

“Of one thing
I am perfectly sure:
God’s story never
ends with ashes.”
—Elisabeth Elliot



The Presbyterian *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BURLEY, IDAHO MARCH 2025

Hello, church family!

As our seasons change from winter to spring (or at least, that’s what we would expect of this time of year), I’d like to outline some of the changes happening in my life as well as our church.

We are blessed to have new attendees in our pews who have attended regularly to worship with us. We are also blessed to have new and returning members of our Elders and Deacons, providing solid governance and guidance to our church family. As the days get longer and the grass gets greener, I think it would be appropriate to compare the new growth of our church to the new growth of spring.

I’ve had many discussions with Pastor John about the liturgical calendar and the mirroring of biblical events to our earthly calendar. In our liturgical year, we are experiencing the hope of Jesus being spread far and wide in His time. We are watching the growth of Christianity through stories of love, acceptance, forgiveness, and charity; with these attributes blooming in Christ’s followers like the first flowers of spring.

I urge you to allow those attributes to bloom in your hearts and homes as well.

As far as my pastoral journey goes, I’m in a waiting period until May, when I can finally sign up for classes in the Fall. To clear up any confusion, I will be attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as a “Flex” student, meaning I will take the classes online through pre-scheduled zoom meetings, while also attending weekend events on campus twice a semester. I thank you for your continued prayers and support on my seminary journey.

It has been an honor to serve the church that has been such a large part of my life for so long. My goal has been to glorify God and help First Presbyterian Church of Burley grow, and with the guidance of Pastor John and Dr. Paul Pugh, I feel God moving in and through our church.

May the spirit of love, acceptance, forgiveness, and charity bloom in you through the grace of Christ Jesus!

*In His Love,
Mason Wittman*



Lenten Luncheons . . .

We will be holding our annual Lenten Luncheons again this year. Every Wednesday starting March 12 at 12 noon continuing for 5 weeks until April 9th. Everyone is invited to join us for a light lunch, and join in the discussion. There will be a freewill offering, with the donations going toward camp scholarships for young people wanting to attend Camp Sawtooth this summer.



“O God, you are my God; I seek you. ... Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you” (Psalm 63:1, 3, NRSV).

The Lenten desert



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition. In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”



Ordination & Installation of New Officers—February 9, 2025
Rev. Cathy Chisholm officiated

Ordination as Ruling Elder—Mason Wittman
Ordination as Deacon—Jeanetta Fortier

Installation Active Service:

Kristi Pugh, Elder
Pam Evans, Julie Germann, Deacons

Session Highlights


Greetings from the Session,

Session Highlights
ANNUAL MEETING
January 26, 2025

Pastor John called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. He then gave his annual report. These reports are available for all to read in the 2025 Annual Report. He mentioned that we have lost 3 of our long-time members, Elizabeth Sensenbaugh, Patsy Holsinger, and Kathy Rios. We also gained 3 new members, and we are very grateful for John and Nanette Eilers, and Jeanetta (Netta) Fortier joining our flock! Also, we have listened to Michael Barrett, from the Minico Christian Ed educate us a lot about the history of Christianity and the Bible. Our own Dr. Paul Pugh is studying to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder, (CRE). Also, Mason Wittman, who grew up in this church has joined the Ministry team, as he is preparing to become an ordained Presbyterian Minister! All great news for us!

All committee chairs then reported on the activities from their groups. The 2025 Budget was approved. Dan reported that the new Deacon's are Jeanetta Fortier, Julie Germann, and Pam Evans will join Susi McCall, Dan Wittman and Sharon Napier. The Elders are Sandra Clayville, Dan Shockey, Dale Martin, joined by Mason Wittman, and Kristi Pugh. Carleen Clayville will remain as Treasurer. One Elder is still needed on the Elders, and if you feel led, please contact Dan. All officers were approved in a motion by Dan Shockey, MSC by acclimation. Thanks to all who have and are serving! The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectively Submitted
Carleen Clayville,
for Clerk of Session

Lent
is
spring
training

Easter
IS OPENING DAY!

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING

Dan Shockey, chair of the Personnel and Nominating Committee, presented the nominees for the offices of Elder and Deacon. They are as follows:

ELDERS

Class of 2025
Sandra Clayville
Dan Shockey

Class of 2026
Dale Martin
Kristi Pugh

Class of 2027
Mason Wittman

DEACONS

Class of 2025
Susi McCall
Julie Germann

Class of 2026
Dan Wittman
Sharon Napier

Class of 2027
Jeanetta Fortier
Pam Evans

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dan Shockey, Dan Wittman, Pam Evans

*Thank you to these dedicated, hard working individuals.
They do a great job in minding the matters of the church.
They are careful stewards of church resources and
work hard to keep the church property in stellar condition.*

Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

March Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

March 2 [Transfiguration of the Lord]

Ex. 34:29-35; Ps. 99;
2 Cor. 3:12-42; Luke 9:28-43a

March 9 [1st Sunday in Lent]

Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16;
Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 16 [2nd Sunday in Lent]

Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27;
Phil. 3:17-41; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-43a

March 23 [3rd Sunday in Lent]

Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63: 1-8;
1 cor. 10:3-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 30 [4th Sunday in Lent]

Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32;
2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Daylight saving time begins March 9, 2025. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour the night before!



Philippians 1:7

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church, I have a grateful heart for your generosity to the Gideons. Your kindness will allow us to print and distribute Bibles.

Thank you again,
Terry Downs,
Gideon Presenter
Donation Received \$345.00



We will be selling Easter lilies again this year. The price is \$12.00 each. Order forms will be available March 23 thru April 13. Please have your order form and money in by April 13. Checks should be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and please specify it is for lilies. Remember to take your Easter lily home after Easter Sunday Service on Sunday, April 20th. *Thank you!*



**2025 Year to Date
Tithes and
Expenses**

January

Tithes \$5,873.50
Expense \$9,586.81

YTD Totals

**Tithes \$5,873.50
Expenses \$9,586.81**



02 Ginny Behr
08 Tanya Behr
08 Jena Clayville
08 Valerie Frazier
11 Mazie Moser
12 Laura Ziulkowski-Suhr
13 Dexter St. Amand
16 Simon & Varik Shockey
19 Sandra Clayville
28 Darla Holl
30 Jenny Grout

God Bless Your Special

Committee Chairpersons

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Dale Martin

FELLOWSHIP:

Sandra Clayville

FINANCE:

Carleen Clayville

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:

Dan Shockey

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:

DEACONS:

Susi McCall, Julie Germann,
Dan Wittman, Sharon Napier,
Jeanetta Fortier, and Pan Evans



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	

MARCH

April 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			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00am Presbytery Meeting via ZOOM
2 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship, Communion & Cupcake Sunday	3	4 Shrove Tuesday	5 Ash Wednesday	6 7:00 pm Scouts	7	8
9 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight saving time begins 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship, Deacons meet	10	11	12 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon 7:00pm Session	13 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00 pm Scouts	14	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship, St. Patrick's Day Potluck after worship	17	18	19 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon	20 7:00 pm Scouts	21	22 10:00am Records Review, Pocatello
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship, Easter lilies on sale now thru April 13th	24	25	26 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon	27 7:00 pm Scouts	28	29
30 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship,	31	March Servers ~ We Appreciate YOU! Head Usher: The Morgan's, Head Greeter: Dan Shockey Liturgist: 3/2 _____, 3/9 Dan S., 3/16 _____, 3/23 Dan S., 3/30 _____ Coffee Hour: 3/2 Fellowship, 3/9 Valerie, 3/16 Carolyn Iverson, 3/23 Eilers, 3/30 _____				



Presbyterian Women in the News!

Burley Presbyterian Church,
We are so humbled by your support
during the holiday season!

Because of the generosity of your
members, many survivors will
continue to receive life saving
services.

Thank you for making a meaningful
difference.

Voices Against Violence Shelter
Noemi Tuavet, Executive Director
Donation \$1,392.00

Presbyterian Women's Valentine Brunch—February 15, 2025



Tell your story

In his *Confessio*, St. Patrick shares his fascinating biography, placing Jesus at the center. Believers should follow suit, especially in a culture that is “ignoring and forgetting the Christian story,” states Father Billy Swan. At WordOnFire.org, the Irish Catholic priest writes:

“Our calling is to retell the greatest story ever told and to help people find their place within the drama in which God has created them to participate. Like St. Patrick, we retell that story not as detached bystanders but as witnesses whose lives have been changed by being drawn deeper into the dynamics of the great love story of God and his people.”

Patty Breen, a lay minister in Michigan, also finds inspiration from the fifth-century saint. “The journey and life story of St. Patrick invite us to wrestle with and consider these questions,” she writes. “Who is God for me? How do I contribute to the coming of the kingdom of God? What is God’s plan for my life? Where am I invited to serve?”

Writing down our own *Confessio*, or faith story, is “a way to remember and see God’s presence with you at each step of your life,” adds Breen, “even at times when you weren’t necessarily following God.”

Committee

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance team wants to thank all who have already paid their Per Capita apportionment for 2025. Our church has the responsibility to pay a Per Capita (per member) to support the Kendall Presbytery, Synod of the Pacific, and General Assembly each year. Of this amount (\$40.00 each Member this year), a large portion is returned to our Presbytery to support small churches, and special mission projects. Also, we want to thank all who took the time to fill out the Time and Talents form – to volunteer to support and help with the many tasks that are required to keep our beautiful church running smoothly, and to pledge financial support, if for some reason you missed our mailing of the form, and would like us to send you another one, please contact the office or anyone on the Finance team. Your support is important and helps keep our bills paid on time, and we thank God for each and every one of you!

In Christ's Service
Your Finance Team



As we continue through Lent – which means “spring” – prepare our heart-soil, dear Jesus, to sprout with new life and blossom in faith. Amen.

Two-way benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also – or perhaps even more so – received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

Reports



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

March 2 Cupcake Sunday
March 16 St Patrick's Day Potluck
After Worship

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey



LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL

02: Lenten Luncheon
06: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
06: 5th Sunday in Lent
09: Lenten Luncheons end
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
19: PW Birthday Offering 10:00am
20: Easter Sunday; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

MAY

01: National Day of Prayer
04: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
08: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (May 8–9)
11: Mother's Day
14: Session 7:00pm
17: PW Birthday Offering 10:00am
20: Election Day 8am–8pm *we are a polling place
26: Memorial Day

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

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

*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.*

“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart.”
JOEL 2:12 NIV

March 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.