

Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Psalm 36:5

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
BURLEY, IDAHO JANUARY 2024

Terry G. Nelson Sr. is a master storyteller and the author of *Writing the Vision*. Terry says that he wrote the book "to share God's love by way of stories ... in hopes that the reader's life will be changed ... and drawn to the book of the greatest stories ever written."

The following is an excerpt of a poem he wrote in 2012. May the words prepare us for what God has for us in the new year.

Flight 2024 Instructions

Good Morning and welcome to Flight 2024!

We are beginning to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

All self-destructive devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination—To become more and more like Jesus
(Romans 8:29).

And for some of us heaven
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and 5:1-10)!

In Jesus' love,
Pastor John



Folks enjoying our annual Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2023
Thank you Lord, for such a wonderful attendance!



Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for all the support you give our Scout Troop! May Christ's peace rest upon each of you this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

Merry Christmas,
Troop 134
Clarke Farrer, Rick Anderson, Mindy Taylor

SHOP IN HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read heaven's Grocery Store.
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide.
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of angels; they were standing everywhere.
And one angel said, "My child shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store.
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First, I got some patience, love was in the same row.
Further down was understanding, you need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith.
I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run the race. By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace. I didn't forget salvation, for salvation that was free. So, I tried to get enough of that to save you and me.
then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill.
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer and just had to put that in For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
Peace and joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
Song and praises were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then, I said now how much do I owe?
He just smiled and said, just take them everywhere you go.
How much do I really owe?
He smiled and said,
My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago.

Lorine Woody



Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on December 13, 2023. 4 Elders were present, 2 were excused. Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer. The temporary clerk reported there were 59 on the active roll. Communion was served to 23 members and friends on December 3, 2023.

Pulpit supply while Pastor John & Linda were in Boston, Shane Guinn gave the message on Sunday, November 19, and Paul Pugh filled the pulpit on Sunday, November 26.

The Deacon's reported the Bunco Party was a lot of fun, and they would like to do another one in January!

PW women held their annual cookie swap on Dec. 16. Caroling happened on the 17th, and delivered the cookies to our Shut-ins.

Christian Ed & Worship reported Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study is being held at 9:30. The topic is "Reading the Bible in 365 days". It has been challenging, but good. We still need someone to lead a youth class.



The Treasurer reported that all bills and staff are up to date. The Stewardship Campaign is completed. If you have yet to send yours in, it's not too late, please return it to the office asap!

We still need someone to step up to the plate and volunteer some interest is becoming Clerk of Session! Prayerfully consider helping out!

There was no other business. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor John at 8:09 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



Our source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City

January Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

January 7 [Baptism of the Lord / Communion Sunday]

Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 14 [2nd Sunday after Epiphany]

1 Sam. 3:1-20; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 21 [3rd Sunday after Epiphany]

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12;
1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28 [4th Sunday after Epiphany]

Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111;
1 Cor. 8:1-15; Mark 1:21-28



Madison Kay Wittman graduated from ISU December 16, 2023 with an MBA. There will be an Open House to Celebrate Madison on January 6, 2024 at 2:00pm at 157E 300S, Burley. We are SO proud of Madison and all her hard work and accomplishments. Well Done Madison!!!



We remember Madison as a little girl attending church with her family every Sunday.

What a wonderful young lady you have become!

We love you!

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:

Linda Smith, Valerie Frazier,
Susi McCall, Susan McGee
and Tyson Germann



2023 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

November

Tithes \$4,754.88
Expenses \$8,944.73

YTD TOTALS

Tithes \$71,605.86
Expenses \$82,337.21



03 David Shockey
03 Cecil Napier
06 Theodore Bennett
10 Erika Wittman
15 Kristi Pugh
16 Melissa Fuelling
19 Judy Morse
19 Susan Shockey
22 Pam Hoffbuhr
28 Dan Shockey
29 Monday Matlock
30 Zoey Germann

God Bless Your Special Day!

December 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	29	30
31						

january

2024

February 2024						
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		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Happy New Year!	2	3	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord 2:00pm Open House for Madison Wittman to Celebrate Graduating ISU (157E 300S, Burley)
7 Baptism of the Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship/ Communion & Cupcake Sunday Annual Budget Meeting	8	9	10 7:00 pm Session	11 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12	13
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Gideons presentation during worship	15 Annual Reports Due Newsletter Articles Due	16	17	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19	20
21 Per Capita Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	22 Newsletter Article Deadline	23	24	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after worship	29	30	31 JANUARY SERVERS—THANK YOU! Head Usher: Carleen Clayville Head Greeter: The Frazier's Liturgist: 07 Gary, 14 Dan S., 21 Gary, 28 Dan S. Coffee Hour: 07 Fellowship, 14 _____, 21 _____, 28 _____			

First, contact

In *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality and Mortality*, Richard Beck writes powerfully about Jesus healing a leper in Matthew 8:1-3. "What is intriguing about this story is the sequence. Jesus touches the leper first. Then the command 'Be clean!' is offered. That is, Jesus' first move is into ritual defilement. By first touching the leper, Jesus ... [is] standing in solidarity with the unclean." Beck finds this "striking" because typically we expect purification before contact. But Jesus' actions reverse the pattern: "Contact occurs first."

How fortunate for us, too, that God didn't wait to reach out to us until he had cleansed us of sin. God didn't save us from afar and only *then* come to live among us. Rather, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV). And continuously, Jesus loves us, comes to us and touches our hearts, even when we are at our worst — straying from God, trapped in sin, unworthy, unclean, unrighteous. For it's not *our* righteousness or purity that heals and saves us, but Christ's.

BIBLE READING PLAN:

Choose YOUR OWN Journey

May God bless you
as you journey
through Scripture
& grow closer to him!

PACK YOUR
BAGS —
& INCLUDE
YOUR BIBLE!

Head out on a month-long exploration through God's Word. Each day's quest comes with some options. Choose from a prayer, a parable, a gospel reading or an epistle reading. If you have more time or use this Bible Reading Plan more than once a day, read the rest of the passages too.

1. GRATITUDE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2. TRUST

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 28:6-9
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

3. PRAISE

- ☐ Prayer: Exodus 15:1-18
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

4. LOVE

- ☐ Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 12:28-33
- ☐ Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

5. PRAYER

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:10-14
- ☐ Epistle: Ephesians 6:17-20

6. OBEDIENCE

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:28-32
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

7. PATIENCE

- ☐ Parable: James 5:7-11
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 8:22-25

8. WISDOM

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 3:3-9
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 7:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: James 3:13-18

9. CALLING

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 6:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Peter 2:9-10

10. FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:46-53
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 18:21-35
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 23:32-34

11. JOY

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 16
- ☐ Parable: Luke 15:1-10
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

12. RESTORATION

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 51:10-19
- ☐ Gospel: John 2:19-22

13. STEWARDSHIP

- ☐ Parable: Luke 12:16-21
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 21:1-4
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

14. HUMILITY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 14:7-14
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

15. REFUGE

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 121
- ☐ Gospel: John 17:11-19

16. MIRACLES

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 14:13-21
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 9:14-24

17. FRUITFULNESS

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:14-30
- ☐ Gospel: John 15:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: James 2:14-24

18. UNITY

- ☐ Prayer: John 17:20-23
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

19. PROVISION

- ☐ Prayer: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- ☐ Parable: John 10:1-18
- ☐ Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

20. PEACE

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 26:1-13
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

21. JUSTICE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:56-61
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 20:1-16

22. PERSISTENCE

- ☐ Prayer: James 5:13-18
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:1-8

23. EVANGELISM

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 4:23-31
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 10:9-15

24. FAITHFULNESS

- ☐ Prayer: Nehemiah 8:1-13
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:18-22

25. SUFFERING

- ☐ Prayer: Job 19:21-27
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

26. GROWTH

- ☐ Prayer: Colossians 1:9-14
- ☐ Parable: Mark 4:26-29

27. MERCY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 10:30-37
- ☐ Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16

28. SALVATION

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 2:22-36
- ☐ Parable: Luke 16:19-31
- ☐ Gospel: John 3:16-17

29. READINESS

- ☐ Prayer: Luke 1:46-55
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:1-13

30. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 13:31-33
- ☐ Gospel: John 14:1-4

31. BLESSING

- ☐ Prayer: Numbers 6:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



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 Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Carleen, Moderator called the meeting to order, welcomed all who attended and the opening prayer was given. We had a wonderful group of ladies attend! Carleen, lighted the Christ Candle and all recited the P W purpose. A short Meditation was given. We then enjoyed brunch furnished by ladies of the PW.

The Business meeting:

Carleen reminded everyone that the name of the Women and Children's Shelter was changed to "Voices Against 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 church Pastor, Musicians, Office Admin, Custodian, and our PC Guru, as we have done for many years!

We adjourned to make the cookie plates for ourselves and to deliver to the shut-ins that will be caroled to on Sunday, December 17th. A good time was had by all!

Respectively Submitted,
Carleen Clayville, Moderator,

As I begin another year as Office Administrator I want you to know that my work here is one of my greatest joys. Thank you for all your many kindnesses and for all the Christmas cards and gifts I received, and for the very generous Christmas gift from the Presbyterian Women. Looking forward to another year serving Burley First Presbyterian Church.

Barbra



I wanted to thank all of you for welcoming me to the church. I have never attended a church where its members were so kind, thoughtful and generous, and who truly cared about me. I have never attended a church where I wanted to become a member of it and be baptized in it, and I have never been invited to participate in the church activities and serve as an officer before. I truly feel that God is present in this church, and that all of you are a family in Christ. Thank you for touching my heart and changing my life.

Valerie Frazier

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 2024.

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, baked goodies and other tasty food items, 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



UPCOMING *Events*

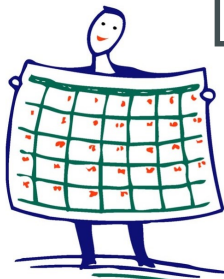
LOOKING AHEAD:

FEBRUARY

04: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
11: Transfiguration of the Lord
13: Shrove Tuesday
14: Ash Wednesday
14: Session 7:00pm
17: PW Valentine Brunch—TBA
18: 1st Sunday in Lent
21: Lenten Luncheons (2/21—3/20)—TBA
25: 2nd Sunday in Lent
25: Easter lilies on sale now thru March 24

MARCH

01: World Day of Prayer
03: 3rd Sunday in Lent
03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
10: Daylight saving time begins
10: 4th Sunday in Lent
13: Session 7:00pm
17: 5th Sunday in Lent
24: Palm Sunday (*Holy Week begins*)
28: Maundy Thursday/Service & Meal—TBA
30: Easter Egg Hunt—TBA
31: Easter Sunday/Resurrection of the Lord



FELLOWSHIP

Happy New Year!

Jan. 7th- Cupcake Sunday

Lots of opportunities to host and or provide treats for our fellowship time together.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

WITHOUT GOD

Without GOD, our week would be:

Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,
Thirstday, Fightday & Shatterday.

Remember:
Seven days WITHOUT GOD . . .
makes one WEAK!!

Closing out 2023

Some fun activities we enjoyed in December last year:



*Pastor John's 75th birthday celebration, Dec. 10, 2023
Accompanied by his lovely wife Linda*



Our Annual Christmas Program
December 10, 2023

"A Candy Cane at Christmas"
By Lori Frankel

Performed by members of the congregation



Presbyterian Women's annual Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap



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: 208-678-5131

Office email: office@burleypres.org

Clerk of Session:

Director of Music: Dr. 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

First Presbyterian Church (USA)
2100 Burton Avenue
Burley ID 83318

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



*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.*

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*

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and you will be saved.

Acts 16:31



Our Mission Statement

- To proclaim the Word of God to its members.
- To be a place where the community at large is invited to hear God's Word and join in fellowship with the members in the worship of God.
- To minister to its members in time of sorrow, illness, hurt, confusion, or uncertainty and encourage their faith in God, and His son Jesus Christ, during these troubling times.
- To be a haven for the larger community, where people who are troubled can receive support, encouragement, and be led to faith in God and our savior, Jesus Christ.
- To joyfully worship God together, to encourage youth and young adult members to come together with older members to get to know each other, and to develop mutual respect.
- To be known outside of our membership as a place where people of all ages can come together and find meaningful worship of God.

In these days of confusion in our society about what is morally good and right and true; the Session of this congregation, on March 8, 2011, unanimously affirms the following beliefs which we publicly profess:

1. That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the only way of salvation.
2. That Holy Scripture (the Bible) is the Triune God's revealed Word, the church's only infallible rule of faith and life.
3. That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life. This includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman.