



# The Presbyterian Messenger

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

He is not here;  
for He is risen, as He said.

**MATTHEW 28:6**

## EASTER SUNDAY IS A REMINDER

Are you ready for Easter Sunday? It arrives on April 20th. When our two children were preschool and elementary school age, getting ready for Easter included: new outfits, Easter baskets filled with chocolate bunnies and peeps, decorating hard boiled eggs, hunting for eggs hidden in the yard, attending Sunrise Service at Paul Cemetery, and a joy filled celebration at our church.

There is, however, more to getting ready for Easter Sunday. For followers of the Lord Jesus, Easter Sunday is a REMINDER that we don't need to be afraid of death! We don't need to be fearful about our own future death! We don't need to be filled with fear when we think about the future passing of our believing loved ones.

I'll be honest, however, I'm more than a little anxious about what my last days might look like. I pray that like Enoch, I will be going about the work of serving the Lord, and then I will be "no more, because God took (me)" to my heavenly home. Read *Genesis 5:21-24*. Or in my more fanciful dreams, like Elijah, I would be caught up in a tornado like wind into heaven. Read *2 Kings 2:1-12*. We can pray for a peaceful passing, knowing full well God may allow something different.

Now when it comes to my believing loved ones going to be with Jesus, I want to go first. I don't want to have to experience the sorrow and grief of saying an earthly goodbye. Again, the Lord may have other plans.

Back to death and the dying process.

Most of the time, we can successfully avoid thinking about the dying process and our final breath. But then, the Bully Death catches us as we are going about the everyday business of life and taunts us with the words: "You, too, will die someday!" Bully Death's goal is to make us so afraid of dying that we stop living.

As followers of Christ, we don't need to be afraid of the Big Bully. Why? Because we don't face him alone. We have a Big Brother. Read these words from *Hebrews 2:14-15* (The Message):

*<sup>14-15</sup> Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death.*

So, on Easter Sunday and every Sunday, Christians (that's us) gather to praise and worship our Big Brother Jesus! And to thank Him for defeating Bully Death, so that we don't need to be afraid of death—our own death and the death of our believing loved ones.

In Jesus' love,  
*Pastor John*

## "My Easter Dove"

There came a dove, an Easter dove,  
when morning stars grew dim;  
It fluttered round my lattice bars,  
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,  
aglow with dewy sheen;  
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,  
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts  
to calm my soul that day;  
I caught the meaning of the note,  
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!  
Above earth's storm and strife,  
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,  
of light and hope and life.

—Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1849-1916)

## THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

Don't say you're not important,  
It simply isn't true,  
The fact that you were born,  
Is proof, God has a plan for you.

The path may seem unclear right now,  
But one day you will see,  
That all that came before,  
Was truly meant to be.

God wrote the book that is your life,  
That's all you need to know.  
Each day that you are living,  
Was written long ago.

God only writes best sellers,  
So be proud of who you are,  
Your character is important,  
In this book you are the "Star."

Enjoy the novel as it reads,  
It will stand throughout the ages,  
Savor each chapter as you go,  
Taking time to turn the pages. :-)

## Christian symbol



**PALM BRANCH** — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.



## Bible Quiz



From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"

Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

# Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met Wednesday, March 5, 2025. There are 59 members on the active roll. Communion served on February 2 to 29 people and on March 2, 2025 to 34 people. The Pastor reported Mason Wittman has been accepted as an inquirer on March 1, at a joint meeting of the Kendall and Boise Presbyteries. Dr. Paul Pugh has been accepted into University of Dubuque Seminary Leadership Program.

Lenten luncheons started on Wednesday, March 12—April 9, 2025 at 12 noon. All are invited to attend and be served a light lunch and hear a short meditation.

Deacon's are actively doing their Deacon duties. They are planning a Chili Cook off in April.

Christian Ed and Worship: The Adult Sunday School is "Reading the Bible in 365 days" a challenging but good study! We could always make room for more! Teachers are still needed for the Youth Sunday School.

Personnel and Nominating: reported a new slate of Deacons, and Elders were installed! We still need 1 more Elder, if you feel led, please contact Dan Shockey.

Finance: The February tithes were: \$5,774.00, expenses were: \$5,194.92. Year to date \$11,647.00 exp. \$10,356.23.

Fellowship: Cupcake Sunday, April 6th, and Maundy Thursday Meal will be April 17.

Mission Outreach & Church growth: We are members of the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, a good way to have our Church name out in the public. Barbra sends notices and information to them to email the membership weekly.

Member concerns: Please be in prayer for all on our lists of concerns given weekly during the Sunday Service.

Respectively Submitted  
Carleen Clayville, for  
Clerk of Session



## IT IS TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

Camp Sawtooth is an opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through living in a close, caring community which studies, plays and worships together, encouraging self-awareness and caring for others.

Campers will enjoy a variety of activities while living and learning in a Christian environment. Each camp is unique with all campers enjoying a program specifically designed for them by our Program Staff. Activities include outdoor games and crafts, hiking and swimming, picnics, road trips and evening campfires. Each camp is special! For specific information on your camp access the following link: [www.campsawtooth.org](http://www.campsawtooth.org)

Deadline to register for Camp Sawtooth is May 15th. Camp begins June 22nd and ends July 18th. Camp Sawtooth is offering online registration, go to [www.campsawtooth.org](http://www.campsawtooth.org) and register today!

For additional questions please go online to [www.campsawtooth.org](http://www.campsawtooth.org) or call 208-726-1155

Applications are also available in the church office.

# April Scripture Lessons *from the* Lectionary

**April 7** [5th Sunday in Lent]  
Isa. 43:16-21; Ps 126;  
Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**April 13** [Palm Sunday]  
Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16;  
Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56  
or Luke 23:1-49

**April 20** [Easter Sunday]  
Acts 10:34-43; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Cor. 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

**April 27** [2nd Sunday of Easter]  
Acts 5:27-32; Ps. 118:14-29;  
Rev. 1:14-8; John 20:19-31



**HOSANNA!**  
PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 13, 2025  
Children will enter with  
Palm Branches



**Maundy Thursday  
Service & Meal**  
April 17, 2025 6:00pm



**Sunday April 20, 2025**  
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

## 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



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

03 Mason & Alicia Wittman  
08 Paul Wornell  
14 Asher Walsh  
19 Challin Raelynn Clayville  
24 Mathias Fuelling

*God Bless Your Special Day!*



**2025 Year to Date  
Tithes and Expenses**

**FEBRUARY**  
Tithes \$5,774.00  
Expenses \$5,194.92

**YTD Totals**  
Tithes \$11,647.50  
Expenses \$14,781.73

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					

# APRIL

May 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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4	5
6 <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Communion & Cupcake Sunday	7	8	9 12:00pm Lenten Luncheon  7:00 pm Session	10 12:00pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild Spring Party  6:00pm His Little Feet hosted by Kingdom Church in TF  7:00pm Boy Scouts	11	12
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>[Holy Week begins]</b> 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship Melissa Norton visiting Deadline to order Easter lilies Deacons meet	14	15	16	17  6:00pm <b>Maundy Thursday;</b> <b>Service &amp; Meal</b>  7:00pm Boy Scouts	18	19 10:00am PW Meeting and Birthday Offering 
20 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <i>Resurrection of the Lord</i> 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship and <b>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</b> Easter Treats after worship	21	22	23	24  7:00pm Boy Scouts	25	26
27 <b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Worship	28	29	30	<b>April Servers ~ We Appreciate YOU!</b> <b>Head Usher:</b> The Wittman's, <b>Head Greeter:</b> Dale Martin <b>Liturgist:</b> 4/6 Dan S., 4/13 _____, 4/20 Dan S., 4/27 _____ <b>Coffee Hour:</b> 4/6 Fellowship, 4/13 _____, 4/20 Fellowship, 4/27 _____		



## HOPE FOR HOLY WEEK

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

—Peter Sulzle



- ❖ “Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.”—Frederick Buechner
- ❖ “Where [humanity] sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.”—Albert Lighton
- ❖ “It’s not about the bunny; it’s about the Lamb.”—Unknown
- ❖ “There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”—Henry Matisse

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE NEWS!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 19, 2025  
at 10:00 am  
Our Annual  
PW Birthday Offering

We will have Birthday Cake,  
and encourage all to  
“Be Generously Old”  
and other fun things.

<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
<sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:  
<sup>29</sup> ‘Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.’  
<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to  
be praised.  
<sup>31</sup> Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city  
gates.



# Committee



## FELLOWSHIP REPORT

April 6- Cupcake Sunday  
April 17- Maundy Thursday dinner @ 6:00pm.  
April 20- Easter Sunday treats

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey



### MAY

01: Scholarship Applications Available (1—15)  
01: National Day of Prayer  
04: Communion/Cupcake Sunday  
08: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (8-9)  
11: Mother's Day  
14: Session 7:00pm  
15: Deadline to register for Camp Sawtooth  
20: Election Day \*we are a polling place  
24: Camp Sawtooth Work Weekend (24—26)  
26: Memorial Day

### JUNE

01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday  
08: Day of Pentecost  
08: Scholarship Presentation—TBA  
08: Memorial Service of Remembrance—TBA  
11: Session 7:00pm  
15: Father's Day  
21: First Day of Summer  
21: Presbytery Stated Meeting  
22: Camp Sawtooth begins

### JULY

04: Independence Day—Office Closed  
06: Communion / Cupcake Sunday  
09: Session 7:00pm  
18: Camp Sawtooth ends

# Reports

## A NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

If we allow God's love to fill us, we do not want for more. In this abundant joy, we are able to give freely and share his love with others. This joy and generosity is our greatest discipleship. Who can resist this love? As a church, we involve ourselves on our overflowing generosity. Our work in the community- for Mission Giving, the Hope Community Church Food Bank, and the Crop Walk, etc, is central to the way we define ourselves as a church. Surrounded by God's love embodied in our fellow parishioners, we feel abundant joy and our generosity flows over. Situating ourselves in this love, we can be our best selves. Working as a congregation, our pooled resources—our love, talent, commitment, and finances –allow us to magnify our joy and the mark it can make in our community. Your Finance Team is very thankful and blessed by your continued support, both in attendance and financial support!

In Christ's Service,  
The Finance Team



## Easter insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.

# A Broken Chrysalis

*by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson*

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.



Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death.

Because He lives, nothing is impossible.



*The Lord is Risen!*



**PASTOR:**  
Rev. John L. Ziulkowski

Pastor's office hours:  
Wednesdays 9:00am—1:00pm  
(also available by appointment)

Pastor's Email: [lrzski@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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

*The Presbyterian Messenger and  
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.*

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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for He is risen, as He said.

**MATTHEW 28:6**

April 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.