

Lord, you have been our dwelling  
place throughout all generations.

**PSALM 90:1**

# The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
BURLEY, IDAHO SEPTEMBER 2025

## UNCHANGING

As I write this article in the past, I have no way of knowing if the weather has cooled down enough to be considered “fall.” I keep considering whether or not to wish you a “happy autumn” or a “blessed late-summer,” because I know that Idaho weather is anything but predictable. As much as things are constantly changing, there are still things that are as sure as night following day. Kids are back in school with teachers attempting to keep their attention. The Christmas aisle at Hobby Lobby is creeping its way to the front of the store. The NFL season is beginning, the same season that will determine the mental health of the Wittman Household. As much as things change, there are always constants. The big constant? That would be God, of course!

In his letter to the Hebrews, the author writes, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb. 13:8) What a comfort this is! The same God that sustained us in our youth, strengthens us today, and holds all of our tomorrows loves us with a love that is *unchanging*.

Nothing surprises Him, and nothing for Him is unexpected. Even as our families, bodies, world, and hearts change, we still have the same God that sees us through.

Why is this important to keep in mind? I’m glad you asked! As I said before, the world is full of things that are constantly changing. No matter how hard we try to fight it, time is ticking into the future, and the world around us and the being inside of us is constantly evolving (and God willing, improving in His image). No matter how advanced technology gets or how many wrinkles we have on our faces, the nature and character of our creator is unchanged. God has a plan for you and wants you to be filled with His love, salvation, grace, and peace. It’s the same love, salvation, grace, and peace that He’s offered all of His creation, forever!

Whether you’re reading this in fall weather or the never-ending heat of summer, take advantage of God’s unchanging character in a world that changes every second.

In His love,  
Mason Wittman



## The significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."

## Second fiddle

A fan once asked conductor Leonard Bernstein what instrument is hardest to play. "Second fiddle," he quickly replied. "I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm ... now that's a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

The church certainly needs both leaders and followers. And everyone should be flexible and ready to pivot quickly.

It's also important to have other arrows in our quiver — something biblical figures often demonstrated, according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. Although Amos was a high-profile prophet, he probably intended to return to being a shepherd and tending sycamore trees. Nehemiah, the emperor's cupbearer, had a second chapter helping to restore Jerusalem's walls and greatness. The apostles also had multiple roles, with careers in fishing and tax collecting before they left to follow Jesus.

What might your next life-chapter look like? How can you use it to bring glory to God?

### Christ is enough

Though never ordained, H.A. Ironside (1876-1951) was a prolific Bible teacher and preacher. Inspired by Dwight L. Moody, he began delivering sermons at age 16. While still a teenager, he worked his way up to captain in the Salvation Army. But he soon had a breakdown from preaching more than 500 messages per year — and from feeling burdened by sin.

After Ironside recovered, his ministry blossomed. He pastored Moody Church in Chicago for 18 years while continuing his evangelistic travels. Most importantly, he learned to rely on Christ alone, not on his own merit.

"Christ *and* ... is a perverted gospel, which is not the gospel," wrote Ironside. "Christ without the *and* is the sinner's hope and the saint's confidence." He concluded, "For salvation itself, Jesus is not only necessary, but he is enough."

## The Quiet Place of Prayer

**P**rayer is worship. Our praying should be full of adoration, affection, and fondness for God—that He is who He is; that He created us in order to have someone on whom He could shower His love; that He stretched out His arms on the cross; that He intends, in the fullest sense, to make whole men and women out of us. In worship, as the old word *worth-ship* implies, we declare what we value the most. It's one of the best ways in the world to love God.

Prayer is the highest expression of our dependence on God. It's asking for what we want. We can ask for anything—even the most difficult things. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (PHILIPPIANS 4:6). Anything large enough to occupy our minds is large enough to hang a prayer on.

Prayer, however, by its nature is *requesting*. It's not insisting or clamoring. We can make no demands of God or deals with Him. Friends don't make demands. They ask and then wait. We wait with patience and submission until God gives us what we request—or something more.

Prayer is asking for understanding. It's the means by which we comprehend what God is saying to us in His Scriptures. Prayer focuses and unites our fragmented hearts.

In the quiet place of prayer, God comforts, instructs, and listens to us. There we learn to love and worship Him.

Excerpted and adapted from *Seeing God* by David Roper.  
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# Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met August 13, 2025. The Elders present: Moderator Elder, John Ziulkowski, Dan Shockey, Sandra Clayville, Kristi Pugh, Mason Whittman, Carleen Clayville and Dale Martin.

Moderator, John opened the meeting with prayer. The clerk's report was accepted. There are 61 members on the active roll. Communion was served on Sunday, July 6, 2025, and August 3, 2025 to 35 in attendance, 0 shut ins. The minutes of the previous meeting and a called meeting on June 22, 2025, with a motion by Dale Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> MSC.

Moderator John reported: Mason Whittman Pastor Intern will be in the office one day a week and remotely and Dale will add Mason's name on the outdoor sign. John will continue to do visits, funerals, and weddings. Mason and Paul will be sharing the pulpit. Mason is registered for Fall semester at the Pittsburg Theological Seminary. Paul Pugh is registered for classes to become a Commission Ruling Elder. Mason & Alicia are planning a Care Pkg for all Elementary Teachers in the Burley Schools. A list is available, for money & items.



## Young at heart

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their steps are short like mine.  
They don't say, "Now hurry up."  
They always take their time.

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their eyes see things like mine do ...  
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,  
Half-hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,  
They do not stop and see.  
I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma  
Unrushed and young like me.

—Author unknown

Deacon's: reported their Yard Sale will be Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. They need your help!

Christian Ed & Worship: Need a Pianist/Organist, as Susan isn't able to provide music for Worship any longer.

Finance: July Tithings \$ 7638.77, Expenses \$ 6310.45, YTD \$ 87810.27, \$48394.04.

Fellowship: Cupcake Sunday, Aug 3, and Sep. 7.

Building and Grounds: Internet needs built up, and there are 2 new fire extinguishers and 1 refurbished one.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



As summer break winds down across Idaho, school buses will soon be a common sight on neighborhood roads. Law enforcement officials are reminding drivers about the importance of following safety rules around school buses to protect children.

# SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE LESSONS

## *from the Lectionary*

### SEPTEMBER 7

Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 45:139:1-6,13-18;  
1 Philem. 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

### SEPTEMBER 14

Jer. 4:11-12,22-28; Ps. 14;  
1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

### SEPTEMBER 21

Jer.8:18-9:1; Ps. 79:1-9;  
1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

### SEPTEMBER 28

Jer. 32:1-3a,6-15; Ps. 91:1-6,14-16;  
1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

*"And what greater calamity can fall  
upon a nation than the loss of worship."*

*— Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Remember to pray for church members and friends  
that are mentioned every Sunday during worship.  
Many are dealing with severe health issues.

If you are in need of prayer  
please let us know, we'd be happy to pray for you.



The Deacons will hold their annual Fall Yard Sale  
October 17—18, 2025. Please start bringing your  
donations to the church the first of October. If you  
need help with large items please contact a Deacon.

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Saturday, September 13,  
2025 at 10:00am

## 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!*

**YOUR GIVING  
MATTERS!**

**2025 Year to Date  
Tithes and  
Expenses**

**July**

Tithes \$7,689.77  
Expenses \$6,310.45

**YTD Totals:**  
Tithes \$57,610.27  
Expenses \$48,394.04

## 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



August 2025							October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27	28	29	30	31
31													

# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	5	6
7 Season of Peace begins 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship, Communion / Cupcake Sunday	8	9	10 Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event 7:00 pm Session	11 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	12	13 10:00am CROP Hunger Walk
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Deacons meet	15	16	17	18 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	19	20 10:00 am PW Meeting & Fall Planning
21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Potluck lunch	22 	23	24	25 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	26	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	29	30	September Servers ~ Thank You!  <b>Head Usher:</b> Sandra Clayville <b>Head Greeter:</b> The Morgan's <b>Liturgist:</b> 9/7 Dan S. 9/14 ____ 9/21 Dan S, 9/28 ____ <b>Coffee Hour:</b> 9/7 Fellowship, 9/14 ____, 9/21 ____, 9/28 ____			

## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

There is a chance to help at Camp Sawtooth for everyone connected to the Burley Church in October. You can arrive at camp on Thursday night October 9. The first six to sign up will have Turner Rest accommodations, with indoor plumbing, if you qualify. I will look at age of all who attend. You will work at Camp on Friday, on Saturday you can go to the Trailing of the Sheep events in Hailey, be home Saturday night and to church in Burley on Sunday.

Any questions, please contact Russell Morgan 208-219-0192





## Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God's ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

# Presbyterian Women in the News

Presbyterian Women:  
Stronger and Better Together.

Connectionalism, though not mentioned in the book of Order, underlies Presbyterian Church (USA) structure, polity and theology. Our connectivity is based in our relationship to each other as we live our communal worship—a worship that has us confess together before we all, with educated brains, engage the Word, where we all come to the table together. We in the Burley Presbyterian Women group, are a caring group, working together for the one common purpose.

And speaking of that, we are planning our annual Noodle making activity, and are looking at mid -October to start this process! As you probably know, this money we raise, selling homemade noodles, makes our Mission payment donation, plus gifts for the Pastor and staff at Christmas! It is a hard week, and all who help are very much appreciated (and fed well!).

We will announce the date as soon as possible—so you can get it on your calendars!

With appreciation in Christ's name,  
Carleen Clayville, PW Moderator



Lots of Ladies attended the annual  
Presbyterian Women's Ecumenical Brunch  
Saturday, August 2, 2025



# Committee Reports



## FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Sept. 07 - Cupcake Sunday  
Sept. 21 - Potluck lunch

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey

## FINANCE REPORT

Eternal God,  
you call us to ventures  
of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Pray this prayer at some point in the coming days  
as you glimpse a sunrise, a sunset, the moon  
overhead, a walk at the beach, as you sit for a cup  
of coffee, at your next family or community  
gathering."

In Joy and Justice, Amen

From your Finance Team, in Christ's Love  
Carleen Clayville

The LORD will guide you always ...  
You will be like a well-watered garden.  
**ISAIAH 58:11**



Ordination and Installation of John Ziulkowski  
as Elder and Installation of Julie Germann as  
Deacon Sunday, August 3, 2025

## OCTOBER

05: World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering  
05: Cupcake Sunday  
08: Session 7:00pm  
09: Camp Sawtooth Work Weekend (9-11)  
12: Pastor Appreciation Sunday  
17: Deacon's Fall Yard Sale (17—18)  
Noodle Making Week—TBA  
25: Presbytery Stated Meeting 10:00am  
26: Reformation Sunday

## NOVEMBER

02: Daylight saving time ends  
02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday  
02: Stewardship Commitment Sunday  
04: Election Day \*Remember to Vote!\*

09: Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
12: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (12—13)  
12: Session 7:00pm  
17: Operation Christmas Child Nat'l Collection Week (17—24)  
27: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed  
30: 1st Sunday of Advent  
30: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 21  
30: Hanging of the Greens—TBA

## 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

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



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

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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.*

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in him  
**ROMANS 15:13**

SEPTEMBER  
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.