

Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who
delight in them.
Psalm 111:2

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLEY, IDAHO SEPTEMBER 2024

TRUTH

Today, like in the days of the early church, there is a fight to defend and declare the **true truth** and to unmask and defeat the **false truth**. In Acts 5:17-42, truth and dead tradition are in conflict. And from this story we see *four* different responses to God's truth. The responses are:

1. **Attack—Acts 5:17-28**

Jesus told his first followers (and us) to tell others the Good News. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). And they did! The religious authorities ordered them to stop. They didn't! Rather than investigate the message that Jesus was alive with an open mind, the religious establishment uses its power to attack the messengers. The religious establishment orders the apostles to be arrested and locked up.

2. **Affirm—Acts 5:29-32**

The apostles are brought from the public prison to the courtroom. Peter, the spokesman for the apostles, boldly proclaims the truth about Jesus. Peter and the apostles can't stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus. It's the truth. So they continue to boldly affirm it.

3. **Avoid—Acts 5:33-39**

It's been said, "People occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened." Gamaliel, a highly respected member of the Jewish supreme court, stops the court from executing the apostles. He's not convinced that their message is true. It might be! Then again, it might not be true. Rather than honestly investigating the evidence, he stumbles over it/Him, picks himself up and hurries off as if nothing happened.

4. **Announce—Acts 5:40-42**

The apostles are given a thorough whipping and told again not to talk about Jesus. What do they do? "Every day they were in the Temple and homes, teaching and preaching Christ Jesus, not letting up for a minute." (Acts 5:42, The Message). What do these early Christians do when ordered by those in authority not to tell others about the risen Lord Jesus? They keep preaching and teaching in Jesus' name.

The battle for truth is ongoing. It may even be intensifying! The issue today is whether there is absolute truth. Truth that is true for everyone, no matter who they are, where they live, and what time in history they live. Or, as some believe, truth is relative. Truth is whatever a person wants it to be. To borrow an Oprah Winfrey phrase, truth is whatever you believe to be true. It's 'your truth' not 'the truth'!

Through the working of the Spirit of Christ I have come to believe in absolute truth. Or in different words, I have come to believe in the One who is the Truth. (John 14:6). So, I ask Him to give us discernment in these times to know what is true and what is not true and the courage to speak and live the truth. Come what may!

**I'm indebted to Warren W. Wiersbe for the outline and the perspective of seeing the issue of truth in these verses.*

*In Jesus' love,
Pastor John*

The value of solid relationships



"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

"Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total."

—Alistair Begg, *Made for His Pleasure*

"I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."

—Mother Teresa

"The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back."

—Abigail Van Buren

"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."

—Thomas Merton

Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing.

Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

Blessed with work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God."

In what ways are you "blessed with work"?

—Janna Firestone

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

Present: Moderator Pastor John Ziulkowski: Erika Wittman, Carleen, Dan, Shockey, Sandra, Clayville, Dale Martin and Carleen Clayville.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Pastor John lighted the Christ Candle, gave a short meditation, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Quorum present.

Clerks Report:

Membership report: 58 Members.

Communion was served to 34, on August 4.

Pastor John reported: he needed pulpit supply on September 8, September 15. Michael Barrett will teach on September 8th.

The Memorial for Elizabeth Sensenbaugh will be held on August 23 at 11:00 am, at our Church.

Deacon's: are actively doing their Deacon Duties, the Annual Session/Deacon Training was held on August 14th.

Christian Ed and Worship: Christian Ed Classes will begin on Sept. 8.

Finance reports: July Tithes = \$4,848.00,
July Expenses = \$7,216.60. YTD Tithes \$52,412.00
YTD Expenses \$48,823.56.

Fellowship: Upcoming – Cupcake Sunday on Sept. 1, Potluck dinner on Sept. 15.

Building & Grounds: Handicap parking still needs to be painted. Jeff Broadhead has cleaned the carpets, and re-finished the tile floors, and done a beautiful job.

New Business: Clerk of Session: Still needed, Dan and Carleen are doing a great job filling in.

Calendar items: Next Session meeting is on October 9, 2024.

Meeting closed at 8:16 p.m. with a motion given by consensus. Closing prayer given by Pastor John.

Respectfully submitted by
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



A National Campout

Rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. [Leviticus 23:40](#)

We camped under the stars, with nothing between us and the infinite West African sky. No need for a tent in the dry season. But the fire was crucial. “Never let the fire go out,” Dad said, prodding the logs with a stick. Fire kept wildlife at a distance. God’s creatures are wonderful, but you never want a leopard or a snake meandering through your campsite.

Dad was a missionary to Ghana’s Upper Region, and he had a knack for turning everything into a teaching moment. Camping was no exception.

God used campouts as a teaching point for His people too. Once a year, for an entire week, the Israelites were to live in shelters made of “branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees” (Leviticus 23:40). The purpose was twofold. God told them, “All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt” (vv. 42-43). But the event was also to be festive. “Rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days” (v. 40).

Camping may not be your idea of fun, but God instituted a one-week campout for the Israelites as a joyful way to recall His goodness. We easily forget the meaning at the heart of our holidays. Our festivals can be joyous reminders of the character of our loving God. He created fun too. *By Tim Gustafson*

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE LESSONS

from the Lectionary

SEPTEMBER 1 [Communion Sunday]
S. of Sol. 2:8-13; Ps. 45:1-2, 6-9;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SEPTEMBER 8
Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps. 125;
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

SEPTEMBER 15
Prov. 1:20-33; Ps. 19;
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38



SEPTEMBER 22
Prov. 31:10-31; Ps. 1;
James 3:13-4:3-7; Mark 9:30-37

SEPTEMBER 29
Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-23 Ps. 124;
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

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



Sunday School Resumes on
September 8, 2024 at 9:30am.
Join us—there's always room
for more!



Saturday, September 14,
2024 at 10:00am



The Deacons will hold their annual
Fall Yard Sale October 25 –26, 2024.
Please start bringing your donations to
the church the **first of October**. If you
need help with large items please
contact a Deacon.



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

03 Marlene Temple
03 Dustin & Laura Suhr
04 Lyle Smith
15 Walt Fisher
17 Sharon Napier
22 Shana Thomas
23 Carolyn Iverson
27 Tom & Jenna Clayville
28 Cynthia Bennett
28 Jasper Moser
28 Alvin & Marlene Temple
30 Aaron Ziulkowski
30 John William Tudor Ziulkowski

God Bless Your Special Day!

September Servers ~ Thank You!

Head Usher: Sandra Clayville **Head Greeter:** The Morgan's

Liturgist: 9/1 Dan S. 9/8 _____, 9/15 Dan S, 9/22 _____, 9/29 Dan S

Coffee Hour: 9/1 Fellowship, 9/8 _____, 9/15 Wittman's 9/22 Carolyn Iverson 9/29 _____



2024 Year to Date Tithes & Expenses

July

Tithes \$4,848.00
Expenses \$9,266.60

YTD Totals:

Tithes \$52,412.00
Expenses \$48,823.56

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)



SEPTEMBER

2024

August 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

October 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 Season of Peace begins 10:45 am Worship, Communion & Cupcake Sunday	2  LABOR DAY	3	4	5 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6	7
8 9:30 am Sunday School Resumes 10:45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Deacons meet	9	10	11 No Session this Month	12 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13	14 10:00am CROP Hunger Walk 
15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Pulpit Supply: Mason Wittman	16	17	18	19 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20	21 10:00 am PW Meeting and Fall Planning 
22 First Day of Autumn 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	23	24	25	26 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	30					

The gift of work



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!

Presbyterian Women in the News

The Burley Presbyterian Women held their Annual Ecumenical Summer Brunch on Saturday, August 3, 2024, after skipping one year (2023). As I have mentioned many times, this brunch has a long history at Burley Presbyterian PW. We had almost 30 women attending, with 2 special guests from the Boise Presbytery Women. At this point we, (the Kendall Presbytery and the Boise Presbytery are considering joining forces, to make a stronger Presbytery!) We had a lovely time and served a salad bar with all the trimmings, fruit, rolls and cookies.

Our special program was by Master Quilt Designer, Cynthia Fuelling, who has a history with our congregation, and is a member of The Mount Harrison Quilt Guild, who meet monthly in our church. She is a very prolific quilter and designer and has an Etsy shop to sell her quilts. She displayed a dozen or more of her beautiful creations. We had visitors from the Methodist Church, Burley and Rupert. The Christian Church/Praise Chapel in Rupert, plus our own Burley PW. It was great to Fellowship with these lovely ladies, and all had a good time!

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, September 21, at 10 am. We will be planning our fall activities, such as the annual Thank Offering, and our Noodle making. Please join us, we'd love to have you participate!

In Christ's Love,
Carleen Clayville, Moderator



OCTOBER

06: World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering
06: Cupcake Sunday
09: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (Oct. 9—10)
09: Session 7:00pm
13: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
13: Michael Barrett Teaching
14: Noodle Making Week—Helpers Needed!!!
24: Deacon's Fall Yard Sale (Oct. 25—26)
26: Presbytery Meeting, Pocatello

NOVEMBER

03: Daylight saving time ends
03: Communion Sunday
03: Stewardship Commitment Sunday
03: Baked Potato & Pie Bar after worship
05: Election Day *we are a polling place
10: Stewardship Dedication Sunday
10: Michael Barrett Teaching
24: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 15th
24: Operation Christmas Child Nat'l Collection Week (18—25)
24: Hanging of the Greens—TBA
28: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed ~Happy Thanksgiving!

DECEMBER

01: 1st Sunday of Advent
01: Hanging of the Greens—TBA
08: Christmas Brunch after worship
15: Christmas Caroling 3:00pm
21: PW Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap
24: Christmas Eve; Candlelight Service—TBA
25: Christmas Day ~ Merry Christmas!

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Wow, where has this summer gone? It's been hot, smokey and a little unbearable! Your Finance Committee wants to thank all you dedicated members who are so faithful in supporting our beautiful Church and congregation with your muscle power, to help with the many projects we have to keep everything going as smooth as possible. We have had to wish our sound man, Victor Pugh, best wishes at BSU this year. He's been very dedicated for anything we have needed, and we will miss him, with his smile and the many plays and musical programs he's participated in! Best Wishes, Victor, we are proud of you and know you will do awesome! We also appreciate you, our congregation supporting our church financially! We are all in this together and we can do great things! We do miss you when you don't attend. We offer many prayers to our friends and members who are hurting, please check out our prayer list in the bulletin every Sunday and please remember to keep them and us in your thoughts and prayers.

In Christ's Love,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 1 - Cupcake Sunday
Sept. 15 - Potluck after Worship

Please join us for worship and coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey



"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."
—Emily Dickinson

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."
—Anthony J. D'Angelo

"The only thing of importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind."
—Albert Schweitzer

"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished."
—Lao Tzu

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

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



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

Let the heavens rejoice, let the
earth be glad; let them say among
the nations, "The **LORD** reigns!"

1 CHRONICLES 16:31

SEPTEMBER 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.