

# The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLEY IDAHO—AUGUST 2023



Turn to me and  
be gracious to me,  
as is your  
way with those  
who love your  
Name.  
**PSALM 119:132**

## Aging Gracefully

The Lord blessed Linda and I with a visit from our Wichita daughter Tracey and two granddaughters, Jessie (16) and Isabel (15). Isa worked alongside of Linda at Camp Perkins. Linda was the Camp Nurse.

There is nothing like two teenage girls to liven up mealtime conversations. The girls didn't miss any opportunity to make fun of grandpa's male pattern baldness, hearing aids, false teeth, etc. The girls also felt obligated to flag any evidence of dementia in Gpa. One piece of evidence cited often was Gpa's television choices. I've been watching "Gunsmoke" and "Wells Fargo."

This got me thinking about the aging journey. Two thoughts came to mind. The first is the goal of **Aging Gracefully**. The Lord Jesus wants aging believers to continue to bear fruit! (Psalm 92:13). For Christian believers the retirement season is to be more than just bucket lists and fun activities. It is to be a time of growing spiritually and modeling what it means to continue serving Jesus until He calls us home. (Psalm 71:18-19).

A second thought, **Aging Gracefully** includes the harsh reality that no one ages gracefully. Whether we like it or not, **Aging Gracefully is a myth**. To borrow the words of another:

"We are all capable of aging successfully—until we aren't."

As a general rule, physical and financial troubles increase as people move through the life cycle. For many, the 60s and 70s are a time of good health. Sociologists label this group as the "young old." The next stop is the harsher territory of the "old old" in their 80s and 90s. For those who survive to blow out 85 candles there is a high probability of significant mental and physical disability.

Those are my two thoughts on the subject of aging. On a more positive note, for the follower of Christ the best is yet to come. Like the apostle Paul, believers (that's us) know that one day their body will be taken down like a tent and folded away. Then it will be replaced by a resurrection body that is designed to never be taken down. A resurrection body designed for a world where there is no sin, no death, no suffering, and no pain! (Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-20 and Revelation 21:1-4).

*In Jesus' love,  
Pastor John*



# Session Highlights

## Greetings from the Session

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on July 12, 2023. 5 Elders were in attendance, 1 excused. Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer. The temporary Clerk reported there were 59 on the active roll. Communion was served to 55 members and friends on June 4.

Pastor John asked to be away on August 20-27, we will need Pulpit Supply for those Sundays.

The Deacons reported they were planning another yard sale maybe late September.

Building and Grounds reported that Shane Guinn has finished the repair on the main door to the church. It looks really nice! The issue with the big stained glass has been reported to NuVu, and they are looking into the solution.

Pastor John's work contract has been extended to Dec. 31, 2023

The treasurer reported that all bills and staff are up to date. Members are asked to contribute the added \$45.00 per member in addition to their regular tithe, if they can, to go toward our Annual Per Capita apportionment. It would be appreciated.

The next Session meeting will be August 9th, 2023. There was no other business.

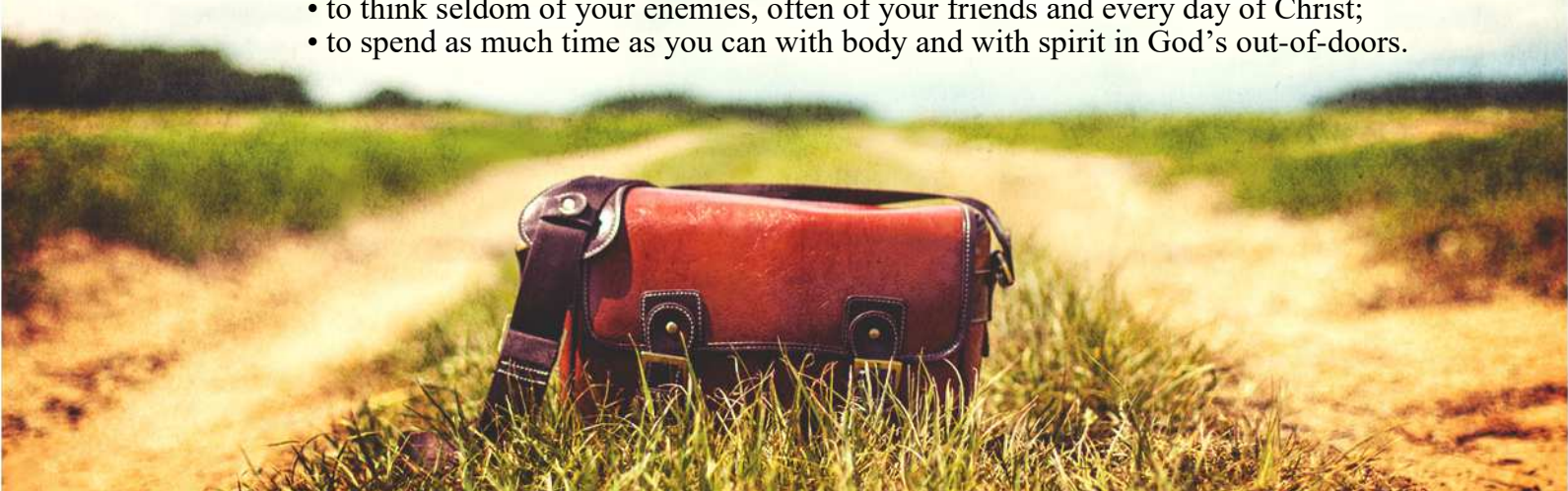
The meeting was closed with prayer given by Pastor John at 9:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session

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The following items serve as "little guideposts on the footpath to peace," according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor's except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors.





# Scriptures for August *from* the Lectionary

**August 6** [Communion Sunday]

Gen. 32:22-31; Ps. 17:1-7, 15;  
Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21

**August 13**

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;  
Rom. 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33

**August 20**

Gen. 45:1-15; Ps. 133;  
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28

**August 27**

Ex. 1:8-2:10; Ps. 124;  
Rom. 12:1-8; Matt. 16:13-20

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." ...  
It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."*

**Hebrews 4:12, KJV**

## A hunger for the heights

In a sermon titled "Sky Hunger," Stan Purdum explores Ephesians 1:3, where Paul writes about God blessing us "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (ESV). The expression "sky hunger," says the pastor, "suggests that to be the best earthbound people we can be, we need to lift our eyes to a higher place — the *highest* place."

While on a mission trip in Kentucky, Purdum discovered that many residents refer to pastors as sky pilots. "What better role can a pastor have," he asks, "than to point people to the skies, to the God Most High?"

The Easter anthem "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," which celebrates our ultimate destination, sums up another definition of sky hunger:

Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, *the skies*, alleluia!

"That to which our holy restlessness, our inner discontent, our sky hunger points us is Christ," Purdum concludes. "Sky hunger is a blessing from God, Paul tells us, to bring us into Christ, to fullness of life and to life eternal."

# FYI / Info Page



## LOOKING TOWARDS AUTUMN

### SEPTEMBER

- 03: Season of Peace begins
- 03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 04: Labor Day
- 10: Pulpit Supply—TBA
- 10: Sunday School Resumes
- 13: Session
- 16: PW CT Planning—TBA
- 17: National Back to Church Sunday
- 23: First Day of Autumn

### OCTOBER

- 01: World Communion Sunday; Peace Offering
- 11: Session
- 12: Deacon Fall Yard Sale (12—14)
- 14: Presbytery Meeting, Camp Sawtooth
- 15: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- 16: Noodle making week—TBA
- 29: Reformation Sunday

### NOVEMBER

- 05: Daylight saving time ends
- 05: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 05: Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- 07: Election Day \*we are a polling place
- 08: Session
- 09: Deacon's Bunco Party
- 12: Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- 18: PW Harvest Luncheon—TBA
- 23: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
- 26: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 17
- 26: Hanging of the Greens—TBA
- 28: Giving Tuesday



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 Lyle & Linda Smith
- 12 Paul Pugh
- 19 Joe Moser
- 20 Gary & Linda Hollinger
- 23 Cecil & Sharon Napier
- 28 Jerry & Hazel Vegwert

*"Make the world a better place one person at a time.  
Start with yourself."—Linda Poindexter*

### AUGUST Servers ~ Thank You!

**Head Usher:** Tom Clayville **Head Greeter:** Sandra Clayville

**Liturgist:** 8/6 Dan S., 8/13 Gary. 8/20 Dan S., 8/27 Gary

**Coffee Hour:** 8/6 Fellowship, 8/13 Fellowship, 8/20 \_\_\_\_\_, 8/27 \_\_\_\_\_

## Committees & Chairpersons

### Building & Grounds:

Paul Pugh

### Fellowship:

Sandra Clayville

### Finance:

Carleen Clayville

### Missions & Evangelism:

Dan Wittman

### Personnel & Nominating:

Dan Shockey

### Worship & Christian Ed:

Erika Wittman

### Deacons:

Tyson Germann,

Susan McGee,

Linda Smith,

Julie Germann,

Susi McCall and

Valerie Frazier



## 2023 YEAR TO DATE TITHES AND EXPENSES

### APRIL

Tithes \$5,845.00  
Expenses \$6,619.78

### YTD TOTALS

Tithes \$47,327.00  
Expenses \$42,185.54



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July 2023</b> 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		1	2	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 11:00am Marjorie Gebauer Funeral in Twin Falls, 3:00pm Graveside Service, Paul Cemetery	5
6 10:45 am Worship & Communion Cupcake Sunday	7	8	9 7:00 pm Session	10 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11	12
13 10:45 am Outdoor Worship and Root Beer Floats on patio after worship Deacons meet	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18	19
20 10:45 am Worship Pulpit Supply: Paul Pugh	21	22 Newsletter Article Deadline	23	24 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25	26
27 10:45 am Worship Pulpit Supply—TBA	28	29 8am-8pm Election Day *we are a polling place	30	31 7:00pm Boy Scouts		<b>September 2023</b> 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

## When we least deserve love

“Love me when I least deserve it,” says a Swedish proverb, “because that’s when I really need it.” My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respoiled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they’d start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus’ arrest. But Jesus didn’t treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we’re at our worst, hurting God’s heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it. —Heidi Hyland Mann



## Ingredients for true success

How far you go in life depends on your being  
tender with the young,  
compassionate with the aged,  
sympathetic with the striving  
and tolerant of the weak and strong.  
Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.  
—George Washington Carver



# Presbyterian Women in the News

WHO WE ARE, AND WHAT WE DO!



IN BURLEY, IDAHO

Presbyterian Women, Inc., is the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are a community of more than 200,000 women who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose, the PW Purpose.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

These commitments are lovingly carried out in Presbyterian Women groups in congregations, presbyteries and synods. At the national level, Presbyterian Women provides the resources, direction and opportunities to fulfill the organization's mission and ministry. Presbyterian Women's connectional structure allows you to participate as deeply and/or broadly in the organization and its commitments as you wish.

Yours in Christ's Service  
Carleen Clayville, Moderator



# Committee Reports

## FINANCE REPORT

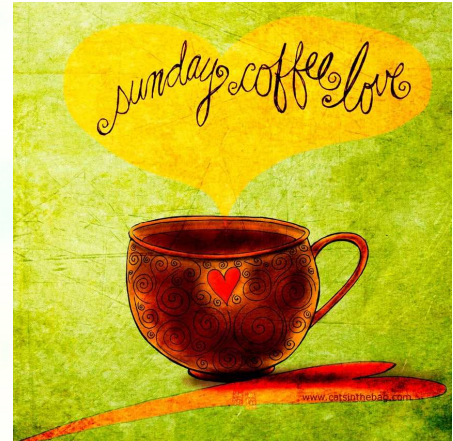
I have some good news, and I have some bad news!

The good news is that on our Year to Date report for June, 2023, there is a fairly nice increase in giving over all for the year.

The bad news is that if we have too many months where the tithe/offerings are as June, 2023 (Tithes/offerings are down dramatically under Expenses), we will definitely be in trouble! I'm letting you all know this, so you can check your records to see where you stand. I know this is a busy month – with vacations and such, but please know that our church expenses i.e. payroll, cooling, cleaning, and mowing continue throughout the summer!

Finally, please know that you are all appreciated for everything you do and for our beautiful church and we love each and everyone of you. We miss you when you are not in church on Sundays. Please keep our church, country, and world in your prayers, as well as the special prayers for our members and friend's needs.

In Christ Service,  
Your Finance Team



## FELLOWSHIP

Aug. 6th - Cupcake Sunday

Aug. 13th - Root beer floats on the patio after Worship

Join us for Worship and stay for Fellowship Coffee Hour!

We hope you're enjoying your summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey

## Daily reasons to celebrate

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day. If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31. And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.

**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 Tue—Fri 9am—2pm

Office phone: 678-5131

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

Clerk of Session: TBA

Director of Music: Paul Pugh

Pianist: Susan McGee

Nursery Attendant:

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  
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15th of the month and Bulletin items by Wednesday.*

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



God said, "Let the land produce vegetation:  
seed-bearing plants and trees on the land  
that bear fruit with seed in it, according to  
their various kinds." And it was so.  
**GENESIS 1:11**

August 2023

## 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
- Those facing financial uncertainties
- Wisdom for those making difficult decisions
- Our church leaders
- Our military
- Our government leaders
- Our partnership ministries: Hope Community Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child and Crossroads Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter



**Prayers:** *If you know of someone who is in need of our 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*