



# The Presbyterian *Messenger*

We will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.  
PSALM 78:4

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Burley Idaho May 2025

## Shout Hosanna!

Hosanna! He is Risen! (Now it's your turn to shout, "He is risen indeed!")

It's finally time to celebrate the most sacred holiday of our faith, the resurrection of our Lord! While celebrating Jesus's birthday allows us to fill the house with cozy decorations, Easter is the celebration of the event that is the foundation of our faith. This event is no less significant to us as followers of Christ in the 21st century, but it was a truly meaningful event for the followers of Jesus in His time as well.

See, one of the biggest discussions that led to Jesus's persecution and eventual death was that He was challenging, "The Law." This Law had been laid out for faithful Jewish men and women as a road map for how to live their lives. When Jesus came and showed himself to be the realization of the Law, there were doubters. In the year 2025, we live in the promise that was established by Jesus creating a new "law" or a new "covenant." (Hebrews 9:15)

The expectations of the new covenant are rather simple, as outlined in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." When we accept the gift of salvation and simply believe in it, we are not to perish, but have everlasting life. That's a pretty small set of rules, eh? Those ancient words have carried into today as some of the most important scripture that guides our understanding of our faith and how we are to live.

All this is to say, just because Easter Sunday has passed and the Peeps will continue to harden on the discount candy shelf, we are to still celebrate, and most of all, believe! Shout "Hosanna!", give your neighbor a hug, eat a Peep (if that's something you're into), but most of all continue to believe, and let that inform and inspire the rest of your Easter season.

*In His Love,  
Mason Wittman*

## A prayer for Mother's Day



Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## You're going places!



Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

## Rushing past the warning signs

Being in a hurry rarely ends well. Case in point: Up against a deadline to pay for my son's youth trip, I once paid hundreds of dollars to the wrong church! I went online, typed in our church's name and clicked on the first search result. The website colors were different, and I didn't recognize any faces. "That's odd," I thought. "They must have redesigned the website." Yet, I continued.



I clicked on the giving page and noticed the church accepted credit cards. This was different too, but I welcomed the change. After the large sum was processed, I received an emailed receipt. Only then did I realize the church had a similar name but was in another state. My heart sank. I was concerned about the hundreds of dollars but also troubled with my own foolishness. I had ignored and rushed past clear warning signs.

I immediately emailed the church office, alerting them about my mistake. When I called the next business day, the bookkeeper graciously refunded my payment.

The next time you're in a rush, remember this wisdom from Proverbs 19:2. "*If you want to do something but you do not know how to do it, that is dangerous! If you hurry to do it, you will get into trouble*" (*EasyEnglish Bible*). —Janna Firestone



**Need A Ride?**

## The long-awaited ride home

In September 2024, NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams headed to space for what was supposed to be an eight-day mission. Due to technical problems, that expedition exceeded nine months. Despite the unexpected delay, Williams said the astronauts didn't feel stuck or abandoned. Instead, they viewed the extended voyage as an opportunity to do more research.

Almost 30 years ago, another astronaut also faced setbacks with her return trip to earth. Shannon Lucid had to stay at the Russian Mir space station six months because of hurricanes and various mechanical problems. Before catching a ride back home on the space shuttle *Atlantis*, Lucid said, "You can rest assured I am not going to be on the wrong side of the hatch when they close it."

Followers of Jesus need not worry about being on the "wrong side of the hatch" someday. Although the gate to heaven is narrow, Jesus himself is the way and leads us safely home.

—adapted from an illustration by Craig Brian Larson

# Session Highlights

Greeting from the Session,

**The Session** met Wednesday, April 9, 2025. The Elders present were Kristi P, Dan S, Dale M, and Mason W. Absent and excused was Sandra C. Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer.

**The Clerk's report** was accepted. There are 59 members on the active roll. Communion was served on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to 41 in attendance, 1 shut in. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus.

**The Pastor John reported** (Michael Barrett, from Minico Christian Ed) will fill the pulpit on Mother's Day, May 11, and is scheduled the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday thru Aug. Mason and Paul will fill the pulpit on their regularly scheduled Sundays.

The Lenten Luncheons concluded April 9. The readings compared Bible parables, to our every day situations! The HIS Little Feet ministry will be held in Kingdom Church in Twin Falls. A motion was made to send \$500 to their travel fund from the Memorial Fund, at the last session meeting. Kendall Presbytery Moderator, Melissa Norton joined us in worship on April 13, and met with the Session, regarding the upcoming merger of Kendall and Boise Presbyteries.

**The Deacons** are actively doing their Deacon duties.

## **Christian Ed and Worship:**

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

## **Personnel and Nominating:**

We still need 1 more Elder, if you feel led, please contact Dan Shockey.

## **Finance:**

The March tithes were: \$15357.00, expenses were: \$5646.41, Year to date tithes \$26981.00 and expenses \$20428.14.

## **Fellowship:**

Cupcake Sunday 5/4, Mother's Day 5/11.

## **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.

## **Building & Grounds:**

Travis Martsch will be doing the lawns again this year and Dale Martin needs help, please contact him, to volunteer!

## **Member concerns:**

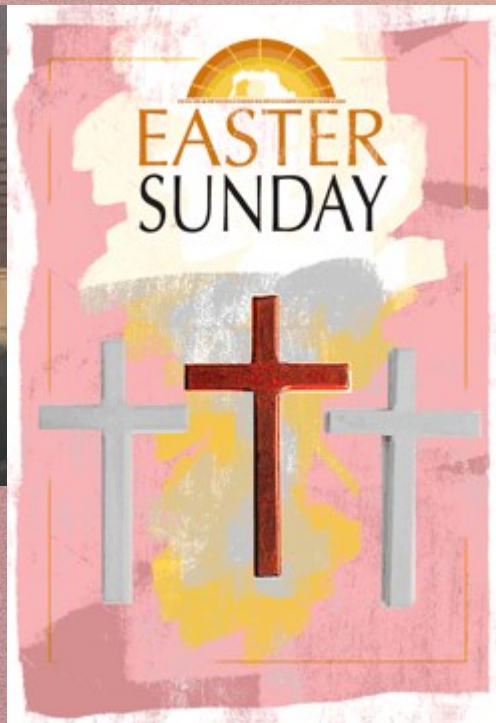
Sharon Napier, heart issues, & Jerry Vegwert, moved to Minidoka Memorial Rehab. Please be in prayer for our lists of concerns given weekly during the Sunday Service.

Respectively Submitted

Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



*Easter Sunday Service 2025.  
Our beautiful Sanctuary was  
decorated with Easter lilies and  
was well attended. Halleluiah!  
Christ is risen, He is Risen indeed!!!*



*Mason Wittman delivered the  
Easter message Easter Sunday  
—Thank you Mason!*



# May Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

**May 4** [Communion Sunday]  
Acts 9:1-20; Ps. 30;  
Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**May 18** [5th Sunday of Easter]  
Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148;  
Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

**May 11** [Mother's Day]  
Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23;  
Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

**May 25** [6th Sunday of Easter]  
Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67;  
Rev. 21:10-22; John 5:1-9



Applications available May 1st. Deadline to submit completed application is May 15th.

Applications are available in church office.

## Jokes only a mother could love

- ♥ Why is a computer so smart?  
*It listens to its motherboard.*
- ♥ Why did you chop the joke book in half?  
*Mom said to cut the comedy.*
- ♥ Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?  
*Because their kids have to play inside!*
- ♥ What did the mother rope say to her child?  
*"Don't be knotty."*



**Don't Forget  
Your Tithe**



## Committees & Chairpersons

### BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Dale Martin

### FELLOWSHIP:

Sandra Clayville

### FINANCE:

Carleen Clayville

### MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

Kristi Pugh

### PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:

Dan Shockey

### WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:

Mason Wittman

### DEACONS:

Susi McCall, Julie Germann,  
Dan Wittman, Sharon Napier,  
Jeanetta Fortier, and Pan Evans

## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

01 Tyson & Juliann Germann  
07 Terrie Shockey  
15 Henry Albert Ziulkowski  
15 Mason Wittman  
15 Madison Wittman  
22 Richard Kicklighter  
25 Walt & Gay Fisher  
27 John & Nanette Eilers  
30 Alicia Wittman

*God Bless Your Special Day!*

**2025  
Year to Date  
Tithes and Expenses**

**MARCH**  
**Tithes \$15,357.00**  
**Expenses \$5,646.41**  
**YTD TOTALS**  
**Tithes \$26,981.00**  
**Expenses \$20,428.14**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Scholarship Applications Available	1 National Day of PRAYER	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3
4 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion Worship Comm. meet Cupcake Sunday	5	6	7 Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild	8 2 day event (May 7—8)	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10
11 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Michael Barrett Teaching MOTHER'S DAY Special Coffee Hour Deacons meet	12	13	14 7:00 pm SESSION	15 Newsletter Articles Due Scholarship Application Deadline Deadline to Register for Camp Sawtooth	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	19	20 VOTE Election Day 8:00am—8:00pm Election Day *we are a polling place	21 Newsletter Article Deadline	22	23 Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day Camp Sawtooth Work Weekend (May 23—26) 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29 ASCENSION OF THE LORD	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31

April 2025						
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			

May Servers ~ We Appreciate YOU!	
Head Usher:	Susie McCall
Head Greeter:	Linda Smith
Liturgist:	5/4 Dan S, 5/11 _____, 5/18 Dan S, 5/25 _____
Coffee Hour:	5/4 Fellowship, 5/11 Fellowship, 5/18 Eilers, 5/25 _____

June 2025						
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					

*Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

**PROVERBS 31:30**

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE NEWS

*Thank you, God, for the special women in my life [mom, grandmas, aunts, nieces, friends, wife, daughters]. I pray for their well-being.*

## ***Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving***

Mark of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to honor the 100th anniversary of The Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition for givers and receivers around the world. Over the last 100 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people. From the original funds donated for the entrance gate in Montreat, North Carolina, and Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, to a classroom at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and a Presbyterian Bible school in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in the 1960s, to the housing and hunger projects in Farmington, Main, and Lares, Puerto Rico, today, the Birthday Offering continues to provide a message of hope in the United States and around the world.

While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment of improving the lives of women and children has not. Support the Birthday Offering so PW can continue funding mission projects for the next 100 years.

Give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy Spirit. Learn more about PW at:  
[presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday)

If you want to participate in the 2025 Birthday Offering, please see Carleen, or Sharon, We'd be happy to help you give!

In Christ's Service,  
Carleen Clayville, Moderator

## Upcoming

Presbyterian Women's Meeting and Birthday Offering April 26, 2025



### LOOKING AHEAD...

#### JUNE

- 01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 01: Memorial Service of Remembrance—TBA
- 08: Day of Pentecost
- 08: Scholarship Presentation—TBA
- 11: Session 7:00pm
- 15: Trinity Sunday
- 15: Father's Day
- 21: First Day of Summer
- 21: Presbytery Stated Meeting 10:00am
- 23: Camp Sawtooth begins (6/22—7/18)

#### JULY

- 04: Independence Day—Office Closed
- 06: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 09: Session 7:00pm
- 18: Camp Sawtooth ends

#### AUGUST

- 03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 10: Outdoor Worship—TBA
- 13: Session 7:00pm
- 29: Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

# Committee Reports

## FINANCE REPORT

The following is part of an article I found about giving. I think you might find it interesting. "One of the curious things about Presbyterians and stewardship is that those who have the least tend to give the most. Percentage-wise more people with incomes of less than \$25,000 tithe (give 10 percent) than those with a greater income. The same is true of the way they give their time and talents to the church. Perhaps it is because they have learned one of the great theological and Biblical truths that Malachi taught the Hebrew people about the reward of the faithful: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, ... see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing" (3:10)."

We hope all these blessings pour down on each of you. We are so grateful for all of you giving of your time, talents and financial gifts! What a great way to show your love!

Yours in Christ's Service  
Your Finance Team



Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Meal  
April 17, 2025 at 6:00pm

## "He ascended into heaven..."

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV)

— that is what the Ascension affirms.



## FELLOWSHIP REPORT

May 4th - Cupcake Sunday

May 11th - Mother's Day treats after Worship

Please consider signing up to bring coffee hour treats. There are lots of opportunities still available.

Thank you  
Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey

*Jesus says: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"*

*(John 14:27, NRSV).*

**PASTOR:**

Rev. John L. Ziulkowski

Pastor's office hours:

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

Pastor's Email: [lrzski@yahoo.com](mailto:lrzski@yahoo.com)

Pastor's cell phone: 208-430-5359

Office Administrator: Barbra Moore

Office Hours Tue—Fri 9am—2pm

Office phone: 208-678-5131

Office email: [office@burleypres.org](mailto:office@burleypres.org)

Clerk of Session:

Director of Music: Paul Pugh

Pianist: Susan McGee, Susi McCall, Linda Ziulkowski

Flutist: Linda Ziulkowski

Guitarist: Mason Wittman

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  
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Please submit your Newsletter items by the  
15th of the month and Bulletin items by Wednesday.*

First Presbyterian Church (USA)

2100 Burton Avenue

Burley ID 83318



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.burleypres.org](http://www.burleypres.org)

The Lord does great things  
beyond our understanding.

—Job 37:5 (NIV)

May 2025

# 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.