

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Burley, Idaho November 2025



Give Thanks for All Things

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.*

Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22,23

A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The Session met on October 8, 2025 for their regular monthly meeting.

Moderator John Ziulkowski called the meeting to order at 7 pm, with prayer, and lighting of the Christ candle.

All Elders were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by consensus.

Interim Pastor, Mason reported that the Burley Elementary School Teacher drive was coming along, and it would meet the goal, soon. He is looking forward to more service projects. His experience in Pittsburg at the University was awesome! It was founded in 1794.

Deacon's report:

They are participating in the Festival of Trees, (Cassia), and the Caring & Sharing, (Minidoka Co) with trees!

Presbytery Report:

Presbytery merge was almost done, the new name will be "Snake River Presbytery". General Assembly is expected to approve early November, 2025.

Christian Ed & Worship:

Advertising for a pianist to fill in on Sundays.

Personnel & Nominating:

Dan S., Chairman, will be looking for new Session and Deacons soon. If anyone is interested or willing, contact Dan asap!

Stewardship & Finance:

Tithes for September were: \$ 6458.00. Exp. \$ 5757.58, YTD \$ 68,203.27, Exp. \$ 61,487.59.

Fellowship:

Cupcake Sunday, Nov. 2, Potato & Pie Bar, Nov. 9.

Building & Grounds:

Fall work will be done asap. New Internet provider Sparklight! Installed in September. (to support Mason's online schooling).

Mission & Outreach: Mission payments – 2 done, 2 more to go.

Member Concerns:

Susan McGee, Tyson Germann, Netta F., Darla H. and Val and Bill and Travis. Please keep these and all who are listed on our Sunday Bulletin in your thoughts and prayers!

Respectively Submitted,
Carleen Clayville,
for Clerk of Session

Advent Is Almost Here—

Prepare Your Heart

The season of **Advent begins November 30th!**

Join us each week in worship as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ with hope, peace, joy and love. Be sure to pick up an Advent Devotional and follow along as we journey through Advent together.

Abundant Blessings

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day. **Amen.**

November Scripture Lessons *from the Lectionary*

November 2 [Communion Sunday]
Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; *Ps. 119:137-144*;
2 Thess. 1:1-4,11-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 9
Hag. 1:15b-2:9; *Ps. 145:1-5,17-21*;
2 Thess.3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 16
Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12;
2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 23 [Christ the King/Reign of Christ]
Jer. 23:1-6; *Ps. 46*;
Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 30 [1st Sunday of Advent]
Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122;
Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

Stewardship Commitment Sunday
is November 2nd. Please
remember to fill out and return your
commitment and pledge forms by
November 2, 2025. Thank you!



Daylight saving time ends
November 2nd, remember to
change your clocks the night before!



We will once again be selling poinsettias. Order
forms will be available Nov. 30—Dec. 21. Please
have your order form and money in by Dec.
21st. The price for poinsettias is \$15.00. We will
use the poinsettias to decorate our beautiful
sanctuary during the Christmas Season. You
can take your poinsettia home after the
Christmas Eve Service on December 24th.



Share God's Love in a Shoebox
Be part of this powerful outreach! Fill a
shoebox with gifts and love to bless a child
across the globe. Pick up your box and
packing guide in the lobby. **Return filled
boxes by November 24th.**

Committee & 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



2025 Year to Date Tithes and Expenses

September

Tithes \$6,458.00
Expenses \$5,957.58

YTD Totals:

Tithes \$68,203.27
Expenses \$61,487.59

NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**God bless your
special day!**

October 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	



December 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
NOVEMBER SERVERS ~ THANK YOU! Head Usher: Bill & Val Frazier Head Greeter: Gary Hollinger Liturgist: 11/2 ____, 11/9 Dan S., 11/16 ____, 11/23 Dan S., 11/30 ____ Coffee Hour: 11/2 Fellowship, 11/9 Fellowship, 11/16 ____, 11/23 ____, 11/30						
2 Daylight saving time ends 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship, Communion & Cupcake Sunday Stewardship Commitment	3	4	5	6 7:00 pm Scouts	7	8
9 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Stewardship Dedication Potato & Pie Bar Deacons meet	10	11	12 Quilt Guild 2-day event 7:15 pm Session	13 7:00 pm Scouts	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due
16 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22 Newsletter Article Deadline
Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week Nov. 17—24						
				7:00 pm Scouts		
23 Christ the King/Reign of Christ 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30 First Day of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Poinsettias on sale now thru Dec. 21 Hanging of the Greens	Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first “Thanks” and then “Giving.”					

Take Me to the River

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there. —adapted from *Homiletics.com*

Presbyterian Women in the News

NOODLE MAKING REPORT 2025

The Presbyterian Women held 3 noodle making sessions, and bagging on alternate days made 6 days of work by many willing hands of friends and congregation. The first session was held on Monday Oct. 20. Carleen made soup for a lunch, we started the dough making at 9am—rolling and cutting process. We were able to do 110 dozen eggs for a total of 382 one-pound bags. We alternated making dough and bagging from Monday Oct. 20 to Oct. 25.

The total count was 382 bags with 136 find and 246 wide noodles. 110 dozen jumbo eggs and about 305 lbs. flour. Cost of flour was \$163.19, eggs \$313.65. For a total of \$476.84 + bags. Selling price will be \$8.00 per bag this year.

We had great support from the men and women of the congregation. It is a lot of work, but the fellowship and food are great too.

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Clayville, Moderator



UPCOMING EVENTS— MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DECEMBER

02: Giving Tuesday
07: 2nd Sunday of Advent
07: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
10: Session 7:15 pm
11: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild Christmas Party
14: 3rd Sunday of Advent
14: Christmas Program during worship—TBA
14: Christmas Buffet after worship
20: PW Christmas Brunch & Cookie Swap 10:00 am
21: Deadline to order poinsettias
21: First Day of Winter
21: Christmas Caroling—TBA
24: Christmas Eve; Candlelight Service—TBA
25: Christmas Day—**Merry Christmas!**
31: New Year's Eve

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT On Giving!

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 through our overflowing generosity. Our work in the community – Hope Community Food Pantry, The Mini-Cassia Christmas Council, Voices Against Violence Women and Children's Shelter, etc. Our involvement with the Peace Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Presbyterian Disaster Relief (PDR) on the national level, 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. Join us this fall as we challenge ourselves to situate in God's joy and reap the rewards that come with it. God is inviting us to come along and share the Joy and abundance that the kingdom offers. October 15 was the beginning of our 2026 Stewardship campaign, and each of us have the opportunity to help determine how First Presbyterian Church will grow forward into the future. Your financial and/or service commitment for the coming year will help First Presbyterian Church share the joy of God's abundance with this community and the world around us. Our Stewardship dedication is Sunday, November 9, 2025.

PLEASE plan on attending and bring your commitment along.

In Christ's Service,
Your Finance Team



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Giving Thanks

Nov. 2 - Cupcake Sunday

Nov. 9 - Annual Potato and Pie Bar

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Shockey

Annual Noodle Making 2025

We had a wonderful turnout of church members and friends to help make and pack noodles this year. Thanks to all who helped!



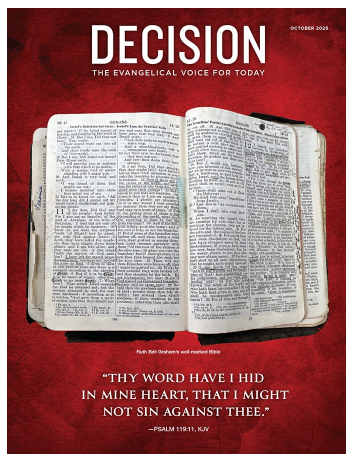
Linda Smith and others
making noodles



Sandra Clayville hard at work
packing noodles



Pastor John and Linda Ziulkowski
packing noodles



The Sword of the Spirit— The Word of God

When my father was 88, an interviewer asked him about his greatest regret. Looking back over a lifetime of evangelistic ministry, he said he wished he had spent more time memorizing Scripture.

When I was growing up, my mother and father always tried

to whet my appetite for Scripture. On Sundays after church, my mother insisted that we children memorize a verse before we could go outside and play. She let us choose Bible verses to recite from memory, so I flipped through my Bible, scanning for short verses like “Jesus wept.” I thought I was outsmarting her, but she knew what she was doing—making me search through the Scriptures. She was a wonderful teacher who wanted her children to know God’s Word by heart.

When Jane and I were newlyweds, we both realized we needed to know more of the Bible. We loaded up my Jeep and a U-Haul trailer and headed to Colorado, where we spent time with the Navigators in Colorado Springs and enrolled in a Bible school called Ravencrest, in Estes Park. I wasn’t the best of students, but both of us soaked up God’s Word like a sponge.

Since our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ recited Scripture from memory to foil the devil, we would do well to follow His example of Scripture memorization to war against Satan’s deceitful schemes. The founder of the Navigators, Dawson Trotman, came to saving faith in Jesus Christ through a verse he memorized for a church contest, John 5:24. Can you recite that one? “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

What’s the first Bible verse you ever memorized? Many will say John 3:16, or the Lord’s Prayer, or Psalm 23. In my father’s later years, he would recite that psalm whenever he stirred from sleep: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23:1, 6). It’s easy to make excuses for not memorizing Scripture. The Bible can be intimidating. But I know some strong believers whose daily devotions include reading five psalms and a proverb, so that they repeat those books every month. Before long, they know those books almost by heart, possessing a treasury of Biblical strength and wisdom.

The Lord promises in Jeremiah 31:33 to write His law on our hearts. “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Psalm 119:11 is a verse I think everyone should memorize. “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

The 119th Psalm, the longest chapter in the Bible, has much to say about the power and authority of God’s Word to help us resist sinful temptations. When Scripture fills our hearts and minds, the Bible promises to fill us with godly wisdom and discernment.

When Jesus had fasted for 40 days and nights in the wilderness, Satan tried to tempt the Son of God on three occasions. And each time, our Lord responded, “It is written ...” before quoting Scripture such as: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve” (see Matthew 4:4-10).

After Jesus used Scripture to rebuke Satan a third time, the Bible says that the devil fled. Since our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ recited Scripture from memory to foil the devil, we would do well to follow His example of Scripture memorization to war against Satan’s deceitful schemes. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is the main weapon in the believer’s arsenal to defeat Satan (see Ephesians 6:17).

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

When I preach—I preach straight from God’s Word to help people understand how we are sinners in need of salvation.

Where does my assurance come from? “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

To God be the glory! Great things He has done and continues to do. ©2025 BGEA

“Since our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ recited Scripture from memory to foil the devil, we would do well to follow His example of Scripture memorization to war against Satan’s deceitful schemes.”

Written by: **Franklin Graham**

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version.

PASTORAL INTERN

Mason Wittman
Mason's email: masonwittman0515@gmail.com
Mason's cell: 208-312-6549

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: Susi McCall, Linda Ziulkowski
Flutist: Linda Ziulkowski
Guitarist: Mason Wittman
Nursery Attendant:
Custodian: Linda Culley
Prayer Chain: Terrie Shockey 208-312-9251

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



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 Terrie Shockey at 208-312-9251*

November 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.