



1stPresDowntown
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1st Pres eNews

December 20, 2022

Important Links

1stPresDowntown.org

[Church Calendar](#)

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[Giving](#)

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Blog of the Week

Emily Rogers

Mary, Did You Know?

In a visit to Juneau from my home in Sitka, Alaska some 30 years ago, an acquaintance invited me to tour The Shrine of Saint Thérèse, 22 miles north of Juneau. The refuge and retreat center grounds are beautiful, located on Lynn Canal in the Inside ... [Read More](#)



This Week

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve | December 24

5 pm Candlelight Service

~ Childcare Available for ages 6 and under ~

7 pm Candlelight & Communion
Service

~ Childcare Available for ages 4 and under ~

Christmas Day | December 25

Combined Service at 9 am

~ Childcare available for ages 3 and under ~

No donuts served (stores closed)

Ushers Needed

Christmas Eve | 5 and 7 pm services

It is often challenging to find ushers and greeters for our Christmas Eve services. This year, we could use a few more volunteers for the 5 and 7 pm services.

Can you help?

The UnPageant Recap



Our amazing Children & Families team, along with Kyler

O'Connor, once again led the wonderful retelling of the Christmas story starring our unrehearsed kiddos.

Sweet angels, shepherds, wise-guys and a beautiful star played their parts perfectly.



Kierstie and Tyler Renninger were Mary and Joseph with Miss Addy playing the part of baby Jesus. We believe Leighton Stone may be shoe-in for that role next year.

This year, our Youth band accompanied the congregation in the carol sing while Pastor McLane did a brilliant job of coaching the congregation (sound effects and all) while he read the story.

Well done all!

Parents - if you have pictures you'd like to share, please send them to [Janet](#)



Christmas Ornaments for Sale

Ornaments are still available!

If you would like to purchase and would like to support camp scholarships, please stop by the church this Tuesday or Thursday from 10-2 - Kierstie is happy to get you hooked up!



You can also visiting the [Giving Portal](#) and make your purchase there ... don't wait!

\$10 each or 3 for \$25

Christmas for the Closet Help Re-stock the Closet



So many of the tags have been taken from the trees, but there are still a few waiting to be collected. One of the biggest needs is boots! You can come by during office hours or any Sunday. All you need to do is:

- Look for the paper Christmas trees on the wall in Krueger Hall.
- Choose an ornament-tag or two or three!
- Drop-off items in the red bin underneath the wall-trees. No wrapping necessary!

Women's Development Track focuses on tremendous resources that missionary women bring to the work of God's Kingdom on Earth. Because the stages of a woman's life are often different from a man's, with more off-ramps and on-ramps to her professional life, she can tend to be overlooked in terms of her own well-being and on-going development. We want to see women make their very best contribution to their families, communities, and ministries, alongside their brothers in Christ! The image of God in the world is best represented when men and women both bring their full selves in displaying the image of God to the world - the Blessed Alliance!

Prayer requests:

- 1) The women in our Leadership Pathways cohorts will grow in heart, confidence, and skill to fulfill their callings as women leaders.
- 2) All women missionaries will access whatever development options are needful for their long-term well-being and effectiveness in their fields of service.
- 3) That WDT will be sensitive and effective in discerning the evolving needs of the Missio-Nexus network of Mission Agencies in terms of developing their women staff.

Appreciating you in Christ, Wendy Wilson

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!



Advent | The UnPageant. This retelling of the Christmas story is heartwarming and always fun. The unrehearsed cast is made up of our kiddos and accompanied by our newly formed Youth band.

[Watch this service for the first time or once again!](#)

Many thanks to our team of volunteers who make broadcasting the service possible!

[Watch this service or any of our past services on our YouTube Channel](#)

Church News

Christmas Families Dinner 2022 A Rousing Success!

Hearts and tummies were filled at the first Deacons' Family Dinner! Twelve guest families were invited and eight arrived eagerly anticipating the evening (snowy roads may have been a factor for those unable to attend). Many of our congregation participated, also. We feasted on approximately 16 different and

Congratulations to Bonnie Piovesan, winner of the chili contest with her "White Bean Chili!" Guests were met by Santa (aka Dexter Yates) at the door, enjoyed festive decorations and music plus cookie decorating, ornament crafts, a fun "prize walk" (think: cake walk) hosted by Kyler, plus each child left with a gift ...and

delicious crocks of chili and 9 dishes of amazing macaroni and cheese.

a smile!



Many thanks to all who shared the vision, kept the faith and worked hard to make this special evening possible.

[Bonnie's Recipe for White Bean Chili](#)

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"

~ Mother Teresa ~

Stewardship 2023



[Download your 2023
Pledge Card](#)

Gift a Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket

to someone who could use a lift

Our wonderful knitters meet every week to keep our supply of prayer shawls ready to gift to someone who could use a boost.



You can find their handiwork in the Fireside Room. Please be sure to fill-in the sign-out sheet when you choose your gift.

Small Groups

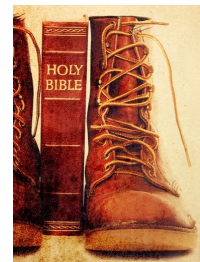


We are in the process of re-imagining our small-group opportunities. If you are interested, please stay tuned. In the meantime, you can find information on our website. If you can't find what you're looking for, please call the office.

- [Men's Fellowship](#)
- [Sunday Bible Study](#)
- [Women's Circles](#)

Mission Trip Planning Underway

The Missions Committee is looking to send a mission team out in the Spring or Summer of 2024. Exactly where and when are yet to be determined. If you might be interested in being a team leader, please contact Richard Morrow through the church office.



December Weekly Events

Sundays

(see above for Christmas services)

7:55 am Bible Study

9 am Classic Service in Sanctuary & Online

10:30 am Contemplative Service in Sanctuary

Masks are encouraged if you are vulnerable.

DOXA 11 am in Gym

Thursdays

Ecumenical Lunch Kitchen

ARMS Meeting

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fridays

Knitting for Warmth: on break
until January 2023

Children & Family Ministry



Thank You, Volunteers

We are all good on volunteers until next year, whoopie! Thank you all so much for your dedication and care towards the kids! Be sure to get on the list for 2023.

Dates needed:

1/1

1/8

Offerings

The goal of 10 small farm animals has been reached! Yay! From now until the end of the year, any additional offerings the kids bring will go into World Vision's \$10/child disaster relief fund in Ukraine. After New Years, the kids will discuss what they would like their next offering goal to be.

Ring the Bell

Sign-up on the sheet outside of the downstairs kids rooms to ring the bell. The weekly kids newsletter will detail what dates are available.

Email Kyler for more information if you would like to volunteer:

1stpreschildren@gmail.com. You can also check the volunteer sign-up sheet to sign-up for Sunday School and to help with kids' events:

Sunday School and Event Volunteer
Signup

Background Check Form

Youth Ministry



Sunday Morning Youth Group

Join us in the Youth Room!

Join us Sunday mornings in the Youth Room for connection and discipleship during the 9 am service. Contact [Kierstie](#) for details.

Sign-up for the Youth Family Newsletter

Get connected with our family newsletter! Email [Kierstie](#) to receive the newsletters.

Searching for Volunteers

Our team has many fun events planned for our youth, and we would love your help and participation! We are still seeking additional volunteers to help ensure that each event runs smoothly. There are many ways to get involved, from chaperoning big events, serving meals, hiking with students, etc. Please email Kierstie if you would like to get involved!

Check Out Our Schedule

Join our group on the Band App to see our schedule, upcoming events, and more! Don't forget to turn on notifications. Click [here](#) to join!