



1st Pres eNews

July 18, 2023

Important Links

1stPresDowntown.org

[Church Calendar](#)

[1st Pres on Facebook](#)

[Giving](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

[1st Pres on YouTube](#)

Blog of the Week

Heather Cederblom-Bell

Personal Confession

This is an example of Presbyterian prayers of confession. "Almighty God, we acknowledge, and confess that we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength ... [Read More](#)



This Week

Staff of Hope Transitioning July Missions Team Important Update

Staff of Hope, located in East Africa (Kenya/Tanzania), has been one of our mission partners for some time. At one point it was a vibrant mission that shared close ties with our congregation. They offered a school with faith-based learning for children, had a well drilling truck they used to augment their income by drilling water wells and hosted a Pastoral training program.

Over the years we have received fewer & fewer updates on the work they have been doing and began to lose touch with our main contacts who were running the mission. It became much more difficult to discern what work was being done and how they are doing financially. Repeated

For the reasons above, our committee prayerfully considered their ongoing viability, as well as our responsibility as stewards of our congregations entrusted missional giving and made the difficult decision to discontinue our support of Staff of Hope as a mission partner. This change has been very transparent and well communicated with Pastor Spainour, who understands why the change is needed and acknowledges that he has much work to do to revive his missional efforts. In fact, he shared that we are not the only partner that has made this decision. We offered to continue our financial support for 2 quarters, ending in September so they have some time to adjust to the change.

attempts to contact them were increasingly unanswered.

The First Pres Mission's committee made a concentrated effort to identify who was still participating in running their mission & school. The founder, Jeff Spainour, who is a youth pastor at a church in North Carolina is still the principle of the organization. After pressing for more contact, we had a series of productive conversations with him. We discovered that the student enrollment at the school had dropped significantly, their drilling truck had been stolen when on site in Somalia and they had discontinued their Pastoral training program affiliated with the school. Further, Jeff has aging parents that are requiring much more care than he had anticipated. The only other contact we have is Moses, a friend that Jeff went through seminary with, but he lives a 2-3-hour drive from the school and isn't involved in the day-to-day operation of the mission anymore.

We are actively searching & discerning options for a new international mission partner to take their place. There are several great opportunities for well run and financially stable missional partners that we are currently reviewing and looking at others as well. We hope to align ourselves with a vital new partner who is making a real difference in the lives of others in the name of Jesus.

Prayers for Pastor Spainour, and the Staff of Hope would be appreciated. He needs to focus on caring for his aging parents and the school needs vital leadership to step up to keep it running.

Blessings,

Matt Broadway
Committee Chair



Summer Choir

Calling All Singers | All July

Your opportunity to join the summer choir is rapidly coming to a close. There are just two more Sunday's this month so don't delay! Come and join us this Sunday!

Rehearse: 8:15-8:45

Sing: 9 am service

Dress: Come as you are

Questions? Call Kent Kimball 509-993-6691

Orchard Ridge Senior Living Annual Butterfly Event

Tuesday, August 1

We are all invited to Orchard Ridge's annual event to raise funds to support charitable care for residents who have exhausted their financial resources.



This year the event is being hosted at a private residence on Lake Coeur d'Alene with a dinner cruise boarding at 5 pm and returning at 8:30 pm.

RSVP and buy tickets by calling Holly at 208.664.8119

For more information:

[Click Annual Butterfly Event Link](#)

Roberta 'Birdie' Hart

July 28, 1927 - June 24, 2023

Funeral services will be held for Roberta "Bertie" Hart, mother of Susie Fischer, this Wednesday, July 19th starting at 1 pm in our Sanctuary, followed by a cookie reception in Krueger Hall. Graveside services will then be held at Riverview Cemetery at 2:30 pm. Pray for comfort for her family, Susie & Scott Fischer, and other family and friends.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!



Walking with Abraham | A New Name.

What's in a name? Join us for this past Sunday's service as we were reminded of God's loving work of renewal in our lives.

[Watch Now](#)

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

Welcome Desk News



Every Sunday morning you will find a lovely greeting, a name tag so we can get to know each other, as well as general information at

our Welcome Desk. What you might not know is if we meet someone who is visiting or they have only attended a few times we like to gift them with a special bag. The bag holds our monthly activity sheet and a small book about prayer. If you see someone with that bag, be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them. If

you meet someone during church who is new and has not received a welcome bag, please have them come by the welcome desk.

Other things at the welcome desk are:

- "Love First" bracelet. There are different sizes so be sure to find one that fits.
- Coloring books and crayons for children to occupy them before they are dismissed for Sunday School.
- A sign-up clipboard for anyone interested in our next membership class, scheduled for Nov 4.

From our Children & Family Ministry

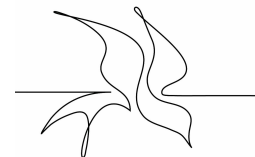
THANK YOU!

Our 'Send a Kid to Camp' campaign was a huge success and we owe it all to our generous and supportive First Pres congregants!!



Small Groups

If you are interested, please stay tuned - we're re-imagining our Small Groups. In the meantime, you can find information on our website. If you can't find what you're looking for, please



Your donations will provide opportunities for many of our children to attend summer camp this year and in the future. Thank you again.

call the office.

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



Prayer Shawls Available

Who in your life could use some support and a reminder that there are those who are praying for them? Our knitters & crocheters have been busy, and our inventory is high. Please visit the Fireside Room to pick out a shawl for someone special. Please be sure to fill out the sign-out sheet so we know where our prayers should be directed.

Sundays

9 am **Classic Service** in Sanctuary & Online
10:30 am **Contemplative Service** in Sanctuary
10:30 am Bible Study

DOXA 11 am in Gym

Thursdays

Ecumenical Lunch Kitchen
ARMS Meeting

Fridays

Knitting for Warmth

Children & Family Ministry

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

We so appreciate the many volunteers who have signed up to assist in the PreK-K classroom through August! Thank you for your willingness to serve our children's program!

If you feel led to serve in the future, we will always need assistants in the PreK-1st and 2nd-5th classrooms. Go directly to the link provided below if you are able to serve.

You may also contact the office at office@1stpresdowntown.org or 208-667-8446.



Sunday School Assistant
Signup

Background Check Form

Youth Ministry

Sign-up for the Youth Family Newsletter

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

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!



Sunday Morning Youth Group

Join us in the Youth Room!

The 1st Sunday of every month, all youth will stay in the Sanctuary to participate in Holy Communion.

Middle Schoolers are invited to join us Sunday mornings in the Youth Room for connection and discipleship during the 9 am service.

High Schoolers will meet at 11:30 for lunch and connection.

Contact [Kierstie](#) for details.

Volunteers Needed!

Our team has many fun events planned for our youth, and we would love your help and participation! There are many ways to get involved, from chaperoning big events, serving meals, hiking with students, etc. Please email [Kierstie](#) to get involved!