

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLEY, IDAHO SEPTEMBER 2023

Many, Lord my God, are the
wonders you have done.
Psalm 40:5

“SHINE LIKE GOD’S STARS”

Audience: “Wheel of Fortune!” Announcer Jim Thorton: “And here are the stars of our show, Pat Sajak and Vanna White.” Wheel is America’s game show. There is another show. A cosmic show. A show where God transforms ordinary, flawed humans into the image and likeness of His Son.

In this epic drama believers (that’s us) are not stars. Jesus is the star! We, however, are to “shine like stars in the world.” (Philippians 2:12-18). In these verses we are instructed to “Do all things without murmuring and complaining.” Notice the Bible doesn’t say do somethings without murmuring and complaining. That’s possible. Notice the Bible doesn’t say do most things without murmuring and complaining. That’s definitely more challenging. But still possible for some of Christ’s followers.

No! The Bible says do all things without murmuring and complaining. Not somethings or even most things. But all things. So how do we obey God’s command? The same way we obey any of His commands. Through God’s power. God’s power is the power of the indwelling

Spirit of Christ moving us, motivating us to do what God commands. (Read and consider memorizing Colossians 1:27). Then God’s power enables us to do what He commands.

Let me illustrate.

Becoming a Christian is like being a hollowed-out pumpkin. God in His mercy and grace picks us out of the world’s pumpkin patch. He takes us into His house and washes all the dirt off. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the “yucky stuff”. After God gets the “yucky stuff” out, He puts in a new heart and a new spirit. (Read Ezekiel 36:26-27). Finally, God carves a smiling face so that the light of Jesus in us can shine out of us for all the world to see.

We may not be stars in God’s cosmic show. But we can brighten up the darkness around us by letting Jesus shine through us.

*In Jesus’ love,
Pastor John*



Going to school with Jesus



In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain “learners under the instruction of Christ.” He notes, “Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus’] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are

to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him.”

BLESSED WITH WORK

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, “No, dear, that’s okay. I’m blessed with work.”

Here’s a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie’s plot, I’ve always remembered Marty’s words. But I don’t think I’ve ever claimed to be “blessed with work.” By contrast, I often sigh as I’m dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, “To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God.” In what ways are you “blessed with work”? —Janna Firestone

“The Bible is the story of two gardens: Eden and Gethsemane. In the first, Adam took a fall. In the second, Jesus took a stand.”



This month’s quote:

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”

—Thomas Merton

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus! But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don’t attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God’s Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with “all your mind” (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

THE VALUE OF SOLID RELATIONSHIPS



“Most of life’s great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people,” writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. “Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others.”

Maxwell then poses this challenge: “Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life’s greatest joys, you realize that life’s best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships.”

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on August 10, 2023. All elders were in attendance. Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer. The acting clerk reported there were 59 members on the active roll. Communion was served to 28 members and friends on August 6.

There were no baptisms or weddings, but a Graveside funeral for Marjorie Gebauer, (long time member), but recently from Twin Falls, was held August 4 at Paul Cemetery. It was reported that Cathy Chisholm will be in the pulpit on August 20, and Paul Pugh on the 27.

The Deacons reported their yard sale is scheduled for later in Oct. Christian Ed & Worship reported Adult Bible Study will Start on Sept. 10th.

Building & grounds reported part of the work being done by Shane Guinn is done, left is the covering of the window ledges at the main entrance. There is a need to install a chain link fence to the North side of the back lawn, Dan W. will get an estimate.

The Treasurer reported all bills and staff are up to date. The first half of the Per Capita will be paid by the time you read this.

The next Session Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20th, due to Pastor John and Linda being gone.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Paul Pugh at 8:40 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



"I am not what I ought to be.
I am not what I want to be.
I am not what I hope to be.
But still, I am not what I used to be.
And by the grace of God,
I am what I am."

— John Newton



SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE LESSONS

from the Lectionary

SEPTEMBER 3 [Communion Sunday]

Ex. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

SEPTEMBER 10

Ex. 12:1-14; Ps. 149;
Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

SEPTEMBER 17

Ex. 14:19-31; Ps. 114;
Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

SEPTEMBER 24

Ex. 16:2-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45;
Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16



Outdoor Worship
August 13, 2023

Followed by Root Beer Floats on the patio

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

PNC:

Dan Shockey, Linda Smith,
Linda Culley, Kristi Pugh, and
Dale Martin,



2023 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

July

Tithes \$5,010.68
Expenses \$7,957.72

YTD Totals:
Tithes \$52,377.68
Expenses \$50,143.26

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

03 Marlene Temple
03 Dustin & Laura Suhr
04 Lyle Smith
13 Elizabeth Sensenbaugh
15 Walt Fisher
17 Sharon Napier
22 Shana Thomas
23 Carolyn Iverson
27 Tom & Jenna Clayville
28 Jasper Moser
28 Alvin & Marlene Temple
30 Aaron Ziulkowski
30 John William Tudor Ziulkowski

God Bless Your Special Day!

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Carleen Clayville Head Greeter: The Morgan's Liturgist: 9/3 Dan S. 9/10 Gary, 9/17 Dan S. 9/24 Gary Coffee Hour: 9/3 Fellowship, 9/10 Valerie, 9/17 Fellowship, 9/24 ____					1	2
3 Season of Peace begins 10:45 am Worship, Communion / Cupcake Sunday	4 	5	6	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8	9 
10 9:30 am Sunday School Resumes! Pulpit Supply: Alice Long 10:45 am Worship Deacons meet	11	12	13	14 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15	16
17 Pulpit Supply: Alice Long 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Potluck Picnic	18	19	20 7:00 pm Session	21 Camp Sawtooth Fall Work Weekend (21—24) 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22	23 
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	25	26	27	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29	30

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Presbyterian Women in the News

It has been 135 years since Eliza Clokey first called upon women to give a “thank offering to her Lord” and support mission initiatives at home and abroad. Today Presbyterian Women celebrate that we are by history to the legacy of Eliza and bound by the love of Christ to one another. By giving to the Thank Offering, we connect to the women who came before us, demonstrate our gratitude to God, and make real our care for one another.

We will be hearing more about this offering soon.

We, here in Burley will be holding our next meeting on Saturday, August 26, at 10 am. Please plan on attending, For our Fun, Fellowship & Food women’s brunch at the Church.

Yours in Christ’s Service,
Carleen Clayville,
Moderator

LOOKING AHEAD



OCTOBER

01: World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering
01: Cupcake Sunday
11: Session 7:00pm
14: Presbytery Meeting, Camp Sawtooth
15: Pastor Appreciation Sunday—TBA
16: Noodle making week—TBA
27: Deacon’s Fall Yard Sale (27-28) setup Wed. Oct. 26th
29: Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER

05: Daylight saving time ends
05: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
05: Stewardship Commitment
07: Election Day *we are a polling place
08: Session 7:00pm
12: Stewardship Dedication
13: Operation Christmas Child Nat’l Collection Week (13—20)
14: Deacon’s Bunco Party 6:00pm
18: PW Harvest Luncheon—TBA
23: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
26: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 17
26: Hanging of the Greens—TBA

DECEMBER

03: 1st Sunday of Advent
03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
13: Session 7:00 pm
16: PW Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap—TBA
21: First Day of Winter
24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm—TBA
25: Christmas Day—*Merry Christmas!*



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

We would like to give you an update on our finances for this summer of 2023. As usually happens, our tithes/offerings are down. If you can check your records to see where you stand. I know this was a busy summer with vacations and such, but please know that our church expenses i.e. payroll, cooling, cleaning, and mowing continue throughout these few months! That would be very helpful for us. Please know that you are all appreciated for everything you do at 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. We are doing some much needed renovations and general repairs on our church and grounds currently, and we could really use some help, just contact Paul, Dan W. or Dan S. Also, our flower beds and plantings definitely need some help, as we lost our main gardener, Kathy P. We could use your help!

Yours in Christ,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 03 Cupcake Sunday
Sept. 17 Potluck Picnic

Please consider hosting coffee hour or providing treats. This would be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheet on kitchen door.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

PASTOR:

Rev. John L. Ziulkowski

Pastor's office hours:

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

Pastor's Email: lrzski@yahoo.com

Pastor's cell phone: 208-430-5359

Office Administrator: Barbrea Moore

Office Hours Tue—Fri 9am—2pm

Office phone: 678-5131

Office email: burleypc@pmt.org

Clerk of Session:

Director of Music: Paul Pugh

Pianist: Susan McGee, Susi McCall, Linda Ziulkowski

Flutist: Linda Ziulkowski

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

First Presbyterian Church
2100 Burton Avenue
Burley ID 83318



Visit us on the web at:
www.burleypres.org

There is no one holy like the Lord;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
1 Samuel 2:2

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

**SEPTEMBER
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 and The PNC Team
- Our military.
- Our government leaders.
- Our Country.
- PNC Team: Dan Shockey, Linda Smith, Linda Culley, Kristi Pugh, & Dale Martin.
- Our partnership ministries: Hope Community Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child and Crossroads Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter.