



For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **Galatians 5:1**

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

July 2023 Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Burley, Idaho

Pastor's 4th of July Message

On July 4, 2023 we celebrate the United States of America's 247th birthday. As Christians we have the duty to be both a good Christian and a good citizen. In Acts 4:1-22, the apostles Peter and John have a confrontation with governmental authority. From their interaction we can identify a number of responsibilities of Christian citizens. We will look at one.

Christian citizens are to respect those in authority. The story begins with Peter and John healing a crippled beggar. (Read Acts 3). The healing leads to an opportunity to preach the Good News about the risen Lord Jesus. Which triggers a warrant for their arrest issued by the Jewish supreme court (the Sanhedrin). And an order for Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus. No doubt, Peter and John had strong, negative feelings towards the Sanhedrin. But they still showed respect and honor towards the men who were directly responsible for the Lord's suffering and death. In Acts 4:8 Peter addresses the Sanhedrin with respect and courtesy: "Rulers of the people and elders..."

Peter goes on to say that he and John couldn't obey the Sanhedrin's orders. And by implication they were willing to submit to the consequences for disobedience. But still Peter and John respected and honored the office these men held and the job they were trying to do. The job of protecting the people from what they believed to be false teaching... "proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead." (Acts 4:2).

So the first responsibility of Christian citizens is to honor, respect, and to submit to those in government authority. The apostle Peter writes years later: "For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every institution... Honor everyone." (1 Peter 2:13, 17).

The second responsibility is to resist in love those in authority when they command us to do something that would cause us to disobey God. Lord willing, we will say more about this Sunday, July 2nd.

*In Jesus Love,
Pastor John*

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FINDING FREEDOM

★ What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

★ I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.

—Janna Firestone



LOOKING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AUGUST

06: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
09: Session
13: Outdoor Worship
20: Pulpit Supply—TBA
27: Pulpit Supply—TBA
29: Election Day 8am—8pm *tentative

SEPTEMBER

03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
03: Season of Peace begins
04: Labor Day
10: Pulpit Supply—TBA
16: PW CT Planning—TBA
17: National Back to Church Sunday
23: First Day of Autumn

OCTOBER

02: World Communion Sunday; Peacemaking Offering
02: Cupcake Sunday
11: Session
14: Presbytery Meeting, Camp Sawtooth
15: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
16: Noodle Making Week—TBA
29: Reformation Sunday


It's a miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred. —J. Ellsworth Kalas

PRAY FOR OUR
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MILITARY

"Don't tell me the sky's the limit
when there are footprints
on the moon." —Paul Brandt



The background of the top half of the page is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The stars are in the upper left, and the stripes extend towards the bottom right.

As we celebrate our nation's heritage this month,
we pray that all governmental leaders will work for
peace and justice around the world.

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular Monthly meeting on June 14, 2023. All elders were in attendance. Pastor John opened The meeting with prayer. The temporary Clerk reported there were 59 on the active roll. Communion was served to 45 members and friends on June 4.

Pastor John asked to be away on August 20-27, we will need pulpit supply for those Sundays. The policy manual was updated with the procedures for funerals, as requested by Jerry Vegwert.

The Deacons reported their board has reorganized, Linda Smith is their leader and Susi McCall is Treasurer.

The Building and Grounds Committee reports that Shane Guinn is working on the leaky roof over the front door. The tarpaper has been replaced and he will check on leaks after the next rain.

The issue with the big stained glass has been reported to NuVu, and they are looking into the solution.

Pastor John's work contract was up on June 30th, it was agreed that he would extend it until the end of the year.

The treasurer reported that all bills and staff is up to date. Members are asked to contribute the added \$45.00 per member in addition to their regular tithe, if they can, to go toward our Annual Per Capita apportionment. It would be appreciated.

The next Session meeting will be July 12, 2023. There was no other business. The meeting was closed with prayer given by Pastor John at 9:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session

God Bless America



Prayer brings heaven to earth

When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.

But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord. —Ben Jennings

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,

Julie Germann,

Susi McCall and

Valerie Frazier



2023 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

May

Tithes \$4,897.00

Expenses \$6,864.02

YTD Totals:

Tithes \$41,582.00

Expenses \$35,565.76

July Scriptures Lessons from the Lectionary

July 2 [Communion Sunday]

Gen. 22:1-14; Ps. 13;

Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:40-42

July 9 [6th Sunday after Pentecost]

Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Ps. 45:10-17;

Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16 [7th Sunday after Pentecost]

Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112;

Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 [8th Sunday after Pentecost]

Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24;

Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 [9th Sunday after Pentecost]

Gen. 29:15-28; Ps. 105:1-11;

Rom. 8:26-39; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52



My poverty, God's riches

When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3), I've tended to think in terms of emotions: "Blessed are the sad, depressed, discouraged, regretful, lonely ..." I picture human experiences that God will fix when the kingdom of heaven is made full, as in Revelation: "Mourning and crying and pain will be no more" (21:4). Surely that's one faithful understanding.

But a poem by Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes gives a different slant:

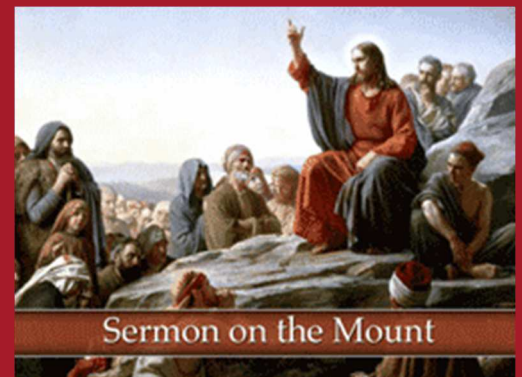
Eternal God,
I humbly confess my riches,
... all to which I cling.
I repent of the wealth
of what I think and what I fear
and what I want.

O I am truly poor; I have nothing
but ... my openness to you.

... sustain my blessed poverty,
an open hand,
reaching out in this present moment,
to your open hand.

Now I hear poverty of spirit as what I need to experience to be open to God's riches. If I cling desperately to "what I think and what I fear and what I want," my hands and heart are not open to receive God's unconditional love.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Sermon on the Mount



Presbyterian Women in the News

Prayer for July 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfill the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer,
Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal
to the principles of the Declaration of
Independence,
and extend their application
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of
oppression,
persecution,
and unjust discrimination;
save us from religious,
racial and class conflicts;
may our country be a haven of refuge
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,
of reconciling differences of opinion
and averting clashes of interest,
of helping one another
to achieve a harmonious and abundant
life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,
the symbol of our American democracy,
may ever wave o'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave. **Amen.**

Presbyterian Women, we are in full bloom! Presbyterian Women carefully tend God's many gardens with kindness, consideration and care. At the churchwide level—through our Birthday and Thank Offering grants—we helped with building a hospital in Japan, reclaiming a keystone clinic in Kenya and providing funding to house and transition women reentering society after incarceration. These are just a few of the worthy ministries from Iowa to Iraq, that PW has helped make possible.

Through our churches and community boards, Presbyterian Women are dutifully determined to bring beauty to the world with The PW Purpose as our compass. We pack backpacks for hungry children, teach literacy combine our resources to vanquish oppressive medical debt and advocate on behalf of our siblings who suffer impoverishment, imprisonment, sickness and exploitation. Our PW Purpose also binds us to Bible study, prayer and community. That's why Presbyterian Women coordinate Bible studies; check on friends; host and attend gatherings and fair-trade coffee sales; and stay after worship and other gatherings to collect bulletins, dim lights and extend invitations for lunch, fun, fellowship and service.

There is a lot of things we do and can do to make a difference in lives in our own church and our communities!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Carleen Clayville, Moderator



"Christians are like the flowers in a garden, that have each of them the dew of Heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other." — John Bunyan

Committee Reports



FELLOWSHIP

July 2 - Cupcake Sunday

Join us every Sunday after worship for coffee hour and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED REPORT

Sunday School is taking the summer off and will resume on September 10. At this time, it will only be the adult Sunday School, unless a need arises for a children's class. We have had no success in finding an organist. Therefore, the church will be advertising for an organist to play for us on Sundays. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please let me know. This will be a paid position.

Respectfully Submitted,
Erika Wittman

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 caring for 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

Whatever you do, work at it with
ALL YOUR HEART,
as if working for the Lord.
—Colossians 3:23 NIV

**“Your worth consists in what you are
and not in what you have. What you are
will show in what you do.”**
—Thomas Davidson

Turn your platform into an altar

Having a platform — or an avenue to communicate with lots of people — can be useful to share important messages, as long as we don't focus on our number of followers and pageviews. A platform also may tempt us to think we're the gift being offered; instead, I like to picture an altar. It's a place of offering and humility, where we give sacrificially through the reach God provides.

Use these reminders to view your platform as an altar:

- Strive to obey and trust God, who calls and strengthens you.
- Be a good steward of God's gifts and messages, caring for the people you're reaching.
- Avoid comparisons with others, looking to God alone for validation and approval.

Through Abraham's willingness to surrender his only son, the Old Testament patriarch modeled how a platform can become an altar. So did Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, who became the ultimate sacrifice to pay our debt. As his New Testament followers, it's our privilege to invite others into this paradoxical kingdom, to give of ourselves as a living Sacrifice.—Monica Wilkinson



02 Jerry Vegwert
02 Paul & Kristi Pugh
04 Bonnie Stanley
9 Earl Clayville
10 Bill Frazier
13 Kacie Matlock
15 Linda Smith
17 Cynthia Fuelling
19 Tom Clayville
19 Dan & Terrie Shockey
22 Barbra Moore
24 Russell & Kathleen Morgan
25 Zachary Germann
25 Jose & Kathleen Rios
28 Linda Ziulkowski

God Bless Your Special Day!

God's got you

In Roman 4 Paul writes: "If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ... For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace" (v. 14, 16, NRSV). Here and elsewhere, Paul firmly explains that we are saved through God's grace, or unconditional love, made known most profoundly in Jesus Christ. But this passage raises a question: If belief (trust, faith) reckons us as righteous before God, what if we don't trust, can't believe, have lost all faith?

Pastor Martin Luther (1483-1546) assures us that even this is a gift of God: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead *the Holy Spirit* has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and *kept me in the true faith*" (*The Small Catechism*; emphasis added). Later in Romans, Paul declares that when we feel so lost (unbelieving, lacking in faith) that we don't even know how to pray, the "Spirit himself intercedes for us" (8:26, NIV). Rest assured, dear one: God's got you.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

The gladdest thing of all



Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

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: burleypc@pmt.org

Clerk of Session: TBA

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



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

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

GALATIANS 5:13

July 2023

PRAYER CORNER

We offer up prayers for . . .


- 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



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*

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Sharon Napier Head Greeter: Carleen Clayville Liturgist: 7/2 Dan S., 7/9 Gary, 7/16 Dan S., 7/23 Gary, 7/30 Dan S. Coffee Hour: 7/2 Fellowship, 7/9 _____, 7/16 _____, 7/23 _____, 7/30 _____						1
2 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Communion Cupcake Sunday	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7	8
9 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Congregational Meeting Deacons Meet	10	11	12 7:00 pm Session	13 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due
16 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	17	18	19	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 Camp Sawtooth ends	22 Newsletter Article Deadline
23 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	24	25	26	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28	29
30 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	31	We wish you a Happy 4th of July! Be safe, be kind, and remember to thank God for the freedom we enjoy. We should never take for granted what many only pray for.				

Welcomed back to the fold

When her beloved dogs “returned home from an adventure smelling of eau de skunk parfum,” Pastor Joanna Loucky-Ramsey refused to let them in the house. Instead, she cleaned and cared for them outside, slowly reintroducing them to “full participation in family life” once the stink eased.

“The odor left by the skunk could serve as a metaphor for our sin or for the sin others perpetrate against us,” she writes. “As much as God loves us, he hates the sin that hides the lovely fragrance of the image of God within each of us. God wants to welcome each of us into his family and into the heavenly home he has prepared for us, but we need to be ‘deodorized’ from the eau de sin parfum that would mar the entire experience of being in God’s fragrant presence.”

Loucky-Ramsey continues: “Just as our dogs needed our help to get rid of the smell of skunk, we need God’s help to purge us from the offense of sin that permeates our nature and masks who God created us to be. That’s what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection: to make us new and whole.”

—adapted from The Wired Word

Annual Memorial Service of Remembrance

June 4, 2023



Scholarship Presentation June 4, 2023

Carleen Clayville presented
scholarships to Analeigh
Grumbein & Paul Daniel Pugh



Analeigh Grumbein is the daughter
of Andrew & Christin Grumbein



Paul Daniel Pugh is the son of
Paul & Kristi Pugh

