

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BURLEY, IDAHO FEBRUARY 2024



Lord, Teach Us to Live Wisely

The Lord Jesus knows how many more days we have “under the Sun.” Some of us may have only a few days. Others of us will have many more days. But whether we have a few or many, a good goal is to make the most of the days we have. In Ephesians 5:15-17, the Bible tells us (followers of Christ):

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Notice how the verse begins! “*Be very careful how you live...*” Now what’s the opposite of being “*very careful.*” It’s being careless! So the same idea stated negatively would be, Don’t live life carelessly. Don’t just drift aimlessly through life. Rather, live life wisely! Live life with a clear sense of direction ... Live life with purpose.

How? Look at the last six words of Ephesians 5:17; “*understand what the Lord’s will is.*”

It’s that simple. If you and I want to live life with meaning and purpose we need to “*understand*” what God wants us to do with our lives.

In Matthew 22:37-39 God tells us what He wants us to do with our life.

He (Jesus) said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

God says, spend (invest) the days we have left growing more deeply in love with Him (that’s worship). And learning to love God’s family and to love those who are not yet part of God’s forever family. (that’s fellowship).

Allow God to work Jesus’ like love out of you and you will not waste your life.

In Jesus’ Love,
Pastor John

February Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

FEBRUARY 4

[5th Sunday after Epiphany/Communion Sunday]
Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

FEBRUARY 11

[Transfiguration of the Lord]
2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6;
2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

FEBRUARY 18

[1st Sunday in Lent]
Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 25

[2nd Sunday in Lent]
Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31;
Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 *or*
Mark 9:2-9



01 Dale Martin
01 Alvin Temple
03 Kathy Wetzstein
06 Kadance Walsh
07 Razzelle Palmer
09 Karl & Cynthia Fuelling
17 Gary Hollinger
18 Linda Hollinger
18 Jan Behr
24 Michael McCall
27 Julieann Germann
28 Tyson Germann

God Bless Your Special Day!



2023 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

December

Tithes \$6,793.00
Expenses \$5,500.23

YTD TOTALS

Tithes \$78,573.86
Expenses \$87,837.44

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,
Susi McCall & Valerie Frazier



I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Pastor John, the Elders, the Deacons and the Congregation for the out pouring of love and concern during my recent illness. The prayers, cards and flowers left me in awe! I have always felt very fortunate to work at Burley First Presbyterian Church because of the love and concern I have received over the years, but during my illness it touched my heart in a way words cannot rightly express. As I have mentioned many times, I love my job and what I do.

During my absence, I was very concerned about what wasn't getting done. A special thanks to Sandra Clayville for making sure everything got done—she was amazing! Now as I recover, I also appreciate the patience of Pastor John, the Elders and the Congregation as I get up to speed with all my regular duties.

Thank you again for everything!
Barbra

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024. 6 Elders were present none absent. Our regular meeting was postponed because of a winter storm.

Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer.

The temporary clerk reported there were 59 on the active roll. Communion was Served to 24 members and friends on January 7, 2024. Pastor John reported that Barbra, our Executive Assistant was doing better after being hospitalized recently. Pastor John will need pulpit supply on Feb. 18, and 25, 2024.

The Deacon's reported they are actively doing their Deacon's duties.

PW women will hold their Valentine's Party on Feb. 17, at 10 am, but will include a Diaper Shower for new Mom, Cynthia and her baby girls (twins) and proud Grandma Netta Fortier.

Christian Ed & Worship reported Lenten Lunches will start on Feb. 21.

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!

The Annual Meeting has been postponed until Feb. 11, right after church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor John at 12:45 am.

Respectively Submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love. —Corrie ten Boom

God-shaped hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."



Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			

FEBRUARY

March 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	30
31						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Linda Smith Head Greeter: Tom Clayville Liturgist: 2/4 Gary, 2/11 Dan S, 2/18 Gary, 2/25 Dan S Coffee Hour: 2/4 Jeanetta, 2/11 _____, 2/18 Fellowship, 2/25 ____				1 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Communion / Cupcake Sunday	5	6	7 Quilt Guild meets in am	8 1:30 pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	9	10
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting	12	13 Shrove Tuesday 	14  ASH Wednesday Session 7:00 pm	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	16	17  10:00 am Presbyterian Women's Valentine Brunch & Baby Shower for Cynthia Bennett
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Pulpit Supply: Paul Pugh Valentine Lunch after worship	19	20	21 12:00pm Lenten Luncheons begin (now thru 3/20)	22 Newsletter Article Deadline 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Pulpit Supply: Michael Barrett Easter lilies on sale now thru March 24th	26	27	28 12:00pm Lenten Luncheons begin (now thru 3/20)	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet		

Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



Presbyterian Women In the News!

*".....Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your
Good works and give glory to God in heaven."*

As Presbyterian Women, we "shine before others," illuminating the path ahead, sharing the flame of mission and ministry with faithful siblings, bringing warmth to God's people through Bible study, grants, racial equality and justice and peace initiatives, and more. Our flame burns continuously and we are ever vigilant—as a community—to bring glory to God through faithful Discipleship that is lived out, in part through our witness as Presbyterian Women. We had a fun meeting in December to have our Annual Cookie Swap, and to make cookie plates for our shut-ins. We went caroling and left a nice plate of cookies at each visit! If you missed it, plan on next year, it was really fun for us and for those who can't leave their homes.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Carleen Clayville, Moderator

Twins born January 16, 2024 to Cynthia Bennett, granddaughter of Netta Fortier. Wrenly on the left in white, and Willow in pink on the right.

A baby shower is set for February 17th at 10:00am at the church. Everyone is invited!



Committee



LOOKING TOWARDS SPRING...

MARCH

- 01: World Day of Prayer
- 03: 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 06: Lenten Luncheons continue (2/21—3/20)
- 10: 4th Sunday in Lent
- 10: Daylight saving time begins
- 13: Session 7:00pm
- 17: 5th Sunday in Lent
- 24: Palm Sunday; Holy Week begins
- 27: His Little Feet Choir
- 28: Maundy Thursday; Service & Meal 6:00pm
- 31: Easter Sunday; Resurrection of the Lord

APRIL

- 07: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 10: Session 7:00pm

MAY

- 01: Scholarship Applications Available
- 02: National Day of Prayer
- 05: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 08: Session 7:00pm
- 12: Mother's Day
- 19: Day of Pentecost
- 19: Scholarship Presentation—TBA
- 21: Election Day *we are a polling place
- 26: Trinity Sunday
- 27: Memorial Day



Reports

FINANCE REPORT

**“For God loves the one who gives gladly”
2 Corinthians 9: 7**

Thank you for your generosity, loving support this past year, and turning in your pledge for the coming year. Pledges are important in the budget planning for 2024. If you have not turned in your pledge forms please do so ASAP either by placing them in the offering plate or by mailing them to the Church.

Our common faith in Jesus Christ brings us together, and our deeply committed people and their constant donations of time, talent and treasure, give the church life. Your contribution to the growth of the Church is greatly appreciated.

With God's Love and Prayers,
Your Finance Committee



FELLOWSHIP

Feb. 4th - Cupcake Sunday
Feb. 18th - Valentine Lunch after worship

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

Ready For Take Off / Flight #2024

Good Morning, Travelers. May I have your attention, please. Welcome to flight 2024. We will soon leave Airport 2023 to heights unknown.

Officer Umpire Peace is onboard to keep you safe as we navigate into and through 2024.

As we prepare to take off into the New Year, we want to instruct you for a secure flight, making the best of all that awaits us. Please make sure your Attitude and Spirit of Gratitude and Blessing is secured within and locked in an upright position of integrity.

All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. Consider these devices to be worthless. As we come by with trash bags, all fear, negativity, hurt, discouragement, worry, fretting, hate, discord, easy-offense and any other such destructive influences should be put in the waste-of-time bin for proper disposal. God will take your yoke and deal with your trash while you take His lighter yoke. If you need a yoke change, Steward, the Stewardess, will help you unload your weary and heavy-laden burden, and will give you the rest God has for you. Steward will help you take God's yoke upon you so you can learn from Him. He is gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Should we lose Altitude under pressure during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer line. Prayer will automatically be activated by Faith's Trust. If you don't know how to pray as you should, the Spirit Himself will intercede for you with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Once Faith activates Trust, you can then help assist other passengers to put on encouragement, strength, and hope.

No past-baggage is needed on this flight. All you need to let go of yesteryears and press to the future awaits you by God's grace to you.

Please note that Captain Father GOD has cleared us for greater heights of BLESSing and Love. He would like you to know as we take off that no turbulence or side winds are too difficult for Him. He's got this, and His Co-Pilot, Jesus, ever lives to intercede on your behalf. The plane is fully loaded and fueled: filled with Holy Spirit Power, flowing the anxious longing of all creating, which eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons of God in 2024.

Pilot Father God asks you to trust that He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose. He has predestined each of you to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified. So you are adequately supplied for 2024. Nothing can stop this Aircraft from getting you to the destiny Pilot God has for you.

God is for you. So who can be against you? He did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all. Therefore, you can trust Him to freely give you all things, as He flies you to and through each day in this New Year.

He says for you to not fret your destiny. Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for you.

When we land, do not worry about the future that comes to 2024 and beyond to all eternity. Know that, though you leave the plane, your Pilot and Co-Pilot will remain with each of you. Spirit Power Fuel will usher you into the secret place of God's Presence in an instant, whenever and wherever your need arises. For who will separate you from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written: "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelming conquer through Him who loved us.

As flight 2024 takes off, let us each smile at the future, being convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now sit back and enjoy the flight to the habitations of Glory, Power, Peace, Joy and Fulfillment. God is faithful, therefore, we are able to give thanks in all things life presents to us. Remember that if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we will successfully and eagerly wait for it.

The movie playing in flight is Roman Eight's "Overcomer". If you are a believer, come take Flight #2024 with me! Your ticket is waiting.

Terry G. Nelson, Sr.

Writing The Vision and Let The Children Play

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: Barb 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*

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not
envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not
irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice
in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the
truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all
things, hopes all things, endures all
things. Love never ends.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



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, 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.