

The Presbyterian Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BURLEY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 2024

In everything set them
an example by doing
what is good.

TITUS 2:7

The Good News of Easter

Easter isn't just a single day in the Christian year. It's a season of 50 days, starting with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday and concluding with the celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. March 31 to May 19 . . . 50 days.

Many things changed for the better because of that first Easter Sunday. One of those 'many things' is how we view death. As Christ's followers, we don't need to be afraid of death. Billy Graham once said, "I'm not afraid to die. The way I die, however, does give me some anxiety." (That's not an exact quote, but a loose paraphrase.) We can pray for a peaceful passing, knowing full well God may allow something different. And that may be one source of anxiety and fear of dying.

Most of the time, we can successfully avoid thinking about the dying process and our final breath. But then, the Bully Death catches us as we are going about the everyday business of life and taunts us with the words: "You, too, will die someday!"

We see him as he escorts the procession of hearse-led cars. He's in the waiting room outside of the ICU. He's near as we stare at the TV images of starving children, bombed out apartment buildings in war zones, schools with children running out of the building with their hands

over their heads. He's in our homes as we care for our dying loved ones. He sits next to us at funeral services and nudges in the side and whispers: "Your time is coming. Everyone has a number. And every number is called." Bully Death's goal is to make us so afraid of dying that we stop living.

As followers of Christ, we don't need to be afraid of the Big Bully. Why? Because we don't face him alone. We have a Big Brother. Read these words from Hebrews 2:14-15 (The Message):

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death.

So, on Easter Sunday and every Sunday, Christians (that's us) gather to praise and worship our Big Brother Jesus! And to thank Him for defeating Bully Death, so that we don't need to be afraid of death—our own death and the death of our believing loved ones.

In Jesus' love,
Pastor John

Following the 'Perfect Fool'

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the "foolishness of God" (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, "The life you save may be your own."

"That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell," wrote Buechner. "What God says, on the other hand, is 'The life you save is the life you lose.' In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living."

Buechner continued, "To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion."

Jesus said, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" (John 15:8). Part of discipleship is worship, which strengthens us to bear the fruit of love.

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area. —Janna Firestone



Installation of New Officers:
Elder Dale Martin, and Deacons Dan Wittman,
Gary Hollinger, and Sharon Napier
March 10, 2024

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met Wednesday, March 13, 2024. There are 59 members on the active roll. Communion was not served on the regular first Sunday of the month, John and Linda were out of town, March communion will be served on Maundy Thursday supper, on March 28.

The Pastor reported he will need pulpit supply on April 14, (Michael Barrett) May 26, TBA) June 2 (Paul Pugh) and June 9 (Michael Barrett).

The Deacon's are actively doing their Deacon duties. They are planning a Chili Cook off April 14.

Christian Ed and Worship: Lenten Lunches wound up, for those who came and those who served the light lunch and Meditation. We thank you very much. It was great Fellowship!

The Adult Sunday School is "Reading the Bible in 365 days" a challenging but good study! We could always make room for more! Teachers are still needed for the youth.



Keep on shining

Charles W. Naylor (1874-1950) was a traveling evangelist until misfortune struck. First a tentpole fell on him as he prepared for a meeting. A year later, a bus accident left him partially paralyzed.

Despite experiencing chronic pain, Naylor became a prolific author and hymnist, dictating almost 150 songs. He often wrote about God's loving care amid adversity. One of his hymns begins:

*When the winds of persecution blow,
When the streams of hatred tow'rd you flow,
When your foes in number seem to grow,
Just keep on shining.*

"God's comfort in our times of sorrow is not an imaginary thing," Naylor wrote. "It can be so real that it is a balm for our wounded spirits. Having passed through the experience more than once, [I know] how real and vital and sustaining the comfort of God can be."

Personnel and Nominating: reporting a new slate of Deacons: Sharon Napier, Gary Hollinger, and Dan Wittman. The new Elder is: Dale Martin, plus we still need 1 more Elder, if you feel led, please contact Dan Shockey.

Finance: The February tithes were: \$4,796.00, expenses were: \$6,290.39. Year to date tithes \$11,791.00 and expenses \$12,393.19.

Fellowship: Cupcake Sunday, 4/7, and Maundy Thursday Meal will be March 28.

Mission Outreach & Church Growth: We are members of the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, a good way to have our Church name out in the public. Barbra sends notices and information to them to email the membership weekly.

Member concerns: Travis Frazier has moved to Park View Care and Rehab. Please be in prayer for our lists of concerns given weekly during the Sunday Service.

Respectively Submitted
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session

April Scripture Lessons *from the* Lectionary

April 7 [Communion Sunday]
Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14 [3rd Sunday of Easter]
Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21 [4th Sunday of Easter]
Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28 [5th Sunday of Easter]
Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

“Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory.” —Douglas J. Moo, *Creation Care*

Committees & Chairpersons

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Dale Martin

FELLOWSHIP:

Sandra Clayville

FINANCE:

Carleen Clayville

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:

Dan Shockey

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:

Erika Wittman

DEACONS:

Linda Smith, Valerie Frazier,
Dan Wittman, Gary Hollinger,
Susi McCall, Sharon Napier and
Jeanetta Fortier (in training)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

03 Kathy Rios
03 Mason & Alicia Wittman
08 Paul Wornell
14 Asher Walsh
19 Challin Raelynn Clayville
24 Mathias Fuelling

God Bless Your Special Day!



**2024 Year to Date
Tithes and Expenses**

FEBRUARY
Tithes \$4,796.00
Expenses \$6,102.80

YTD Totals
Tithes \$11,791.00
Expenses \$12,393.19

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						



May 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
	1	2	3	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5	6
7 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Communion & Cupcake Sunday	8	9	10 Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event 7:00 pm Session	11 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12	13
14 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Chili Cook Off Deacons meet	15	16	17	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19	20 10:00am PW Meeting and Birthday Offering 
21 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	22	23	24	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26	27
28 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	29	30	April Servers ~ We Appreciate YOU! Head Usher: The Wittman's, Head Greeter: Dale Martin Liturgist: 4/7 Dan S., 4/14 Gary, 4/21 Dan S., 4/28 Gary Coffee Hour: 4/7 Fellowship, 4/14 Linda Culley, 4/21 _____, 4/28 _____			



IT IS TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

Camp Sawtooth is an opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through living in a close, caring community which studies, plays and worships together, encouraging self-awareness and caring for others. Campers will enjoy a variety of activities while living and learning in a Christian environment. Each

camp is unique with all campers enjoying a program specifically designed for them by our Program Staff. Activities include outdoor games and crafts, hiking and swimming, picnics, road trips and evening campfires. Each camp is special! For specific information on your camp access the following link: www.campsawtooth.org

Deadline to register for Camp Sawtooth is May 15th. Camp begins June 23rd and ends July 19th. Camp Sawtooth is offering online registration, go to www.campsawtooth.org and register today!

For additional questions please go online to www.campsawtooth.org or call 208-726-1155

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE NEWS!

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
—Jeremiah 17: 7-8

UPCOMING *Events*

MAY

- 01: Scholarship Applications Available
- 02: National Day of Prayer
- 05: Communion/Cupcake Sunday
- 08: Session 7:00pm
- 12: Mother's Day Celebration Coffee Hour
- 15: Deadline to register for Camp Sawtooth
- 19: Day of Pentecost
- 19: Scholarship Presentation—TBA
- 21: Election Day *we are a polling place
- 25: Camp Sawtooth Work Weekend (25—27)
- 25: Memorial Service for Don & Marianne Bohon 2:00pm
- 26: Trinity Sunday
- 26: Pulpit Supply—TBA
- 27: Memorial Day

JUNE

- 02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 02: Pulpit Supply: Paul Pugh
- 02: Memorial Service of Remembrance—TBA
- 09: Michael Barrett Teaching
- 12: Quilt Guild 2-day event (12—13)
- 12: Session 7:00pm
- 16: Father's Day
- 23: Camp Sawtooth begins

JULY

- 04: Independence Day—Office Closed
- 07: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 10: Session 7:00pm
- 13: Presbytery Meeting, Idaho Falls
- 26: Camp Sawtooth ends

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 20, 2024

at 10:00 am

Our Annual
Birthday Offering of
Presbyterian Women.

We will have Birthday
Cake, and encourage all to
"Be Generously Old" and
other fun things.

Committee Reports

EVEN LEVITICUS

The topic was Leviticus, and I had a confession to make. "I skipped a lot of the reading," I told my Bible study group. "I'm not reading about skin diseases again."

That's when my friend Dave spoke up. "I know a guy who believed in Jesus because of that passage," he said. Dave explained that his friend—a doctor—had been an atheist. He decided that before he completely rejected the Bible, he'd better read it for himself. The section on skin diseases in Leviticus fascinated him. It contained surprising details about contagious and noncontagious sores (13:1-46) and how to treat them (14:8-9). He knew this far surpassed the medical knowledge of that day—yet there it was in Leviticus. *There's no way Moses could have known all this*, he thought. The doctor began to consider that Moses really did receive his information from God. Eventually he put his faith in Jesus.

If parts of the Bible bore you, well, I'm with you. But everything it says is there for a reason. Leviticus was written so the Israelites would know how to live for and with God. As we learn more about God Himself.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," wrote the apostle Paul (2 TIMOTHY 3:16). Let's read on. Even Leviticus. —TIM GUSTAFSON

*You are to be holy to me because
I, the LORD, am holy.*

LEVITICUS 20:26

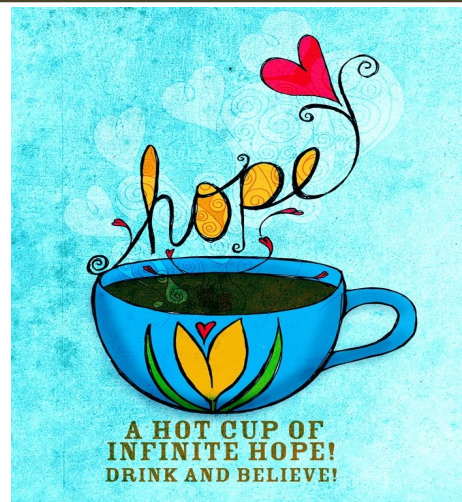
FINANCE REPORT

The following is from the Presbyterian Church, USA, on giving. Giving is a response to God's call and is a response that the Spirit has manifested in believers since the Acts church. Giving for the sake of those in need is an essential component of congregational vitality and Christian identity. In sharing the stories of those who have been assisted or helped through the work of Special Offerings, it is our hope that the presence of Jesus in the lives of those who have least will become visible to every Presbyterian. These real-life stories are intended to develop a relationship of kinship and solidarity, as well as illuminate the image of Jesus in those whom we meet, especially, as Matthew 25 reminds us, those who have the least!

Of course, locally we need to be generous, because we have the regular expenses that we have on a day to day basis, paying salaries to those on the payroll, heating and cooling our building, and our beautiful yard, and of course paying for upkeep on our property. i.e. fixing things that break! We on the Finance Team take very seriously our responsibilities to be good stewards of the Church's money.

We appreciate all that each of you do in giving of your time, talents and financial support, to keep our church viable for the next 100 years! Thank you!

In Christ's Service,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

April 07 Cupcake Sunday
April 14 Deacon's Chili Cook Off during Coffee Hour

Happy Spring!
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 Tue—Fri 9am—2pm

Office phone: 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 prayer,
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 312-3864*

If I have faith that can move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:2

April 2024

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.