

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers
of living water will flow from within them.
JOHN 7:38

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLEY, IDAHO JANUARY 2025

Looking Backward and Forward

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus. Janus is pictured as a man with two faces. One face is looking backward and the other forward. The beginning of a New Year is a time to review the past and to plan for the future.

The Annual Reports 2024 is a look backward. Each report is a snapshot of what was done by the different leadership teams ... Deacons, Building & Grounds, Fellowship, Worship, and Christian Education, Presbyterian Women, etc.

Looking forward to 2025, the Bible teaches the future is in God's loving hands. So, we are committing all plans, goals, hopes, dreams to the Lord Jesus. Acknowledging, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15). And praying, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven."

In keeping with the Lord's will, Dr. Paul Pugh has been approved by the Kendall Presbytery to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Dr. Pugh will be required to be under the care of a Minister of Word and Sacrament, and to complete a number of Master Level classes. What will this mean? Dr. Pugh will be able to provide "limited pastoral service" for First Presbyterian Church, Burley.

In keeping with the Lord's will, Mason Wittman, believes he has been called by the Lord Jesus to become a "Minister of the Word and Sacrament" (also called, teaching elder and pastor). Becoming an ordained Presbyterian Minister is a journey of many steps. But as the Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." What will this mean for our church family? The opportunity and privilege of praying for Mason and Alicia in the adventure of becoming equipped to lead God's people in worship, to teach the Bible, to provide pastoral care, and so much more.

May God's perfect will unfold in 2025!

In Jesus' Name,
Pastor John



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

God's constant new work

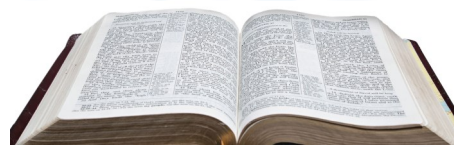
From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

A prayer for spiritual growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.
When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.
When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.
When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.
Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



Did You Know That:

- * Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- * Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible
- * Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- * The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
- * If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- * 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the Bible?
- * Should the central verse not have an important message?

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

- Psalm 118:8

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on December 11, 2024. Present: Moderator Pastor John Ziulkowski; Erika Wittman, Carleen Clayville, Sandra Clayville, Dale Martin, and Dan Shockey. Mason Wittman, guest.

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

Clerks Report: Carleen for Clerk
Membership roll: 59
No Baptisms, Weddings, Memorials.
Communion Report: 32. No shut ins.
Clerks Report accepted with a motion by Dan, 2nd, voted, passed. Approve previous minutes, approve with corrections by session, motion by Dan, 2nd, voted, passed.

Pastors Report: Pastor John Michael Barrett plans for 2025, he is unavailable, Jan. & Feb. 2025.

Mason Wittman will lead Christmas play on 12/15, and the Christmas Eve service on 12/24. Paul Pugh will fill the pulpit on 12/29, as Pastor John will be gone.

Fellowship: Sandra Caroling on 12/15. Cupcake Sunday, 1/5/25.

Building & Grounds: Dale
New irrigation control needed.

Mission, Outreach & Church Growth:
Mission Payments and 2nd half of Per Capita paid.

Adjourn the meeting: Motion to adjourn by Erika, MSG. Time 8:45 pm
Closing Prayer: Mason Wittman

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



Thank
You!


Thank you for all the
Christmas cards and gifts!
You are all too kind!

Blessings,
Barbra

All about attitude

"The way you say 'representative' to an automated system reflects the real you," a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized *everything* I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn't be "foul or abusive" but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I'm peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I'm not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God's prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- *I'm alone* can become *God is with me.*
- *I can't do this* can become *Anything is possible with God.*
- *I'm failing* can become *Just because I'm struggling, it doesn't mean I'm failing.*
- *I'm not enough* can become *I'm God's beloved child.*
- *I'm tired* can become *God will give me rest.*

Don't stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes. —Janna Firestone



January Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

January 5 [Communion Sunday]

Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20;
Eph. 1:3-14; John 1: 1-18

January 12 [Baptism of the Lord]

Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29;
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19

Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10;
1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 26

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19;
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



Bring a Friend This Sunday

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, Dan Wittman,
Gary Hollinger, Susi McCall,
Sharon Napier and
Jeanetta Fortier (in training)



2024 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

November

Tithes \$4,7252.00
Expenses \$7,753.09

YTD TOTALS

Tithes \$72,206.06
Expenses \$81,159.00



Birthdays

03 David Shockey
03 Cecil Napier
06 Theodore Bennett
10 Erika Wittman
15 Kristi Pugh
16 Melissa Fuelling
16 Willow & Wrenly Bennett
19 Judy Morse
19 Susan Shockey
22 Pam Hoffbuhr
28 Dan Shockey
29 Monday Matlock
30 Zoey Germann

God Bless Your Special Day!

December 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				

January 2025

February 2025						
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	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JANUARY SERVERS—THANK YOU! Head Usher: Carleen Clayville Head Greeter: The Frazier's Liturgist: 05 _____, 12 Dan S., 19 _____, 26 Dan S. Coffee Hour: 05 Fellowship, 12 _____, 19 _____, 26 _____			1 New Year's Day Office Closed <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3	4
5 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship/ Communion & Cupcake Sunday	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8 7:00 pm Session	9 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Gideons presentation Deacons meet	13	14	15 Annual Reports Due Newsletter Articles Due	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17	18 10:00am Birthday Party for Willow & Wrenly-TBA
19 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	20	21 Newsletter Article Deadline	22	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24	25
26 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after worship	27	28	29	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31	

We wish you a Happy and
Joyous New Year!





Christmas Eve Service 2024

Character change

Scripture 2 Peter 1:3-11

Family gathered around the bed of Dominique Bouhours, a seventeenth-century grammarian who was dying. As he took his final breaths, he reportedly said, “I am about to—or I am going to—die; either expression is correct.” Who would care about grammar on their deathbed? Only someone who cared about grammar his entire life.

By the time we reach old age, we’re largely set in our ways. We’ve had a lifetime for our choices to harden into habits that calcify into character—good or bad. We are who we’ve chosen to become.

It’s easier to develop godly habits while our character is young and flexible. Peter urges, “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love” (2 Peter 1:5-7). Practice these virtues, and “you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (v. 11).

Which traits in Peter’s list are most alive in you? Which qualities still need work? We can’t truly change who we’ve become, but Jesus can. Ask Him to transform and empower you. It may be a slow, arduous journey, but Jesus specializes in providing exactly what we need. Ask Him to transform your character so you become more and more like Him.

Reflect & Pray

Which trait would you most like to change? How can you seek God’s power and provision and begin to change?

*Mike Wittmer
Our Daily Bread writer*



NOODLE MAKING REPORT 2024

The Presbyterian Women held 3 noodle making sessions, which with bagging made 6 days of work by many willing hands of the congregation. The first session was held on Monday November 18th. Carleen made soup for lunch, and then we started the dough making, rolling and cutting process. We were able to do 110 dozen eggs for a total of 377 one pound bags. We alternated making dough and bagging from Monday November 10 to Saturday November 23, 2024.

The total count was 377 bags with 178 fine and 199 wide noodles. 110 dozen jumbo eggs and about 325 lbs. flour. Cost for flour was \$158.42, eggs \$511.87, Ziplock bags \$53.06. Total cost \$723.35. Selling prices will be \$10.00 per bag this year. Noodles will be for sale December 13 from 10am—2pm, otherwise by appointment.

We had great support from the men and women of the congregation. It is a lot of work, but the fellowship and food are great too.

Thanks again to all who volunteered!

Helpers this year: Dale Martin, Julie Germann, Darla Kidd, Bonnie Stanley, Becky Smith, Carlyn Campbell, Debi Barnes, Sandra Clayville, Linda Smith, Susi McCall, Linda Culley, Sharon Napier, Becky Lindsay, Jeff Critchfield, Dan Shockey, Jolene, and Gay Fisher.

Thank you again!



Presbyterian Women in the News!

A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies. Her
husband has full confidence in her and
lacks nothing of value.

PROVERBS 31:15

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF BURLEY

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.

Yours in Christ's Service
Carleen Clayville, Moderator

Burley Presbyterian Women,

Thank you all so much for your donation!
We are so grateful for community support
like yours! You offer light and hope in times
of darkness for so many survivors.

Happy Holidays,
Voices Against Violence

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all who returned their pledge and talents form this past month. We appreciate you! If you have yet to return yours, and wish to, please contact anyone on the committee or Session. **We take very seriously the commitment of being a good steward of the church's (and your) money.** It is not an easy job, as it seems there is always upkeep and repairs to pay for. Please pray for your Session and Deacons as we plan the budget for the year 2025.

With God's blessings
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP

Jan. 5th - Cupcake Sunday
Jan. 19th - TBD

New Year with new opportunities to host coffee hour or just bring treats to share.

Sign up sheet on kitchen door.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey



FEBRUARY

02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
12: **Session 7:00pm**
15: PW Valentine Brunch—TBA

MARCH

01: Presbytery Stated Meeting via ZOOM
02: Transfiguration of the Lord
02: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
04: Shrove Tuesday
05: Ash Wednesday
07: World Day of Prayer
09: Daylight saving time begins
09: 1st Sunday in Lent
12: Lenten Luncheons begin—TBA
12: **Session 7:00pm**
16: 2nd Sunday in Lent
20: First Day of Spring
23: 3rd Sunday in Lent
30: 4th Sunday in Lent

Thank you to
the faithful
volunteers who
keep our walks
shoveled!



Thank you for all the ways you show your love for Linda and I. The list of the things you do is a long one. It includes: Christmas cards, cookies, ornaments, nativities, puzzles, gift of money form PW, and so much more. Of course, the greatest gift you give us each year is your faithful participation in Christ's work in and through Burley First Presbyterian Church.

Pastor John and Linda,

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: 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.*

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

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



Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and you will be saved.
Acts 16:31



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, on March 8, 2011, 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.