

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Burley, Idaho November 2024

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father
and the source of all comfort.
2 CORINTHIANS 1:3 (NLT)

Don't Forget

Charles Dickens, English writer, was puzzled by American Thanksgiving Day. Dickens thought it odd that we set aside one day a year to be thankful. He recommended a change. One day to be ungrateful. 364 days to be thankful. Minus the one day to be ungrateful, this is a great idea!

So, how do we develop a daily habit of being thankful? More specifically, how is it possible to obey 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and “give thanks in all circumstances,” especially if our circumstances are horrible? When life seems to be one discouragement, disappointment, disease, disaster, and death after another. There is no easy answer to that question. In Psalm 103:1-2, however, we find a place to begin.

“O my soul, bless God. From head to toe,
I'll bless his holy name!
O my soul, bless God, don't forget
a single blessing.” (The Message)

Everyone of us has ‘senior moments.’ Young or old, all of us have ‘some timers disease: Some times we remember what we're trying to remember. Some times we don't! We joke about memory lapses. We worry about it. Do I have the beginning of dementia? Am I on the road to Alzheimer's City?

The words of Psalm 103:1-2 were written to God's Old Testament people. The Lord God had blessed Israel's socks off. He gave them annual festivals to remind the people of His acts of deliverance and provision for all their needs.

Why? So that Israel's feelings of gratitude, and reliance upon the Lord would be renewed. (Think of the Lord's Table for New Testament believers—that's us.)

But they still forgot the good things the Lord God had done for them (Read Psalm 106:7, 13). How could Israel forget all of God's blessings? The prophet Hosea explains the decline into ingratitude. He said, “When I fed them, they were satisfied; they were satisfied, and their heart was proud; therefore they forgot me.” (Hosea 13:6).

How could they forget all the benefits of being God's special children? The same way we do! When things are good, we tend to think our prosperity was self-made. This delusion leads to pride. Pride leads to forgetting God and results in our relying more and more on ourselves. Forgetfulness always leads to ingratitude.

Because of our *propensity to forget we need to have a strategy for defeating ingratitude. Lord willing, a plan of attack will be outlined in the messages on November 17 and 24.

In Jesus' love,
Pastor John

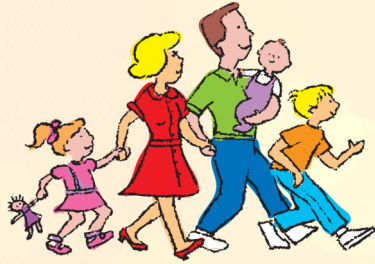
*propensity—
a strong natural desire

LET
gratitude
FOR THE PAST
INSPIRE US
WITH *trust*
FOR THE FUTURE.

If **mom** attends church regularly, only 17% of the children remain faithful throughout their life.

If **dad** attends church regularly, 55% of the children remain faithful in their life.

If **Mom & Dad** attend church regularly, 72% of their children will continue to remain faithful in their life.



The greatest gift you can give the grieving is the freedom to talk about their loved one. —Kristel Kernaghan

Not being able to share their love is the greatest cause of pain; so reminisce, laugh, and celebrate the essence of those passed.

It's healing for the hearts of those living and in spirit.

REMEMBER TO VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

The Bible tells us to pray for “all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:2, NIV). When we pray regularly for those who are willing to serve as political leaders it will help us make the best choices when we go to the polls, for God gives us wisdom when be humble ourselves and pray for His guidance. —Billy Graham

PRAY AND VOTE, BUT PUT YOUR HOPE IN GOD

Grief Education Group

Education, Support, Community

Losing someone to death can be one of the most difficult parts of life. Our grief groups led by licensed social workers offer education on how to cope, emotional support, and a change to meet with other who are experiencing similar losses. Groups are open to all at **no cost**.



Things to Know

Whether the person who died was your spouse, child or friend, one thing is the same; someone you love is no longer near you. Your loved one can no longer play the same role in your life, and you can no longer play the role you played for your love one. It's going to be hard to get used to. How will you manage?

The truth is no one can answer this for you. Your grief is every bit as unique as your love one, and you must find your own way through it. But you can find help by learning from the experiences of other people who have grieved and from accepting help from Intermountain's bereavement service.

Classes

- **Six Sessions.** A six (6) session class beginning October 1 and continuing through November 5 is offered on Tuesdays from 5:00—6:30 p.m.
- **Location.** Intermountain Homecare & Hospice, 1501 Hiland Ave., Suite Z on the hospital campus, 2nd building south of the hospital.

For more information, contact Carey Stoker, LSW, or Marcie Bedke, LSW, at 208.678.8844 or Brittini Poulton, RN or Jessica Jensen, LMSW, at 208.677.6581

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

Session met on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Present: Moderator Pastor John Ziulkowski: Erika Wittman, Carleen Clayville, Sandra, Clayville, and Dale Martin. Dan Shockey, excused.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Pastor John lighted the Christ candle, gave a short meditation, and opened the meeting with prayer. Quorum present.

Clerks Report:

Membership report: 57 Members.

Communion was served to 19, September 1, 2024.

Memorials for Kathy Rios on 9/26/24, and Patsy Holsinger on 10/28/24, both at our Church.

Pastor John Reported: Jeanetta Fortier had been received by Session on March 21, 2024. Michael Barrett will fill the pulpit on Oct. 13.

Deacon's are actively doing their Deacon duties. Their Yard sale will be Nov. 8th & 9th. Deacon Val Frazier sent a letter of resignation from the board. Account balance \$5,596.67 as of 9/30/24.

Christian Ed and Worship. Christian Ed Classes began on Sept. 8.

Finance reports: Tithes for Sept. \$6,268.00, Exp. \$9,317.72. YTD. \$63,120.06, Exp. \$65,823.23.

Fellowship: Upcoming events, Cupcake Sunday on Oct. 6. Pastor Appreciation, Oct 13.

Building & Grounds: Dale has several projects upcoming.

New Business: Clerk of Session still needed. Dan and Carleen are doing a great job filling in.

Calendar items: Next Session meeting is on Nov. 13, 2024.

Meeting closed at 8:26 p.m. with a motion given by consensus. Closing prayer given by Pastor John.

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session



Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 15, 2024



We are so thankful
for Pastor John
and Linda.

Thank you for
leading us and
encouraging us.

You are the BEST!



November Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

November 3 [Communion Sunday]

Ruth 1:1-18; Ps. 146;
Heb. 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

November 17

1 Sam. 1:4-20; Isa. 16;
Heb. 10:11-14(15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 10

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Ps. 127;
Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 24

2 Sam. 23:1-7; Ps. 132:1-12(13-18);
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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



Stewardship Commitment is November 3rd. Please remember to fill out and return your commitment and pledge forms. Stewardship Dedication will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2024.



We will once again be selling poinsettias. Order forms will be available Nov. 24—Dec. 15. Please have your order form and money in by Dec. 15th. The price for poinsettias is \$12.00. We will use the poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas Season. You can take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.



Daylight saving time ends November 3rd, remember to change your clocks. (we fall back one hour the night before)

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

03 Russell Morgan
06 Paul Daniel Pugh
12 Cathy Clayville Parr
12 Jeanetta Fortier
15 Earl & Carleen Clayville
30 Susan McGee

God bless your special day!

2024 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

September
Tithes \$6,268.00
Expenses \$9,317.72

YTD Totals:
Tithes \$63,120.06
Expenses \$65,823.23

UPCOMING EVENTS— MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DECEMBER

01: 1st Sunday of Advent
01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
03: Giving Tuesday
08: 2nd Sunday of Advent
08: Michael Barrett Teaching
08: Christmas Brunch after worship
11: Session 7:00 pm
12: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild Christmas Party 11am
22: Deadline to order poinsettias
21: First Day of Winter
21: PW Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap 10:00 am
22: Christmas Caroling 3:00pm
24: Christmas Eve; Candlelight Service—TBA
25: Christmas Day—Office Closed—

Merry Christmas!

29: 1st Sunday of Christmas
31: New Year's Eve

Committee & 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)

november 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
NOVEMBER SERVERS ~ THANK YOU! Head Usher: Bill & Val Frazier Head Greeter: Gary Hollinger Liturgist: 11/3 _____, 11/10 Dan Shockey, 11/17 _____, 11/24 Dan Shockey Coffee Hour: 11/3 Fellowship, 11/10 Fellowship, 11/17 Carolyn Iverson, 11/24 _____					1	2 		
3 Daylight saving time ends 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship, Communion Sunday Stewardship Commitment Cupcake Sunday	4	5 8am—8pm Election Day <i>"we are a polling place"</i>  Election Day	6 Setup for Yard Sale Nov. 6—7		7	8 Deacon's Fall Yard Sale Nov. 8—9 Helpers Needed & Appreciated! 10:00 am—6:00pm	9 9:00 am—2:00 pm	
10 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Stewardship Dedication Michael Barrett Teaching Potato & Pie Bar after worship Deacons meet	NOODLE MAKING WEEK (Nov. 11—16) —HELPERS NEEDED!!!							
11 Newsletter Articles Due	12	13 7:00 pm Session	14	15 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16			
17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	18 	19 Newsletter Article Deadline	20 Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week Nov. 18—25				21 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 23
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 15th Hanging of the Greens	25 Deadline for packed shoeboxes 	26 Giving Tuesday	27	28 Thanksgiving DAY Office Closed Office Closed <i>Have a Blessed Day</i>	29	30 		

Presbyterian Women in the News

Our Burley Presbyterian Women have scheduled the following report:

We hope to start making noodles on Monday, Nov. 11, Continued noodles, on Wednesday, and Friday, with 3 packing days on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Our goal is to use 300 # of flour, and 110 dozen eggs. We made about 339 bags of noodles last year . Unfortunately, the price of flour is up, and the price of eggs have gone up, so our price per bag will have to reflect that, but we will be very thankful for those of you who come and help us! We also appreciate the ones who don't belong to our church who come and help! THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH! Our noodles will sell for \$ 7.00 + a one pound bag.

The current plan is to sell the noodles (date to be announced) by stopping in and picking your noodles up. The times will be 10-2pm at the church, otherwise by appointment. We will also be asking for some baked food to sell, as well, mainly cookies, rolls, breads, etc.

Harvest Luncheon and bazaar will not be held this year.

Our Annual Christmas Brunch and cookie swap will be held December 21. Please add this date to your calendar and remember to bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to swap!

Please mark your calendars and plan on participating on these calendar dates!

Thank you, Thank you! Thank you!

Carleen Clayville, Moderator
Presbyterian Women of Burley

***Please notify the office at 678-5131
or Carleen at 312-5331 if you can
help any of those days.***

Pastor Appreciation Thank You

Counting Our Blessings

1. Pastor Appreciation Sunday fellowship time: finger foods, a tasty cake and floral rose bouquet
2. Cards! Cards!
3. Gift cards (plural) / movie tickets
4. A gift of money
5. Dinners out
6. An "Our Pastor" plaque
7. Shrimp and Swedish dish cloths
8. The blessing of serving Christ together



Love,
Pastor John and Linda

With gladness and thanksgiving

... The long day of the year is almost done,
and nature in the sunset musing stands,
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
as in the twilight of the year she stands,
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.

—Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

As you may know, we are into our Annual Stewardship Campaign. I recently Came across this article - insight into giving and thought I'd share it with you.

The command to give a tithe (one-tenth) of one's income to God was central in ancient Israel (*Lev. 27:30; Deut. 12:5; 2 Chron. 31: 4-5*). In Israel's God-ruled government, the tithe helped to provide for the Levitical Tribe, which offered sacrifices to the Lord and assisted in temple work (*Num. 18-21*), as well as provide for the poor. Today's passage gives us stirring warning about the neglect of giving to God, calling it robbery (*Mal. 3:8-9*).

When Christ came, He fulfilled the demands of the Mosaic law (see *Gal. 3:10-13*), and there is no longer a required tithe, instead, believers are encouraged to regularly give to the Lord in proportion to their income and with an attitude of generosity (*1 Cor. 16:10-13; 2 Cor. 9:6-7*). Giving is an act of worship and generous giving can show our confidence in the God of grace.

In what ways can you worship God this week through your generosity?

Yours in Christ
The Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Nov. 3rd - Cupcake Sunday
Nov. 10th - Annual Potato and Pie bar after Worship.

We have so many things to be thankful for this season. Come join us for coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey



Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 24th
after worship—Helpers
needed & Appreciated!!!



PREPARING FOR
Advent

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

There are a variety of Advent Devotionals to choose from on the back railing of the Sanctuary. Please feel free to take one—and follow along during the Advent Season. And be sure to share with family and friends!



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
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
2100 Burton Avenue
Burley ID 83318

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



Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song,
For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
Psalm 95:2-3

November 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.

The Return of Jesus

When ordered to evacuate the Philippines in the early days of World War II, US General Douglas MacArthur made a promise to his troops and to the Filipino people: “I shall return.” Some two years later, MacArthur kept that promise by striding back victoriously onto Philippine soil as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and declaring, “I have returned.”

Famous returns are as old as history itself. Yet, the most famous of all returns is yet to occur—the return of Jesus Christ to this world. And, like MacArthur did for those he cared about, Jesus has assured us that, in fact, He *will* return some day.

The Promise of Return

The night before the cross, Jesus told His disciples in the upper room that He’d return one day. In a meeting that was both sober and celebrative, Christ offered these comforting words to His disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (JOHN 14:1-3).

Having just commemorated the Passover Feast together, the mood in the upper room was no doubt festive. Israel’s annual reminder of the exodus and all that God had done to rescue their forefathers from slavery in Egypt was (and remains today) one of the highest and holiest nights of the year for God’s chosen people.

That celebratory atmosphere was no doubt clouded dramatically by Jesus’ statement of His coming departure—His own “exodus.” Notice the elements of His promise to His disciples:

- **A call to trust** “believe also in me”
- **A Promised Home** “a place for you”
- **A Designated Task** “I am going there to prepare a place for you”
- **A Promised Return** “I will come back”
- **An Unbroken Communion** “That you also may be where I am”

Christ’s promise to return was reinforced forty days after His resurrection by angelic messengers who encountered the disciples following His ascension: “They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking in the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’” (ACTS 1:10-11).

While the “two men dressed in white” are not specifically described as angels, Christian teaching has long held that to be the case. And that makes sense.

The world *angellos* means “messenger,” and these men were functioning in that role. The fact that the messengers questioned why the disciples were fixed to the spot and staring into heaven may imply that the dumbfounded disciples expected Jesus’ promised return to happen right away.

Bible scholar Stanley Toussaint, writing in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, says of this critical event: “These verses describe [Jesus’] Ascension but they also anticipate His return. He will come back in a cloud, bodily, in view of people (REVEALATION 1:7), and to the Mount of Olives (ZECHARIAH 14:4) - the same way the apostles saw Him go. The Ascension of Christ marked the conclusion of His ministry on earth in His bodily presence. It also exalted Him to the right hand of the Father (ACTS 2:33-36; 5:30-31; HEB. 1:3; 8:1; 12:2). At the same time the Ascension meant that the continuing work of Christ on earth was now placed in the hands of His disciples (ACTS 1:12,8). It was imperative that the Ascension occur so that the promised Comforter could come (JOHN 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; ACTS 2:33 36). The Holy Spirit would empower the disciples as they ministered the gospel and waited for the kingdom.”

Toussaint’s insights are helpful for understanding the nature (bodily, in the clouds) and location (the Mount of Olives) of Jesus’ return. But there’s nothing in that angelic statement that hints at the timing. The messengers make it abundantly clear, however, that it’s just as certain as His departure and will be a reflection of that departure.

The Greek term most often used for Christ’s return in the New Testament is *parousia*, which means “arrival” or “presence.” This word is found in Matthew 24:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 5; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:4, 12; 1 John 2:28. The idea of “presence” makes the return of Christ a similar promise to what’s recorded in Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23, that Jesus would be called Immanuel—“God with us.” His returned presence, accomplished in the Parousia, restores His physical presence—a presence we currently experience by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Bill Crowder, Our Daily Bread author

According to Scripture, this world is moving toward a dramatic and glorious conclusion. How should we think about the end of this world as we know it, and how should that end shape our lives today?

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters
until the Lord’s coming.



JAMES 5:7. NIV