



The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Love God
Love others
It's that simple!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BURLEY, IDAHO FEBRUARY 2025



Hello, church family!

I would like to take a moment and thank you for all of the support and prayers that I have received during my journey into ministry. It has been at times frustrating, inspiring, slow, and fast. It has meant so much to me that my home church has supported me in so many of my endeavors. Within the walls of the First Presbyterian Church of Burley, I have been baptized along with my sister and father, received my Eagle Scout, awarded scholarships for higher education, married to my fantastic wife, and now uplifted by the congregation to continue seeking a future in ministry.

If there is anything that I've learned from my few months of research into the process of becoming an ordained minister, it's that this is not a quick process. I would humbly continue to ask for your prayers as Alicia and I navigate all of the changes that are coming our way. In the spirit of transparency, I would like to let you all know where I am in the process.

The way that the Presbyterian Church U.S.A operates is through multiple bodies of government that are assigned regionally. As you may know, we are members of the Kendall Presbytery.

Along with Kendall, the session and I have been submitting forms and applications for me to be recognized by the Presbytery as an "Inquirer." This stage of the process of ordination typically lasts for one year, and will show my intention to the church and the Presbytery as someone interested in becoming a "Minister of the Word and Sacrament." The other benefits of the title of Inquirer is that Theological Seminaries offer certain scholarships and discounts towards a Masters of Divinity degree, the degree that is expected of Ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

If I am approved as an Inquirer, that will allow me to chart the path to what school I plan on attending (preferably one with online/flex learning options.) In conversations with a friend that has gone through this process, she has helped me to be patient in the process, as well filled me with joy and excitement for the future.

I will keep you all updated, and I again thank you for your support.

*Blessings,
Mason Wittman*

"I am here"



In *Bread for the Journey*, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from “to be with” (con-) “the lonely one” (solus) — “one of the most important ways to care.” He writes, “Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see.”

Although consoling doesn’t necessarily remove someone’s pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means “to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don’t be afraid. I am here.’ That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.”

Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, “Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody’s business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, “It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors].”

Leave it to God

Fourth-century theologian Augustine urged again and again that we focus on practicing love in the here and now, not on worrying about our lives in the hereafter.

In *Beautiful Bodies*, Margaret Miles writes that especially regarding complicated doctrines like predestination and challenges like “The one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13), we can’t do anything *but* leave those to God. It’s impossible for humans to take responsibility for ourselves in such matters. If we could determine our afterlife destiny by means of effort, persuasion or bribery, self-pride would surely be the accompanying sinful result.

“In fact,” Miles writes, “preoccupation with one’s eternal destiny distracts from a Christian’s present business. ‘Leave it to God,’ St. Augustine said, and place your attention on living lovingly in the body of Christ here and now.”

All the ways God helps us

When young adults land in difficult situations and desperately call home, parents respond in various ways. They might remind their son or daughter of guidelines learned years back — behavior and problem-solving skills to get back on track. Or maybe parents direct their kids to a mentor, expert or resource for assistance. But if the crisis is severe, no doubt these loving parents hop in the car, or even on a plane, and go to their child. They embrace and support them, perhaps even taking initial steps to bring them through the chaos to a new beginning.

When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, exile and countless difficulties in between, God lovingly used each of these strategies. God reminded Israel of the Ten Commandments and other laws he gave to guide their life together. Sometimes he sent prophets and other leaders to direct the people into better ways and times. God does the same today, reminding us of Scripture’s guidance and sending us prophetic voices and wise leaders.

Above all, when nothing less would save people, ancient and modern, from the dangers of sin and death, God came to us as Jesus. God’s only Son walked with us, lived through our troubles alongside us, taught us new ways directly and brought us out of the problematic place where we were trapped and into a new beginning.

—Heidi Hyland Mann,
based on a sermon by Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. 5 Elders were present none absent. Pastor John lit the Christ candle and opened with prayers. Docket and Quorum were approved by consensus.

The temporary clerk reported there were 61 on the active roll. Communion was Served to 44 members and friends on January 5, 2025. Corrections were made to 12/11/24 minutes.

Pastor's Report: John's Terms of Employment were approved. John reported that he will be out of the country from 1/29—2/3/25. Mason Wittman's Terms of Employment were discussed and approved. Sandra Clayville volunteered to be the Session Liaison for Mason's Inquiry documentation. Ordination is tentatively scheduled for February, when Rev. Allison Maus, is available to officiate. John reported on the slow process of Paul Pugh becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Paul will need to complete boundary training, get a background check and take required online classes.

Deacon's Report: they continue to assist people who meet requirements. They purchased a Christmas tree for the church. Account balance as of 12/31/24: \$6,813.19

Presbytery Report: Russell provided the Session with a copy of the Presbytery of Kendal Financial Summary Report.

Christian Ed & Worship: Attendance for the adult Sunday School has reduced a bit, but still going well. It was discussed that perhaps Mason will go back with the kids to teach a children's Sunday School group, and/or conduct a youth group.

Stewardship & Finance: December tithes \$18,627.00, December expenses \$7,298.28. Dan is making preparation to change insurance companies for the church. A new copier was discussed, ours is old and slowing down. Dan presented prices and maintenance fees, and after discussion it was moved by Sandra and seconded by Dale to purchase a Kyocera copy machine from Yost.

Fellowship Committee: Cupcake Sunday is 02/02.

Building & Grounds: Dale changed all ballasts in the sanctuary. Dale reported that he is having difficulty finding a business to refill the church's fire extinguishers. He will keep looking.

Mission & Outreach: The Christmas Offering netted \$1,392.00, designated for Voices Against Violence.

Continuing to look for Clerk of Session, finalizing the yearly budget. Annual Congregational Meeting was January 26th.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor John at 6:21pm

Respectively Submitted,
Erika Wittman, Elder

I Can't Pray...

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said:

"Let me see if I've got this right.

"You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning.

"You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.

"You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job.

"You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams.

"You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or another language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

"You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

"You want me to do all this and then you tell me . . . I Can't Pray!

February Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

FEBRUARY 2

[Communion Sunday]
Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6;
1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

FEBRUARY 9

Isa. 6:1-13; Ps. 138;
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

FEBRUARY 16

Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1;
1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

FEBRUARY 23

Gen. 45:3-11, 15; Ps. 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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



2024 Year to Date
Tithes
and Expenses

December

Tithes \$18,627.00
Expenses \$7,298.28

YTD TOTALS

Tithes \$90,839.00
Expenses \$89,457.28

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

01 Dale Martin
01 Alvin Temple
03 Kathy Wetzstein
06 Kadance Walsh
07 Razzelle Palmer
09 Karl & Cynthia Fuelling
17 Gary Hollinger
18 Linda Hollinger
18 Jan Behr
24 Michael McCall
27 Julieann Germann
28 Tyson Germann

God Bless Your Special Day!

January 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	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

March 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	29
30	31					

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
February Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Linda Smith Head Greeter: Jeanetta Fortier Liturgist: 2/2 _____, 2/9 Dan S, 2/16 _____, 2/23 Dan S Coffee Hour: 2/2 Fellowship, 2/9 _____, 2/16 _____, 2/23 _____					1 10:00am Joint Presbytery Meeting via ZOOM	
2 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Communion / Cupcake Sunday 11:30—1:30pm Potato Bar Fundraiser @Praise Chapel Church	 3	4	5	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	7	
9 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Deacons meet	10	11	12 Quilt Guild Sew Day in a.m. 7:00 pm Session	13 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	14 Newsletter Articles Due	 15 10:00 am Presbyterian Women's Valentine Brunch
16 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	17	18	19	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	21 Newsletter Article Deadline	22
23 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	24	25	26	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts meet	28	

True love

Many of us celebrate Valentine’s Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine’s Day can be, it’s also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- “When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be.” —*Leo Tolstoy*
- “You don’t love someone because they’re perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they’re not.” —*Jodi Picoult*
- “Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.” —*Ann Landers*

We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine’s Day, if you don’t remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

“We love because God first loved us.” —1 John 4:19 (NCV)



Presbyterian Women In the News!



Honor her for all that her hands
have done, and let her works
bring her praise at the city gate.
- Proverbs 31:31

Attention

Burley Presbyterian
Women!

You are invited to attend
Our Annual
Valentine Brunch!

Sat. February 15, 2025
Time: 10 am

Please plan on attending,
Food, Fellowship, Fun!

We hope to see you there!

Dear Presbyterian Women,

On behalf of Hope Community Food
Pantry, we would like to thank you for
your donation.

This will help provide many meals to
those in need in our community.

God Bless you all!
Hope Community Food Pantry



Committee



FELLOWSHIP

Feb. 2 - Cupcake Sunday
Feb. 16 - Lunch after Worship.

The coffee hour sign up sheet on the kitchen door has lots of opportunities to host. Please consider adding your name.

Thank you!
Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey



Valentine's Day jokes for animal lovers

What did one sheep say to the other?
I love ewe!

And how did the other sheep respond?
You're not so baaa-d yourself.

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?
They are very scent-imental creatures.

What did the enamored deer say?
I'm very fawn-ed of you!

What question did the penguin ask on Feb. 14?
Waddle I do without you?

What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!

What did one bee say to the other?
I love bee-ing with you, honey!

Reports

FINANCE REPORT

"For God loves the one who gives gladly"
2 Corinthians 9: 7

Thank you for your generosity, loving support this past year, and turning in your pledge for the coming year. Pledges are important in the budget planning for 2025. If you have not turned in your pledge forms please do so ASAP either by placing them in the offering plate or by mailing them to the Church.

Our common faith in Jesus Christ brings us together, and our deeply committed people and their constant donations of time, talent and treasure, give the church life. Your contribution to the growth of the Church is greatly appreciated.

With God's Love and Prayers,
Your Finance Committee



LOOKING TOWARDS SPRING...

MARCH

- 01: Presbytery Stated Meeting via ZOOM
- 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 12 noon (2/12—3/9)
- 12: Session 7:00pm
- 16: 2nd Sunday in Lent
- 20: First Day of Spring
- 22: Records Review, Pocatello 10:00am
- 23: 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 23: Easter lilies on sale now thru April 13th
- 30: 4th Sunday in Lent

APRIL

- 06: 5th Sunday in Lent
- 06: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 09: Session 7:00pm
- 10: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild Spring Party 12 noon
- 13: Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)
- 17: Maundy Thursday; Service & Meal 6:00pm
- 20: Easter Sunday / Resurrection of the Lord
- 20: One Great Hour of Sharing

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

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

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



*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.*

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever
is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is
pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence and
if there is anything worthy of praise, think
about these things.*

Philippians 4:8

February
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.