

# The Presbyterian *Messenger*

*You are a gracious and merciful God.*  
**NEHEMIAH 9:31**

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Burley Idaho August 2025

## "A Farewell to Summer"

Trigger warning for the educators in our congregation, but summer is nearing its end! As devastating of news as that is for some, the ending of one season means the coming of another, and it's important to reflect and celebrate this year's summer at First Presbyterian Church of Burley, Idaho.

For one thing, there's been a shake-up in the pastoral sense, as Rev. John Ziulkowski has decided to retire from the pulpit and participate in our church as an elder. Trusted sources say that this retirement may indeed be the real deal. In his absence, the ministry team of Dr. Paul Pugh and myself will seek to provide you with the scripture and comfort that only church can provide (albeit with less "dad" jokes).

We saw record attendance this summer, a time when we would usually be seeing a flock diminished by summer vacations. It's been absolutely heartwarming to see so many believers in our pews, faces new and familiar, worshipping our Creator with joy and fellowship.

As summer transitions to fall, I would like to thank everyone who has made this summer a success in the realm of attendance and participation. I pray that the work we do here continues to make an impact on the community and contributes to more charity, fellowship, and love amongst our neighbors.

Very soon I will start school, and I look forward to sharing the knowledge I gain with you all. I'll be in the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, so feel free to stop by and say hi!

God Bless,

Mason Wittman  
Pastoral Intern





# Scholarship Winners



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Burley First Presbyterian Church is proud to present scholarships each year to disserving students. This year's recipients are Paul D. & Victor Pugh, Mason Wittman, and Jessica Valesquez-Wallace.

On June 8, 2025, Dan Shockey presented the McCaslin Youth Scholarship to Paul D. Pugh who is continuing his Music Education at Idaho State University. Victor Pugh (his mother, Kristi, accepted scholarship in his absence) is continuing his Theatre Arts Education at Boise State University. Mason Wittman is beginning his Seminary Education at Pittsburg Theological Seminary. And on July 6, 2025 Jessica Valesquez-Wallace was presented with the Burley Education Fund Trust and the Wilma Johnson Memorial Fund as she begins her Veterinary Tech 2 year program at CSI.

Paul D. and Victor are the sons of Paul & Kristi Pugh, Mason is the son of Dan & Erika Wittman, and Jessica is the granddaughter of John & Linda Ziulkowski. We wish all this year's recipients the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

*(There was no Session in July)*



## Fixer-uppers



Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."

For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project! —Stephanie Martin

# Scriptures for August *from the Lectionary*

## **August 3** [Communion Sunday]

Hos. 11:1-11; *Ps. 107:1-9,43*;  
Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

## **August 10**

Isa. 1:10-20; *Ps. 50:1-8,22-23*  
Heb. 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40



## **August 17**

Isa. 5:1-7; *Ps. 80:1-2,8-19*;  
Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

## **August 24**

Jer. 1:4-10; *Ps. 71:1-6*;  
Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

## **August 31**

Jer. 2:4-13; *Ps. 81:1,10-16*;  
Heb. 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword,  
piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit,  
and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts  
and intents of the heart.” ... It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

**Hebrews 4:12, KJV**

## **FOREVER FAITHFUL**

**READ:** Isaiah 40:6-11

**T**he deadliest forest fire disaster in US history was the Peshtigo Fire in Northeast Wisconsin. It occurred on the same night as the better-known Chicago Fire (October 8, 1871) but claimed sever hundred more lives. Peshtigo, a fast-growing city of wooden buildings and part of the lumber industry, was consumed within an hour by the inferno fanned by gusting winds.

Besides scorched china and a brick kiln, among the few items the fire left behind was a small, open Bible. Flames had singed its cover and extreme heat had petrified its pages, yet it remained intact. It can be viewed in a museum in the city today.

The little Bible’s preservation calls to mind an assurance God gave His people in another trying time:

*“The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever”  
(ISAIAH 40:8)*

Though “firestorms” of invasion and exile threatened, God affirmed that He would be faithful to His promises and would never forsake those who turned to Him—come what may.

The Bible in Peshtigo, still partially legible, was opened to Psalms 106 and 107. Both psalms contain these words in their first verses:

*“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.”*

Even in the greatest trials of our lives, His words and love never falter. And we thank Him forever because of it.—*James Banks*

**What’s your favorite promise from God? What can you do  
to keep His promises in mind today?**

*Loving God, I praise You for Your faithfulness! Please help me to  
trust in You even in difficult seasons.*



# For Your Information ...



Join us for Outdoor Worship  
Sunday, August 17th. Remember to  
bring a hat and a wrap just in case ;-)



## SEPTEMBER

01: Labor Day  
07: Season of Peace begins  
07: Communion / Cupcake Sunday  
10: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (10-11)  
10: Session 7:00pm  
13: CROP Hunger Walk  
20: PW CT Planning  
22: First Day of Autumn

## OCTOBER

05: World Communion; Peacemaking Offering  
05: Cupcake Sunday  
08: Session 7:00pm  
12: Pastor Appreciation Sunday  
13: Noodle making week—TBA  
25: Presbytery Stated Meeting 10:00am  
26: Reformation Sunday



## 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 Pam Evans



Don't  
Forget  
Your  
Pledge  
This Summer

## 2025 Year to Date

### Tithes and Expenses

#### June

Tithes \$6,812.00  
Expenses \$6,364.98

#### YTD Totals:

Tithes \$49,970.50  
Expenses \$42,083.59



Celebrating You  
on Your  
Special Day





## 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!*



# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July 2025</b> 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	<b>AUGUST Servers ~ Thank You!</b> <b>Head Usher:</b> Jeanetta Fortier <b>Head Greeter:</b> Sandra Clayville <b>Liturgist:</b> 8/3 Dan S, 8/10 ____, 8/17 Dan S, 8/24 ____, 8/31 Dan S. <b>Coffee Hour:</b> 8/3 Fellowship, 8/10 ____, 8/17 Fellowship, 8/24 Carolyn Iverson, 8/31 ____					<b>2</b> 10:00am PW  ECCUMENICAL <i>Brunch</i>
<b>3</b> 10:45 am Worship & Communion Ordination & Installation of New Officers Cupcake Sunday	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10: 45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Deacons meet	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Session	<b>14</b> 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Outdoor Worship</b> <i>followed by root beer floats</i> 10:45 am Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> Newsletter Article Deadline	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:45 am Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> In Observance of Labor Day the Office will be Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:45 am Worship						<b>September 2025</b> 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

## View Each Day

TRY TO VIEW EACH DAY as an adventure, carefully planned out by your Guide. Instead of staring into the day that is ahead of you, attempting to program it according to your will, be attentive to Me and to all I have prepared for you. Thank Me for this day of life, recognizing that it is a precious, unrepeatable gift. Trust that I am with you each moment, whether you sense My Presence or not. A Thankful, trusting attitude helps you to see events in your life from My perspective.

A life lived close to Me will never be dull or predictable. Expect each day to contain surprises! Resist your tendency to search for the easiest route through the day. Be willing to follow wherever I lead. No matter how steep or treacherous the path before you, the safest place to be is by My side.

### PSALM 118:24

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### 1 PETER 2:21

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.—Sarah Young



# Presbyterian Women in the News

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN.....WHO ARE WE?**

Presbyterian Women, Inc., is the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We *are* a community of more than 200,000 women who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose, the PW Purpose.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

These commitments are lovingly carried out in Presbyterian Women groups in congregations, presbyteries and synods. At the national level, Presbyterian Women provides the resources, direction and opportunities to fulfill the organization's mission and ministry.

Presbyterian Women's connectional structure allows you to participate as deeply and/or broadly in the organization and its commitments as you wish. *(from Presbyterian Women, Inc.)*

***We look forward to all the ladies of the church joining us for our upcoming Ecumenical Brunch on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 10:00am***

You are all welcome to join us!  
Yours in Christ's Service,  
Carleen Clayville, Moderator

**"A woman is like a tea bag—  
you never know how strong she is  
until she gets in hot water."**

**Elenor Roosevelt**



# Committee



## FELLOWSHIP

Aug. 3rd- Cupcake Sunday

Aug. 17th - Worship outside followed by root beer floats.

Please plan to join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey



## A path of persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

# Reports

## FINANCE REPORT

"Bring what you have!"

The old tale about the Stone Soup tells of a starving man who comes to a village, but no one can spare a crumb of food for him. He puts a stone and water in a pot over a fire. Intrigued the villagers watch him as he begins to stir his "soup". Eventually, one brings a couple of potatoes to add to the mix; another has a few carrots. One person adds an onion, another a handful of barley. A farmer donates some milk. Eventually, the "stone soup" becomes a tasty chowder. That tale illustrates the value of sharing, but it also reminds us to bring what we have, even when it seems to be insignificant.

In John 6: 1-14 we read of a boy who appears to be the only person in a huge crowd who thought about bringing some food. Christ's disciples had little use for the boy's sparse lunch of five loaves and two fishes. But when it was surrendered, Jesus increased it and fed thousands of hungry people! Jesus will accept our surrendered efforts, talents, and service, no matter how small. He just wants us to be willing to bring what we have to Him. You, knowing that he can multiply a little into a lot!

Have a safe summer, and we will see you in church!

Faithfully,  
Your Finance Team

## "Summer"

'Tis summer, I know by the blue of the sky;  
By the trees' deeper green, as beneath them I lie;  
And more than all these, by the lovely wild rose  
That now in the woodland its pink blossom shows. ...

I feel the warm west wind fan gently my cheek  
As I sit on the grass, far too happy to speak;  
And then in the twilight I see the faint spark  
Of the fire-fly, flitting alone in the dark.

Oh! long happy days, when 'tis full of delight  
To roam in the meadows from morning till night!  
Oh! summer, sweet summer! glide slowly away,  
For I love in your warmth and your fragrance to stay.

—H.P. Nichols



## PASTORAL INTERN

Mason Wittman

Mason's email: [masonwittman0515@gmail.com](mailto:masonwittman0515@gmail.com)

Mason's cell: 208-312-6549

Office Administrator: Barbrea 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: Dr. 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 peace of God, which transcends all  
understanding, will guard your hearts  
and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:7**

August 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.