


The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Burley Idaho
August 2024



Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
PROVERBS 22:6 KJV

We Are The Body of Christ

As we continue the survey of the Book of Acts, it's important to not focus on the **incidentals** and neglect the **essentials**. The birth of Jesus' body / the Church and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is an **essential**. It's been said, "Everything else flows from this event in Acts 2." (Ray C. Stedman).

But the gale force wind, the dancing tongues of fire, and the disciples praising Jesus in the languages of those who traveled to Jerusalem from all over the world, are **incidentals**.

Dramatic signs that something important was happening. The **essential**, is the birth of the body of Christ, the beginning of the Church. It's this body the Holy Spirit inhabits and empowers to continue what Jesus began to do in His early ministry.

When Jesus ascended into heaven an exchange took place. Jesus exchanged His resurrected body on earth for a different kind of body on earth—the Church, which the New Testament calls

"the body of Christ." No longer is Jesus limited to a single body which can only be in one place at a time, and needed to eat and sleep. Now He has a body that is present across the globe and active twenty-four hours a day!

So, the same body of Christ that was born on the first Pentecost is alive today. And it will remain alive, active, and energized until the return of the Lord Jesus. Obviously the church is made up of different individual members in the 21st century. But we have the same mission.

What's the mission? It's to proclaim the Good News about Jesus to others. The Lord Jesus says to His Church throughout the ages, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

In Jesus' love,
Pastor John

Not One of Them Empty-Handed

A large ant colony has built its home under a crevice in the road pavement at my feet. It's not an ant "hill" exactly, but all around the large hole is a tiny mound made from the chaff of ten thousand grasses, shaped into a sort of low crater.

Out of one side of the crater passes a two-lane highway of ants. The outgoing column heads towards a destination unknown, while the incoming procession returns to the colony.

As I look more closely, I can see that each incoming ant is carrying something. Not one returns empty-handed. Their treasures seem small, miniscule to my eyes. One ant tries to maneuver a 3/4" straw along the trail. It keeps falling out of his grasp again and again, but he picks it up each time, and continues his ungainly journey home. Most of the other burdens are smaller. A wisp of something, a seed fallen from the now-brown grasses along the roadway. The size of each is tiny, almost worthless, one might imagine. But the collection of each tiny burden accumulates into a rich harvest for the colony.

Each ant is working for the whole — working industriously, tirelessly, to increase the general welfare, to work for the common good. Each brings what he finds to their common home, into store-caverns carved out many levels beneath the surface. An ant colony is a true "corporation," if you will. A "corpus," a body that is dependent upon the contributions of each and every one of its members.

I think of the church, Christ's body here on earth. Things are not as they seem, you realize. It's not great preachers or fine buildings that make us rich. Nor heavy offering plates on Sunday mornings. We are richest when each one comes with his or her own unique gift, the personal contribution of each member out of love for the others.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is ... serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:5-8)

"From him the whole body ... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:16)

As each part does its work the body grows in strength and health, stronger and stronger. But sometimes our laziness and self-indulgence get in the way.

"I'm too busy."

"I've got too many things going on at work."

"I just don't know when we're going to be in town on the weekends."

"I've been teaching Sunday school in this church for 50 years. Let someone else do it."

A healthy church — the Church of the Living Savior Jesus Christ — needs both you and me, and our friends, and our brothers and sisters. Every single one. We all bring bundles of different sizes and shapes. Treasures of music and mercy, of love and loveliness, of grace and glory, of leadership and service. Teachers, counselors, encouragers, pray-ers, singers and musicians, preachers and custodians, repairers of the house of God. Door-knockers and gospel-tellers -- we need them all.

If you were prohibited from bringing money for your Sunday offering, what gift could you bring to the house of God to enrich the body of the Lord Jesus?

"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6)

I chuckle over those ancient words of exhortation, and the wonderful mental picture conjured up by the word "sluggard."

And then my mind's eye returns to the ant colony, with its two-lane highway.

Ants going out recharged and fully fed,
and ants returning,
carrying a little something to enrich the body.
And not one of them is empty-handed.
Not one.

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



Scriptures for August *from the Lectionary*

August 4 [Communion Sunday]
2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a; *Ps. 51:1-12*;
Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 11
2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-35; *Ps. 130*
Eph. 4:25-5:2; John 6:35-41, 51

August 18
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; *Ps. 111*;
Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 25
1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30; *Ps. 84*;
Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

*In preparation for Pastor John's ministry of the Word,
we encourage you to read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke*



Ecumenical Brunch

Saturday, August 3, 2024
10:00 am—
All ladies welcome!

Sabbath sight

Miners used to use mules underground to pull the loaded carts. Spending so much time in the darkness, some mules eventually went blind. But one old miner found a solution: He simply let the mules spend one day a week outside the mines.

In a very real sense, God gave us the Sabbath to keep us from going spiritually blind. The Sabbath, as Jesus said, was made for humankind, but to use in sacred ways. It's our responsibility as followers of Jesus to decide how to best keep the intent of this commandment.

How might observing Sabbath improve your ability to "see" clearly?

—from *The Wired Word*



Sunday, August 11, 2024 at 10:45am
and Root beer floats on patio
after service



Memorial Service for
Elizabeth Sensenbaugh
Friday, August 23, 2024 at 11:00am
First Presbyterian Church, Burley



Wednesday, August 14, 2024
Elder / Deacon Training 6:00pm
AND
Session 7:00pm
C U Then!

FYI - Info Page



2024 Year to Date Tithes & Expenses

June

Tithes \$12,423.00
Expenses \$7,305.04

YTD Totals:

Tithes \$47,769.00
Expenses \$41,556.96

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)



AUGUST

08 Lyle & Linda Smith
12 Paul Pugh
13 Madalyn Grout
15 Kevin Morse
19 Joe Moser
20 Gary & Linda Hollinger
23 Cecil & Sharon Napier
28 Jerry & Hazel Vegwert
28 Rob & Jenny Grout

God Bless Your Special Day!

WHAT DO PEOPLE
GET FOR ALL THE
TOIL AND ANXIOUS
STRIVING WITH
WHICH THEY LABOR
UNDER THE SUN?

ECCLESIASTES 2:22, NIV



SEPTEMBER

01: Season of Peace begins
01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
02: Labor Day
08: Sunday School Resumes
08: Michael Barrett Teaching
11: Session
14: CROP Hunger Walk 10:00am
15: Pulpit Supply—TBA
15: Church Potluck
21: PW CT Planning—TBA
22: First Day of Autumn

OCTOBER

06: World Communion; Peace Offering
09: Quilt Guild 2-day event (9—10)
09: Session
13: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
13: Michael Barrett Teaching
14: Noodle making week—TBA
25: Deacon's Fall Yard Sale (25—26)

NOVEMBER

03: Daylight saving time ends
03: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
03: Stewardship Commitment Sunday
03: Baked Potato & Pie Bar
05: Election Day *we are a polling place
10: Michael Barrett Teaching
10: Stewardship Dedication Sunday
13: Session
16: PW Harvest Luncheon—TBA
24: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec 15th
28: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
30: Hanging of the Greens—TBA



July 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			

AUGUST

September 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					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUGUST Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Tom Clayville Head Greeter: Sandra Clayville Liturgist: 8/4 Dan S, 8/11 Gary. 8/18 Dan S, 8/25 Gary Coffee Hour: 8/4 Fellowship, 8/11 _____, 8/18 _____, 8/25 _____				1 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2	3 10:00am PW Ecumenical Brunch 
4 10:45 am Worship, Communion & Cupcake Sunday	5	6	7 Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9	10
11 10:45am Outdoor Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Root beer floats on patio Deacons meet	12	13	14 6:00pm Elder / Deacon Training 7:00 pm Session	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16	17 12:00pm BBQ at Frazier's
18 10:45 am Worship	19	20 Newsletter Article Deadline	21	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 11:00am Elizabeth Sensenbaugh Memorial Service	24
25 10:45 am Worship	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30	31

The meaning of membership

Oklahoma pastor Ricky Jones tackles the meaning of church membership, or being part of Christ's body. "Leaving the church is not simply leaving a club," he writes at the Gospel Coalition website. "When you walk away, you dismember yourself from the body. Jesus and the rest of the body sorely miss you, and bleed after your departure. You cut yourself off from your only source of life and nourishment. Like an amputated hand, you will slowly bleed out, wither, and die."

Jones contends that "being a part of the universal church without submitting to a local church is not possible, biblical or healthy." It's impossible because you need to be part of a smaller community before you can be considered part of a greater community. It's unbiblical because the New Testament epistles are addressed to specific local churches. And it's unhealthy because wanting to independently make your own choices is "at the heart of sin," the pastor writes.

"You need to know we're all in this life together, and we won't walk away from you just because you let us down or we disagree," says Jones. "Together we build each other up into the image of Christ; no one can make it alone."

Co-laborers with Christ

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.

The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That's when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: "This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to 'help' him build his kingdom!" The church leader pictured God busy "seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands 'helping.'"

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he "chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him," said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!



God's gift of music

What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.

Presbyterian Women in the News

The Presbyterian Women of Burley

Invite you ...

TO OUR ANNUAL ECUMENICAL BRUNCH

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church

2100 Burton Avenue

Burley, ID 83318

Join us for salad bar, fruit, rolls and cookies

We will have a special program, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

Please bring a friend & RSVP to:

Carleen 208 312 5667

The Church 678-5131

Still a lot of food sign-up for the Ecumenical Brunch needed—Sign up sheet is on the back railing of Sanctuary.

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

We, as a Finance Team, have been noticing low attendance at Church the past few Sundays, and would like to encourage you to join us as much as you can this summer. The days have been hot, and you know that we have air conditioning, thankfully, and are trying to keep inside comfortable for all of us!

Also, I need to encourage you to check your records to see where you stand in your giving. I know this is a busy month – with vacations and trips, and such, but please know that our church expenses i.e. payroll, cooling, cleaning, and mowing continue throughout the summer!

Finally, please know that you are all appreciated for everything you do at and for our beautiful church and we love each and everyone of you. We miss you when you are not in church on Sundays. Please keep our church, country, and world in your prayers, as well as the special prayers for our members and friend's needs.

In Christ Service,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP

Aug. 04 Cupcake Sunday
Aug. 11 Root beer floats on the patio
after outdoor service.

We're looking for our coffee hour calendar to be filled with names to host and or contribute treats to share. You'll find the list of opportunities on the kitchen door.

Thank you!
Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

What's your oasis?

As the gospels make clear, even the Son of God needed an occasional break. For Jesus, a solitary place reached by boat served as an oasis.

Although an oasis might make us think of a beach-like vacation spot in the middle of a desert, it's simply "something that provides refuge, relief or pleasant contrast" (Merriam-Webster).

So, what's your oasis? For someone who recently lost a spouse, it could be a break from the newfound silence. For a young parent, it could be a block of solitude and silence to complete a thought.

I haven't found any definition of oasis that includes a timeframe. Such an experience could last 30 seconds or a full week. Work within your circumstances so you can get away for a time with Jesus.

As you identify and pursue an oasis, consider your answers to these questions:

- What circumstances in life cause you to desire an oasis, or break?
- What will it look like to create a personal oasis or sanctuary at home?
- When you spend time with Jesus, what do you want to do?

—Janna Firestone



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: Barbrea 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

*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 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 at 208-312-3864*

First Presbyterian Church (USA)
2100 Burton Avenue
Burley ID 83318

Visit us on the web at:
www.burleypres.org



The everlasting God
will not grow tired or weary
ISAIAH 40:28

August 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.