

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace as you trust in him.

ROMANS 15:13

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BURLEY, IDAHO MARCH 2023

Created to Become Like Jesus

The 2023 Lenten journey began Ash Wednesday, February 22. Lent (not lint) is a time to focus on growing spiritually. This Lenten season we will facilitate growing spiritually by looking at God's purposes for our life.

One of God's purposes for creating us is to become like Jesus. In Romans 8:29 the Bible says Christians (that's us) are to be "conformed to the image of his Son."

Country singer Billy Joel has a song that includes these lyrics: "I love you just the way you are!" God the Father also has a song with similar lyrics. It says, "I love you just the way you are. But I love you too much to leave you that way. I want you to be just like my Son."

God wants us to become like Jesus in character. How do we become Jesus-like? God has a school with a faculty of

three teachers under the direction of the Spirit of Christ. When we trusted Christ the Holy Spirit moved into our hearts and began the business of changing us into Jesus-likeness.

The teachers are:

1. The Bible.
 2. People—especially other students in the school.
 3. Life circumstances.
- Someone has observed that of all the teachers God uses to grow us spiritually, He depends most on circumstances. Why? Because we face circumstances 24-7-365. And the circumstances almost always include people.

We will say more about the process of maturing as Christians in the 2023 Lenten series of messages.

In Jesus love,
Pastor John

Also in this issue

Page:

2. Lent
Easter lilies on Sale
Lenten Luncheons
3. Session Highlights
Personnel & Nominating
4. March Scripture Lessons
Daylight saving time begins
Committee Chairpersons
Birthdays & Anniversaries
Tithes & Expenses
5. Calendar & Servers
6. Presbyterian Women
Upcoming Events
7. Committee Reports
8. Contact Information
Prayer Corner





Lent begins February 22nd—with Ash Wednesday

Lent for the year **2023** starts on Wednesday, February 22 and ends the evening of Thursday, April 6 with Holy Thursday.

Lent is a Christian annual period that starts on Ash Wednesday lasting for 40 days (not including Sundays) representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This 40 day period for Christians is a time to reflect, fast, and give penance in preparation for the resurrection of Christ Easter Sunday.

Is Lent 40 days?

Lent for Christians starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on either the evening of Maundy Thursday or on sundown of Holy Saturday (day before Easter Sunday). However the practices of Lent do not end until sundown on Holy Saturday for all Christian denominations. So it is 44 days from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday and another two days with Good Friday and Holy Saturday added to give a total of 46 days for Lent. But Sundays are excluded from fasting during Lent and with 6 Sundays removed from the count we get a 40 day liturgical period.

Keep watching for more information on the Lenten Study we will use this year at our Lenten Luncheons-and plan to attend!

Resurrection faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

"I realized I only half-believed I was going to die," he tells *The Christian Post*. "In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally."

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter's main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it's a wake-up call for Jesus' followers to act. "The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world," Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. "But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust."



See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth:
the season of singing has come.

Song of Songs 2:11-12

We will be selling Easter lilies again this year. The price is \$12.00 each. Order forms will be available March 5 thru April 2. Please have your order form and money in by April 2nd. Checks should be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and please specify it is for lilies. Remember to take your Easter lily home after Easter Sunday Service on Sunday, April 9th. *Thank you!*



Lenten Luncheons . . .

We will be holding our annual Lenten Luncheons again this year. Every Wednesday starting March 1st at 12 noon continuing for 5 weeks until March 29th.. Everyone is invited to join us for a light lunch, and join in the discussion. There will be a freewill offering, with the donations going toward camp scholarships for young people wanting to attend Camp Sawtooth this summer.

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 15, 2023. All elders were present with one excused for illness. Pastor John moderated. There was a quorum present, the docket was approved. The meeting began with prayer and the lighting of the Christ Candle at 7:05 P.M.

Session wishes to welcome Val, Bill, and Travis Frazier into our church family by baptism and affirmation of faith. We are excited and honored to have you join us. WELCOME! WELCOME!

Minutes from Jan 11, Congregational Meeting of Jan 29, Called Session meeting Feb. 5 and the PC(USA) Statistical reports were all approved as read. The church active roll was reviewed and accepted as revised. Being on the church active roll is very important. It gives you the power to vote in all elections and to approve/disapprove any major church actions such as the sale of the manse in 2021,

hiring a new pastor, making changes to by-laws to name a few. Please contact Pastor John or any Session elder if you are considering joining our family of believers.

Attention! Pulpit supply is needed for Mar 26, Apr 16 & 23, May 21 & 28 and June 4. John will be taking time away to visit family and travel. Your help is needed to fill in. Remember that everyone has one sermon that needs spoken among friends!!

We are fast approaching Lent. Lenten Lunches will be Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. The luncheons will be served at 12:00 P.M. (Noon) - A warm lunch and a short meditation, and good fellowship. Come and join us!!

Remember to pick up your Lenten Devotionals after Worship. Feel free to take one to a friend or shut-in.

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Mar. 5th to elect officers – Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee. Please be ready to

accept the challenge to serve. You have wonderful talents to offer to the service of the Lord.

The Grounds committee is working to fix things up around the church. New locks on the outside wooden doors have been replaced. Keys are available in the church office. The front door roof will be replaced and the leak fixed, the window trim on the south of the sanctuary is going to be sided, some damaged inside doors will be replaced, carpets and tile floors will be cleaned and shined. The Sunday School rooms are in need of up dating and painting. The fence behind the shed will be replaced this spring. This list is still incomplete. Let's join in to spruce up and liven up our space!!!! We need willing hands!

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Poulton, Clerk of Session



Patsy Holsinger has moved...

Heritage Assisted Living of Twin Falls
622 Filer Ave. W.
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 431-1901 Patsy's cell
(208) 733-9244 Patsy's landline

Please send cards and call so Patsy knows she has not been forgotten. And when you are in Twin Falls, stop by and say "Hi"!



Philippians 1:7

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

Dear Burley First Presbyterian Church:

Thank you for your very generous offering to Gideons International! I am inspired that such a small congregation made such a large offering. May God bless you for your kindness.

Terry Downs,
Gideon Presenter
Donation Received \$367.00

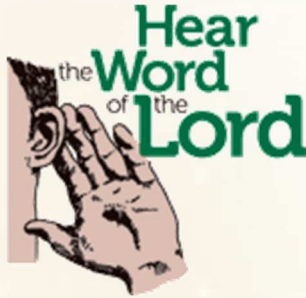
March Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

March 5 [2nd Sunday in Lent / Communion Sunday]

Gen. 12:1-4a; *Ps. 121*;
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-7

March 12 [3rd Sunday in Lent]

Ex. 17:1-7; *Ps. 95*;
Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



March 19 [4th Sunday in Lent]

1 Sam. 16:1-13; *Ps. 23*
Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26 [5th Sunday in Lent]

Ezek. 37:1-14; *Ps. 130*;
Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Prove it!

In Jesus Christ, Superstar, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. "So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!" he sings. "Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!"

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, "If only God would give me a sign"?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the "sign of Jonah," a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then "they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.

—adapted from The Wired Word



Daylight saving time begins
March 12, 2023

Remember to set your clocks
ahead one hour the night before.

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine." —Anthony J.D'Angel

Committees & Chairpersons

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Paul Pugh

FELLOWSHIP:

Brent Germann

FINANCE:

Carleen Clayville

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

Dan Wittman

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:

Erika Wittman

DEACONS:

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



2023 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

January

Tithes \$7,659.00
Expenses \$8,063.33



YTD Totals
Tithes \$7,659.00
Expenses \$8,063.33



02 Lucy Agamah
02 Ginny Behr
06 Brent & Julie Germann
08 Tanya Behr
08 Jena Clayville
11 Mazie Mozer
12 Laura Suhr
16 Simon & Varik Shockey
19 Sandra Clayville
28 Darla Holl
30 Jo Elg

God Bless Your Special Day!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon	2 7:00 pm Boy Scouts meet	3 World Day of Prayer	4
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship & Communion Congregational Meeting to elect new officers Cupcake Sunday Easter lilies on sale now thru April 2nd	6	7	8 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon 7:00 pm Session	9 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00 pm Boy Scouts meet	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight saving time begins 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	13	14 8:00 am—8:00pm Election Day *we are a polling place	15 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon	16 7:00 pm Boy Scouts meet	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18
19 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	20 	21	22 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon	23 7:00 pm Boy Scouts meet	24	25
26 5th Sunday in Lent Pulpit Supply—TBA 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	27	28	29 12:00 pm Lenten Luncheon	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts meet	31	

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				

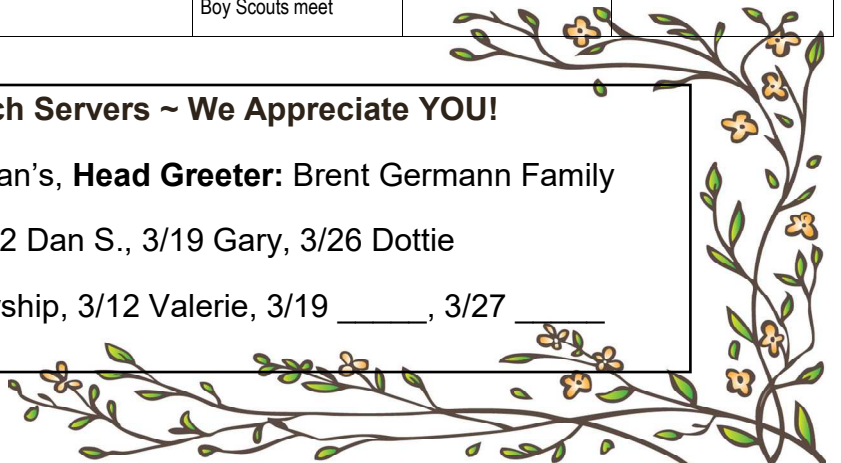
April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

March Servers ~ We Appreciate YOU!

Head Usher: The Morgan's, **Head Greeter:** Brent Germann Family

Liturgist: 3/5 Dottie, 3/12 Dan S., 3/19 Gary, 3/26 Dottie

Coffee Hour: 3/5 Fellowship, 3/12 Valerie, 3/19 _____, 3/27 _____



Presbyterian Women in the News!

Where we tend to see hopelessness in the world,
O God, give us vision to see what you are doing —
and to join your life-giving work.



The Burley Presbyterian Women met on Saturday, February 18, 2023 for our Annual Valentine Brunch. There were 11 women attending! Carleen welcomed all in attendance, and Kathy gave the opening prayer. Carleen lighted the Christ Candle and all recited the P W Purpose. The least coin was collected and dedicated by Kathy. As in the past Kathy told a little about the origin of the least coin. Kathy read a story, that hit home to a few of us during the epidemic and quarantine! It was titled "The Diary, Myself, Isolation, Quarantine, and the Epidemic!" It was a cute essay that could have been written by a lot of us a couple of years ago!

A delicious brunch of muffins, biscuits, fruit and salami was served by Darla H., Kathy and Carleen.

Our business meeting was next on the agenda. The minutes of the previous meeting was read, with a motion by Kathy, voted and passed to accept the minutes. Treasurer, Sharon presented the report of \$2,459.82 in checking and a CD on deposit of over \$5,000.00.

Our unfinished business was: The Wilma Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is invested in New Covenant Funds since 1991 and is available to be used as a grant for women who want/need help with personal needs or to further their education.

New business: The Birthday Offering, Thank Offering and the Least Coin are the major mission projects of the PW, and all Presbyterian Women are encouraged to participate. We will have the Birthday Offering next meeting in April. All women are encouraged to bring money according to their age, ".... and be generously old!"

Caring and Sharing: The Bob Bay family, Bob passed away last week, Dottie's daughter, Alicia Robertson serious kidney issues, Susan McGee, foot wound, and Darla mentioned her friend's daughter committed suicide, and reminded all of us to be careful of comments that might be overheard and offending to anyone.

The group voted to send a donation of \$250.00, with a motion by Sandra Clayville, voted, and passed, to the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) for the earthquake victims in Syria.

Upcoming: Congregational meeting on March 5. We tabled the personal donations for PDA earthquake, to our next meeting in April.

Respectively Submitted

In Christ's service,

Carleen Clayville, Moderator (& acting Secretary)

LOOKING AHEAD ~

APRIL

02: Palm Sunday (*Holy Week begins*)
02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
02: Deadline to order Easter lilies
06: Maundy Thursday Communion Service & Meal 6:00pm
08: Easter Egg Hunt—TBA
09: Easter Sunday / Resurrection of the Lord
09: One Great Hour of Sharing
15: PW Meeting & Birthday Offering
16: Pulpit Supply—TBA
23: Pulpit Supply—TBA

MAY

04: National Day of Prayer
07: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
14: Mother's Day
16: Election Day *we are a polling place
21: Pulpit Supply—TBA
28: Day of Pentecost
28: Pulpit Supply—TBA
28: Scholarship Presentation—TBA
29: Memorial Day

JUNE

04: Trinity Sunday
04: Pulpit Supply—TBA
04: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
04: Memorial Service of Remembrance—TBA
10: Presbytery Meeting, Soda Springs
18: Father's Day

Lighthearted blessings

- ♣ May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- ♣ May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- ♣ As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- ♣ May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- ♣ May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- ♣ May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.



Groundhog Day 'was' February 2nd. Phil's Forecast ...
"6 more weeks of winter"

6 more weeks of winter gives us more time for Praying,
Bible reading, Church Attendance, Cards & Phone Calls to
Shut-ins, and Encouraging others—

Don't give up the good fight—
Keep pressing on, we're all in this together!

A God with scars

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you've probably developed a theodicy. That's a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil's existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn't spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man. As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like good news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote "Jesus of the Scars" to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

*The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak;
They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds speak;
And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.*

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Look around, it is getting closer to Spring! (well, as soon as the winter snow melts!) We on the Finance Team really appreciate your faithfulness with your tithes of time, talent and financial support you have given to our beautiful church this past year. If you have not filled out your promise of support yet, we will take it anytime you feel led.

We have just changed the locks and door hardware on all the wooden doors, and have several other projects that will cost money, on the to-do-list. Just like our homes, we need to keep our property in good condition, and it always costs money! You can always help by paying your per-capita of \$44. this year. It's what we pay to belong to the PCUSA, (kind of like dues). Of this money, Kendall Presbytery receives a large amount, to help our smaller Congregations. Just a couple of things you can keep in mind.

In Christ's Service,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

March 5th - Cupcake Sunday

There are lots of opportunities to host or provide treats for coffee hour. A signup sheet is on the kitchen door. Thank you for contributing.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

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: Barbra Moore

Office Hours T—F 9am—2pm

Office phone: 678-5131

Office email: 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

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.*

The LORD will guide you always...
You will be like a well-watered garden.
ISAIAH 58:11

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: Hope Community Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child and Crossroads Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter
- People of Turkey and Syria recovering from massive earthquake. And all involved in disasters around the world.

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 208-312-3864*

March
2023