



1st Pres eNews

December 28, 2021

Important Links

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Blog of the Week

Bonnie Piovesan



The Day After

Every year, I look forward to Christmas. I love the trees, the lights, visits with friends, and the cookies! I spend hours shopping for that perfect gift. Christmas movies, Christmas music, Christmas stories—I am a sucker for them all! I could list dozens of my favorite things for this time of year, but one thing I never seem to get giddy about is December 26th.

Now, I do *appreciate* the day after ... [Read More](#)

This Week

Communion Sunday January 2nd



We will be celebrating communion this Sunday in the Sanctuary. If you plan to worship at home, please be sure to gather your elements before the service begins.

Guest Speaker This Sunday

We welcome Russ Smyth

A Quick Financial Thank-You and Update

As members of the Finance and Stewardship committees, we want to thank you for your financial faithfulness in 2021. Each year our two committees work hard to estimate the church's giving and expenses for the coming year. The budgeting process has been difficult the past two years due to



as our guest speaker this Sunday. He is a missionary with Anchored Int'l, based in Coeur d'Alene. Russ's ministry focuses on taking people through the Old Testament stories, so they can learn to know the God who made them, who loves and wants them. Russ has traveled to more than 40 countries and is engaged with church planters and Christian workers around the world.



unforeseen challenges worldwide. Through it all, the members of 1st Pres came through in numerous ways. Thanks to the loyal and faithful members of our church and their financial commitments over the years, we have been able to meet all of our current financial obligations as well as plan for our church's future financial security. Your generosity has truly humbled us.

Our giving income through November shows we are running behind about \$30,000 of our expected 2021 giving of our budgeted amount of \$575,000. We ask all of you to prayerfully consider making an additional year-end gift toward reducing our shortfall. Thank you for all you do for the church and the kingdom of God.

Bob Freund & Jon Hippler

Venture

1stPresDowntown

It's time to think about signing up for our late Winter/Spring Venture experience! The Adult Discipleship team is excited to announce that Pastor Neal will be leading the only adult class we're holding '7 Weeks to Greater Positivity and Kindness'.

This class will help you reduce negativity at work, home, and community. You will be introduced to 30 micro-actions designed to improve relationships and increase positive interactions around you. In the course, you will learn from bestselling author Dr. Neal Nybo and use his book *Workplace Positivity*. The class is interactive, utilizing small group discussion and peer coaching as well as training from Pastor Nybo.

In addition, Kierstie will be meeting with our youth and Carley will be running her newest Adventure Kids program.

The new session begins Wednesday, Feb 2, and runs through May 4th (7 sessions). Information about registration will be available soon.



Family Promise

1st Pres has long supported Family Promise of North Idaho, an organization dedicated to helping families in crisis build new lives. We host families several times each year providing a safe, warm environment including meals and a bed for one week.

Our most important need is help with set-up and takedown. Overnight fill-in hosts are also helpful. Can you help? Please contact Judy Flieger or Teri Burch.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!

[Watch Christmas Eve 5 pm Service](#)

Be Kind. Be Honest. Be Fair. You'll need to watch the service to see how this ties in with this past Sunday's message. [Watch for the first time or watch it again!](#)



Many thanks to our team of volunteers that make broadcasting the service possible!
[Watch this service or any of our past services on our YouTube Channel](#)

Church News

Thank You 1st Pres ... for your amazing support of and contributions to the 2021 Christmas Family Project!

We were able to be the hands of Christ and bless six wonderful families. There was great joy and gratitude among everyone (families and volunteers) as the families worked their way through the festive decorations and wonderful gifts. Even the kids were able to enjoy working on a Christmas craft, picking out



and wrapping a gift for their parents, and drinking hot chocolate with cookies. Each family left with big smiles and trunks loaded with wrapped gifts to put under their tree and stockings to hang in their homes. Deacons could not have done this without you, the congregation, the Outreach Committee, and the Reception Committee. We appreciate your backing of this new twist on an old way of honoring the Christmas families.

International Gospel Missions December Mission Team Update

Togo is a small West African coastal country made up of just over 22,000 square miles. It is one of Africa's smallest countries, with a population of an estimated 8



million people. A primarily French speaking country and a former French colony, Togo's religion consists of indigenous beliefs along with Christianity and Islam.

1st Pres supports Pastor Edoh Paul Assignon in Togo through International Gospel Missions. Their mission is to create cooperative relationships where local churches, organizations, and individuals prayerfully, financially, and physically support workers and ministries in addition to spreading the Word. Pastor Paul has enormous energy and

enthusiasm for bringing people to Christ. He sends 1st Pres periodic letters about progress in his area, and the churches he is planting there. Many young people have been saved through his inspirational work and he asks for prayers for the new Christians who have found God through his ministry.

Pastor Paul and his family recently contracted malaria and continue to struggle with health issues as they recover. They ask for our prayers for recovery and healing.

2022 Stewardship Campaign

Bridging to the Future

Don't forget to submit your pledge card for 2022 giving. It can be found on our website on the [giving](#) page or you can pick up a copy from the office.



Please Note

Masks are highly recommended in any group setting.

December Schedule

Sundays

7:55 am Bible Study - Lakeside Conference Room
9 am **Classic Service** in Sanctuary & Online.
10:30 am **Contemplative Service** in Sanctuary.

We encourage social distancing with
masks highly recommended.

DOXA 11 am

Wednesdays

Downtown Youth - check
with Kierstie for details

Thursdays

Ecumenical Lunch Kitchen
ARMS

Children & Family Ministry

Hi Families!

As this year winds down I wish you all a most happy new year and I look forward to seeing you in 2022!

I hope you all have a blessed week, Carley



Carley@1stpresdowntown.org

208-215-5337

Youth Ministry



Sign-up for the Youth Family Newsletter

Does your family have middle or high school students? Would your middle or high

schooler like to get connected with fun fellowship this summer? Get connected with our family newsletter!

Email [Kierstie](#) and let her know you'd like to receive the newsletters.

Sunday Morning Youth Study Cafe

Come as you are and join us in the Youth Room for hot chocolate and treats while you

work. We will enjoy praise music in the background of our cafe atmosphere and listen to the livestreamed sermon.



Groups & Gatherings

Saturday Men's Breakfast

@ Calypso Coffee Roasters

On the 2nd and 4th Saturday, September through May, the men of 1st Pres are invited to come together for fellowship and a bite to eat. We meet at 7:30 am at Calypso Coffee. Email [Dan Brown](#) or call 208.755.9087 for details.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

7:55 am in the Lakeside Conference Room

Our Sunday morning bible study, led by Chris and Eric Fehr meets at 7:55 am in the Lakeside Room off of Krueger Hall. Join in person or with this [Zoom link](#).



Knitting For Warmth

Please join us for fellowship and a little creative time

Fridays from 10-11:30 am in the Fireside Room. Please note we will be off for the rest of the month. We will resume on Jan 7, 2022. Please call Carolyn Peterson or the office if you have any questions.

Contemplative Worship Service

A Remedy to the Noise

Are you seeking a quiet place where your soul can find some room to breathe? The 10:30 Contemplative Service may be what you need. Spend time peacefully worshipping in a thoughtful and relaxed style.

Contemplative Service Leads

[Donna Brundage](#): Greeting

[Susan Lauer](#): Setup & Sanctuary
Design

[Matt Broadway](#): Music

[Yvette Wyatt](#): Scripture & Prayer

Staying In Touch

Remember that phone contact is a good substitute for in-person contact. Be sure to keep in touch with each other. We'll keep you up-to-date in the eNews, on the church calendar, or you can call the

office.

