pm Annual Budget Meeting<br>7:00 pm                                                               | 12<br>1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild | 13                        | 14                               |
| 15<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:45 am Worship<br>Gideons speaking during worship<br>Potluck after worship | 16<br>Annual Reports Due<br>Newsletter Articles Due                                                                                                                                                                    | 17  | 18<br>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins                                                             | 19                                    | 20                        | 21<br>10:00am Presbyterian Women |
| 22<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:45 am Worship                                                             | 23<br>Newsletter Article Deadline                                                                                                                                                                                      | 24  | 25                                                                                                          | 26                                    | 27                        | 28                               |
| 29<br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>10:45 am Worship<br>Annual Congregational Meeting after worship              | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 31  | <p>"Help my words to be generous and tender today, for tomorrow I may have to eat them."<br/>—Anonymous</p> |                                       |                           |                                  |

## Time for a spiritual assessment

"Hardly anything else reveals so well the fear and uncertainty among [people] as the length to which they will go to hide their true selves from each other and even from their own eyes," says A.W. Tozer. For insights into who we really are as Christians, the theologian proposes "rules for self-discovery." According to Tozer, "we may be known" by these seven things: what we want most, what we think about most, how we use our money, what we do with our leisure time, the company we enjoy, who and what we admire, and what we laugh at.

The "wise Christian" will find other tests, says Tozer, but these are a starting point to reveal if our desires and priorities conflict with God's will. "Our self-judgment is almost certain to be biased and imperfect," he adds, yet there's "every good reason for us to work along with the Holy Spirit in his benign effort to locate us spiritually in order that we may make such amendments as the circumstances demand."

# Presbyterian Women in the News!

"**BLESSED** is she who has **BELIEVED** that the Lord would fulfill his **PROMISES** to her!" LUKE 1:45

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF BURLEY**

The Presbyterian Women of Burley held their Annual Cookie Swap meeting on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Carleen, Moderator called the meeting to order, welcomed all who attended and the opening prayer was given.

There were an amazing 17 present!

Kathy Poulton, Vice-Moderator lighted the Christ Candle and all recited the P W purpose. The least coin was collected, and it's purpose was explained. This fundraiser was started in 1923, to help with programs that Would benefit Women and girls around the world! Kathy gave a short meditation.

Darla Holl provided a game for all that told the best Christmas story, the best gift received, etc. We then enjoyed brunch furnished by Kathy, Carleen and Darla.

### **THE BUSINESS MEETING:**

The minutes of our last meeting was read, voted, passed with a motion by Kathy P.

Sharon reported we had \$3061.27 in checking, with a CD on deposit.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Carleen announced that the Women and Children's Crossroads Harbor charity has been changed to "Victims of Violence " with a new group from the Boise area, joining together with Valley House in Twin Falls, and other units around the Southern Idaho area, making for a more active organization.

The group voted to give monetary gifts to our churches Pastor, Musicians, Office Admin, Custodian, and our PC Guru, as we have done for many years!

**CARING AND SHARING:** The Stoller Family, with the passing of our good friend, June Stoller. Cathy Clayville Parr COVID, Monday Matlock, health issues, and all who are not doing well this Holiday Season.

Kathy P. mentioned that we haven't awarded a Scholarship from our Wilma Johnson Fund during the past couple of years, due to the shutdown of activities during the pandemic.

We adjourned to make the cookie plates for ourselves and to deliver to the shut-ins that will be caroled to on Sunday.

Respectively Submitted,  
Carleen Clayville, Moderator, acting Secretary

Thank you so much for coming and singing! You made my day! And thank you for the wonderful cookie plate, I'm going to share it with other loved ones.

In Christ's Love,  
June Waters



Thank you to Session and the Congregation for another wonderful year serving you and God's Church. My work at Burley First Presbyterian Church is one of my greatest joys. Thank you also for the very generous Christmas gift from the Presbyterian Women, and cards and gifts from the Congregation—you are too kind!

Blessings,  
Barbra



# Committee Reports

## FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all who returned their pledge and talents form this past month. We appreciate you! If you have yet to return yours, and wish to, please contact anyone on the committee or Session. **We take very seriously the commitment of being a good steward of the church's (and your) money.** It is not an easy job, as it seems there is always upkeep and repairs to pay for. Please pray for your Session and Deacons as we plan the budget for the year 2023.

With God's blessings  
Your Finance Team



Thank you for all the ways you show your love for Linda and I. The list of the things you do is a long one. It includes: Christmas cards, gift bag with ground coffee and biscotti, gift of money from PW, and most of all your faithful participation in Christ's work in and through Burley First Presbyterian Church.

Love,  
Pastor John and Linda



## LOOKING AHEAD:

### FEBRUARY

- 05: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 08: Session 7:00pm
- 18: PW Valentine Brunch—TBA
- 21: Shrove Tuesday
- 22: Ash Wednesday
- 26: 1st Sunday in Lent

### MARCH

- 01: Lenten Luncheons begin—TBA
- 03: World Day of Prayer
- 05: 2nd Sunday in Lent
- 05: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 08: Session 7:00pm
- 12: Daylight saving time begins
- 12: 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 19: 4th Sunday in Lent
- 26: 5th Sunday in Lent

### APRIL

- 01: Easter Egg Hunt—TBA
- 02: Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)
- 02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 06: Maundy Thursday Service & Meal—TBA
- 09: Easter Sunday/Resurrection of the Lord
- 09: One Great Hour of Sharing
- 12: Session 7:00pm

## UPCOMING Events

## FELLOWSHIP

Jan. 1st - Cupcake Sunday  
Jan 15th - Pot Luck

Respectfully, submitted  
Terrie Shockey

**Happy New Year!**

"If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl, but by all means, keep moving."  
—Martin Luther King Jr.



**PASTOR:**

Rev. John L. Ziulkowski

Pastor's office hours:

Wednesdays 9:00am—1:00pm  
(also available by appointment)

Pastor's Email: [lrzski@yahoo.com](mailto:lrzski@yahoo.com)

Pastor's cell phone: 208-430-5359

Office Administrator: Barbra Moore

Office Hours T—F 9am—2pm

Office phone: 678-5131

Office email: [burleypc@pmt.org](mailto:burleypc@pmt.org)

Clerk of Session: Kathy Poulton

Director of Music: Paul Pugh

Pianist: Susan McGee

Nursery Attendant: Bonnie Stanley

Custodian: Linda Culley

Prayer Chain: Susan McGee 208-312-3864

**Service Times:**

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship 10:45 am

*The Presbyterian Messenger and  
The Lord's Day Bulletin are published by  
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Please submit your Newsletter items by the  
15th of the month and Bulletin items by Wednesday.*

First Presbyterian Church (USA)  
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Visit us on the web at:  
[www.burleypres.org](http://www.burleypres.org)



For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith  
goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to  
knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance;  
and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness,  
brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

**2 Peter 1:5-7**

**Prayers:** *If you know of someone who is in need of prayers, please contact  
the church office.*

**Prayer Chain:** *If you have an emergency prayer request, or would like to  
join the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGee at 208-312-3864*



## We offer up prayers for . . .

# PRAYER CORNER

- God answering prayers, big and small! Good is good—all the time!
- All who are fighting cancer and those recovering from various illnesses and injuries
- Prayers of thanksgiving for God's Son—his indescribable gift (2 Cor. 9:15).
- Prayers of support and encouragement for all our shut-ins and those in care centers
- All who have lost loved ones
- The poor, lonely, abused, or struggling with addiction
- All who have lost jobs
- Those facing financial uncertainties
- Wisdom for those making difficult decisions
- Our church leaders
- Our military
- Our government leaders
- Our partnership ministries: Crossroads Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter, Hope Community Food Pantry and Operation Christmas Child