



# The Presbyterian *Messenger*

May [God] give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.  
EPHESIANS 1:17

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLEY, IDAHO OCTOBER 2024



## A Positive Role Model

Tony Dungy is a former football safety and coach. He was head coach in the NFL for 13 seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Indianapolis Colts. In an interview with *World* magazine, Dungy was asked if he was okay with being a role model. He said, "I've looked at it as a blessing from the Lord. He has put me here for a reason."

If the Bible personality Stephen was asked that question, I believe he would have said about the same thing Tony Dungy said. "I don't mind being a role model. The Lord has included my story in His book for a reason." What reason? So that we would have a positive role model for the Christian life.

From Stephen's story we see three character qualities of a mature Christian. They are:

### 1. A Spirit Controlled Life

The most important issue in a Christian's life is: "Who is in control?" Is the Spirit of Christ in control; or is self in control? If the Spirit is in control, our life will be in control. But if self—animated by sin and Satan—is in control, our life will be out of control. That's the way it works.

Stephen was a Spirit controlled Christian. Mature Christians allow Jesus to be in the driver's seat.

### 2. Available

A mature Christian is available to serve Jesus. Someone has said the greatest ability is availability. Stephen was available to serve in the early church's food distribution program.

### 3. Faithful


It's one thing to be available. It's another to faithfully complete the assignment. Some Christians are good starters. But poor finishers.

What were the results of faithful Stephen's service? Greater responsibility. An opportunity to preach and teach.

Stephen was faithful in caring for the widows in the early church. He believed the call to serve in this ministry that came through Jesus' body/church was from the Lord Jesus Himself. So, Stephen did the job with enthusiasm and energy because he knew he was working for the Lord Jesus and not for people. (Ephesians 6:5-8).

It's been said, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Deacon Stephen is a good role model. Like Stephen, may we be Spirit controlled, available to serve wherever the Lord Jesus assigns us, and faithfully do the work.

In Jesus love,  
*Pastor John*





# *I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers*

## **GOD'S PROMISES FOR CAREGIVERS**

*You* give so much. He will  
refuel and refresh you.

*Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*

**PROVERBS 11:25**

*He* answers your prayers and cares for you.

*I am the one who answers your prayers and  
cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green;  
all your fruit comes from Me.*

**HOSEA 14:8**

*You* are never, ever forgotten or alone.

*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*

**HEBREWS 13:5**

*He* honors the humble and lifts them up.

*Be humble in the presence of God's mighty power,  
and He will honor you when the time comes.  
God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to Him.*

**1 PETER 5:6-7**

*He* will lift you up when  
you feel overwhelmed.

*From the ends of the earth, I cry to You  
for help when my heart is overwhelmed.*

**PSALM 61:2**

## **The mess of mercy**

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. "How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?" he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. "Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this," he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

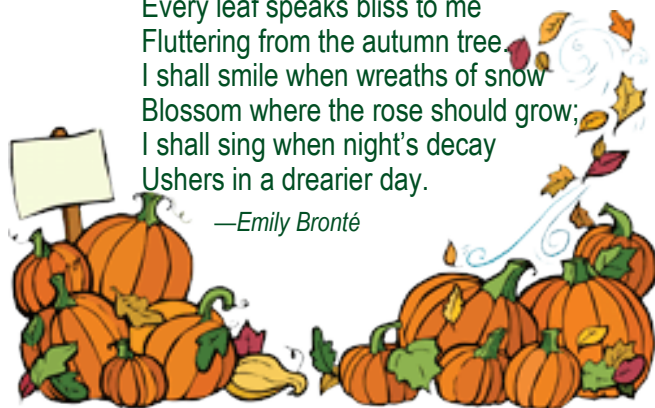
"Mercy is always a messy business," writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That's true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. "There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess," notes Price. "Reformation is always about clearing the path to God's radical grace."

## **An autumn poem**

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.  
I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Ushers in a drearier day.

—Emily Brontë

**"It is great wisdom to know how to be silent."  
—John of the Cross**





# No Job Too Small

In his book, *No Little People*, theologian Francis Schaeffer wrote: "In God's sight there are no little people and no little places... Those who think of themselves as little people in little places, if committed to Christ and living under His lordship in the whole of life, may, by God's grace, change the flow of our generation."

The attitude that our work is insignificant is common to homemakers, laborers, students, and countless others who serve quietly. When our efforts go unnoticed, we may feel like little people, filling little places, performing little deeds.

In Zechariah 4:9 we read that Zerubbabel had built the temple's foundation. Building foundations requires hard work and forward-looking faith.

Yet some considered Zerubbabel's work insignificant, so God challenged them: "Who despises the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10). God wanted them to go on laying brick upon brick, following Zerubbabel's example. They were to fulfill the task through the enablement of God's Spirit, not in their own power (v.6).

Are you doing "small things"? Be encouraged! God's eyes scan "throughout the earth" (v. 10). He notices the little things done for Him, and He will use them mightily.

THE DEWDROP DOES GOD'S WORK  
AS MUCH AS THE THUNDERSTORM

*Joanie Yoder*



In *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, Liz Curtis Higgs uses kid-friendly analogies for the Christian life. Many parents now use a Pumpkin Prayer while carving jack-o-lanterns in October. What a great reminder about everything God has done for us!

- While cutting off the pumpkin top, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you." (See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me forgive others." (See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me shine your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16.)
- Display your carved pumpkins as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)





# OCTOBER Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

**OCTOBER 6** [World Communion Sunday;  
Peacemaking Offering]

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Ps. 26;  
Heb. 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

**OCTOBER 13** [Pastor Appreciation]

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps. 22:1-15;  
Heb. 4:12-16; 2:5-12; Mark

**OCTOBER 20**

Job 38:1-7 (34-41), 16-17; Ps. 104:1-9, 24, 35c;  
Heb. 5:1-10; 2:5-12; Mark 10:35-45

**OCTOBER 27** [Reformation Sunday]

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps. 34:1-8(19-22);  
Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



*In preparation for Pastor John's ministry of the Word,  
we encourage you to read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke*

## NOODLE MAKING

We will make noodles October 14—19, with bagging on alternate days. Set up tables for noodle making, October 13th after worship.

HELPERS NEEDED! PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US IT'S FUN AND WE FEED OUR HELPERS REALLY WELL!



Deacon's Fall Yard Sale is October 25—26. Please start bringing your donations to the church the first of October. If you need help with large items please contact a Deacon for assistance. Thank you!

## 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)



CONSIDER  
TITHING

## 2024 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

### August

Tithes \$4,901.64  
Expenses \$7,681.95

**YTD TOTALS:**  
Tithes \$57,316.64  
Expenses \$56,505.51

## October Birthdays & Anniversaries

01 Dan Wittman  
03 Julie Germann  
05 Jose Rios  
06 Karl Clayville  
06 Carleen Clayville  
07 Victor Pugh  
17 Kathleen Morgan  
20 Gay Fisher  
21 Karl & Sandra Clayville  
25 Dan & Erika Wittman  
26 Linda Culley  
28 Michael McCall  
28 Dottie Nester

*God Bless Your Special Day!*





September 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					

# OCTOBER

November 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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4	5
6 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am World Communion Sunday; Peacemaking Offering Cupcake Sunday	7	8	9 7:00 pm Session	10 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event	12
13 Pastor Appreciation Sunday Michael Barrett Teaching 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Deacons meet	14	15	16	17	18	19
← Noodle Making Week—Helpers Needed! →						
20 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	21	22	23	24 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25	26 10:00am Presbytery Meeting, Pocatello
					Deacon Fall Yard Sale (25—26)	
27 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	28	29	30	31 7:00pm Boy Scouts		



### October Servers ~ Thank You!

**Head Usher:** Gary Hollinger **Head Greeter:** The Wittman's

**Liturgists:** 10/6 \_\_\_\_\_, 10/13 Dan S. 10/20 \_\_\_\_\_, 10/27 Dan S

**Coffee Hour:** 10/6 Fellowship, 10/13 Fellowship, 10/20 \_\_\_\_\_, 10/27 \_\_\_\_\_



# Presbyterian Women in the News



## Presbyterian Women



- ❖ We welcome.
- ❖ We witness.
- ❖ We work (and play!).

*Putting faith in action is what we do!*

[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)

### NOODLE MAKING

We will make noodles October 14—19, with bagging on alternate days. Set up tables for noodle making, October 13th after worship.

**HELPERS NEEDED!  
PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN  
US IT'S FUN AND WE  
FEED OUR HELPERS  
*REALLY WELL!***



## Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THINGS TO COME—

### NOVEMBER

- 03: Daylight saving time ends
- 03: Communion Sunday
- 03: Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- 03: Baked Potato & Pie Bar after worship
- 05: Election Day—Remember to vote! \*we are a polling place
- 10: Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- 13: Session 7:00pm
- 24: Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 15th
- 24: Hanging of the Greens—TBA
- 25: Operation Christmas Child Nat'l Collection Week (18—25)
- 25: Deadline for packed shoeboxes
- 28: Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed

### DECEMBER

- 01: 1st Sunday of Advent
- 01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 03: Giving Tuesday
- 08: 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 08: Christmas Brunch after worship
- 11: Session 7:00pm
- 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent
- 15: Christmas Program—TBA
- 15: Christmas Caroling 3:00pm
- 21: First Day of Winter
- 21: PW Christmas Brunch and Cookie Swap 10:00am
- 22: 4th Sunday of Advent
- 24: Christmas Eve; Candlelight Service 7:00 pm—TBA
- 25: Christmas Day—*Merry Christmas!*



# Committee Reports

## The heart of a volunteer

A daughter had just helped her 90-year-old mother through the complex process of moving from and selling the family home. Now in a senior living center, the once-active woman was adjusting to her new surroundings and lifestyle.

As the daughter finalized arrangements, she tactfully brought up matters of nutrition. Hoping her mom would accept some help, she asked, "What about Meals on Wheels?"

Mom replied, "No, dear. I don't think I can volunteer for them anymore."

## FINANCE REPORT

Happy October, everyone! The Stewardship Campaign is about to begin. Please start thinking about how you will pledge your tithes, time and talents in the coming year. In the next few weeks you will be receiving a letter from the finance team telling you more about Stewardship and asking you to fill out and return your pledge form. This information helps us plan financially for the coming year. Stewardship Commitment Day will be November 3, 2024. As you know, everyone on the Session volunteers their time and talents to keep our beautiful church running smoothly and efficiently. Please start thinking how you can be of service in 2025.

In Christ's Service,  
Your Finance team



## FELLOWSHIP

Oct. 6-Cupcake Sunday  
Oct. 13-Pastor Appreciation with  
Special Coffee Hour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrie Shockey

"Not seeing results?  
Feel like giving up?  
Consider this:  
The last thing to grow on  
a fruit tree ... is the fruit."



**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: 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

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)



*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.*

**Prayers:** If you know of someone who is in need of prayers,  
please contact the church office.

**Prayer Chain:** If you have an emergency prayer request, or would like to join the  
prayer chain, please contact Susan McGee at 208-312-3864

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity  
under the heavens.  
**ECCLSIATAS 3:1**

October 2024

# 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.



# How I Pray for the U.S. President

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson ([www.joyfulheart.com](http://www.joyfulheart.com))

Paul exhorts us,

"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made ... for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

But *how* are we to pray for these kings and presidents and prime ministers that are over us? How did Paul pray for Claudius and Nero, the emperors during his ministry?

I'm sure there are better, more complete ways to pray for our leaders than what I'm suggesting here. But this is where I currently am in my praying. It's a start. My prayer is simple.

## 1. Humility

**I pray for humility for my president.** This may sound strange, since presidents and kings uniformly need a strong ego to get where they are and do what they do. I'm impressed with Jesus' teaching after the Rich Young Ruler walked away from Jesus' invitation to sell all he had, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow him. He said to his disciples:

"How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' Those who heard this asked, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with men is possible with God.'" (Luke 18:24-27)

In our day, most heads of state would be considered "rich" or at least well off. And they are at the pinnacle of power in their country. But riches tend to make us less dependent upon God, since money can buy nearly anything. Riches make it nearly impossible to humble oneself before God to repent -- to even ask for help. That's what Jesus tells us. And great power feeds the pride that makes it nearly impossible for a top leader to humble herself.

Men and women at the pinnacle of power and wealth find true humility nearly impossible. That's the point of Jesus' saying about the camel and the eye of the needle. Impossibility. So my first prayer for my president is that God will do the impossible and enable him to humble himself before God, and thus "enter the kingdom." I want my leaders to be able to truly hear from God. Humility is essential to that.

## 2. Wisdom

**I pray for wisdom for my president.** When God asked Solomon in a dream to state what God should grant him, Solomon asked for wisdom and God was extremely pleased (1 Kings 3:5-14). When I read Proverbs I see a constant contrast between the "wise" and the "fool." We're exhorted to seek wisdom with the same intensity that we would hunt gold or precious jewels (Proverbs 3). We need our kings and presidents govern with great wisdom so that we, the citizens, might "lead a peaceful and quiet life" (1 Timothy 2:2).

Of course, humility and wisdom go hand in hand. The proud leader thinks his ideas are better than any of his counselors. The wise leader listens humbly to her counselors as together they seek out the best course for the nation. Of course, the president makes the final decision, but pride prevents a leader from listening.

## Not a Political Statement

I pray every day for my president for humility and wisdom. Though some of my hyper-sensitive friends have been startled by this, it is not a political statement of any kind. Just a realization that our leaders at the highest level -- as well as leaders of congregations and families -- need both humility and wisdom to hear from God and care well for the people God has put in their charge.

We don't show favoritism in prayer. We don't withhold our prayers from leaders we don't like, leaders who are doing things that we believe hurt the nation. Rather, like Paul praying for Nero, we pray all the more for them for wisdom and humility.

I call on God daily to grant my president humility and wisdom. I encourage you to pray for your nation's leaders too. Start with prayers for humility and wisdom, and God will lead you how to pray even better.

## Prayer

Father, teach us how to pray for our leaders and help us to do so diligently. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.