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B l o g s

What's My New Normal?

Emily Rogers

During our last staff meeting with Pastor Craig before he went on his 3-month sabbatical, he asked us to think about all the changes that have come with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He asked us to think about the negative effects and the positive effects. And, what do we wish to be the new normal for ourselves? Since I'd already been thinking a lot about this, figured it'd be a good time to put down my thoughts on paper.



[Read More](#)

E v e n t s

Meet Terry McGonigal - Guest Speaker May 10th

This Sunday!



We welcome Terry McGonigal, Director of Church Engagement at Whitworth University, as our guest speaker this Sunday.

Terry has spent 20 of his 25 years at Whitworth as dean of spiritual life and has worked for the past 5 years as Director of Church Engagement (DCE). Terry currently directs the university's collaborative effort to partner with churches "to equip disciples and engage culture with the Good News of Jesus."

Be sure to tune in on YouTube this Sunday!

Session Update

Decision though May 31

Our Session met Tuesday, May 5th to discuss the 1st Pres position on social distancing in compliance with the State of Idaho's response to the COVID-19 virus. With guidance from the Presbytery:



Plan

- Meet remotely with pre-recorded online streaming this Sunday, May 10th.
- Starting May 17th, we will begin to livestream our service from the sanctuary, with only worship leaders and needed staff in the sanctuary.
- Session approved the formation of a task force to navigate the many details of re-opening the church and it's many activities.
- Ongoing Session re-evaluation every 2 weeks.

If you missed this past Sunday's Service ...



It's hard to believe that we're starting our sabbatical message series! May though July we'll be treated to messages from our own sabbatical pastor, Rev. Jennie, the first Sunday and guest speakers for the rest of the month.

This past Sunday we hear Pastor Jennie's first message along with our other all-star contributors. We started with Ray's prelude and hymns, Rob Blackston leading us in our praise songs, and prayers and church news from Kierstie Reininger.

All brought to you by our wonderful team, again artfully compiled into a final production by Tech Director Connor Harris.

[Watch this service or any of our past services.](#)

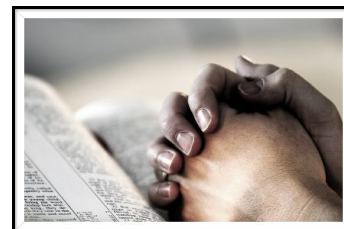
Open Sanctuary | By Zoom

Conversation and Prayer Wednesdays at Noon by Zoom

We have suspended Open Sanctuary at the church for the time being. We are trying our best to be super vigilant and will reopen the Sanctuary as soon as it's deemed safe.

For now, find sanctuary in your home and take time for self-care with quiet, peaceful meditation.

Watch your email for a message from to connect in prayer remotely.



Children & Families Ministry Update

Thank You For Your Generosity!



Thank You!

Today is a fun day at 1st Presbyterian. Our flower baskets are ready for pick-up (Wednesday, May 6 only).

You really came through (as always!). We sold an amazing 180 baskets. The proceeds will total over \$2,500 and will directly support the Children's Ministry at 1st Pres. We will use these funds to support summer programming as well as to support our camp scholarship program.

SPECIAL NOTE: *If it's raining, the pick-up will be at the office entrance. If the weather cooperates, we'll be using the gravel parking lot door for pick-up.*

Visiting the Church Office ... for now

As we *slowly* move toward our new normal, the office staff will continue to mainly work from home. If you need to stop by the church, please call the office to schedule an appointment so we can make sure whomever you need to visit is available.



Read and Think Along With Craig!

Pastor Sumey's Summer Reading List



Craig has a huge reading list to start getting through during the first part of his Sabbatical.

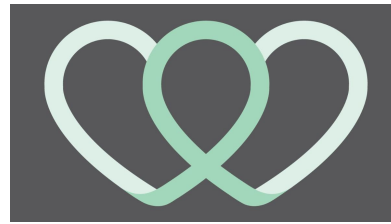
If you want to read along, he's put together a reading list of books and articles for you (don't worry, it's much, much shorter than his) so you can read and think alongside Craig. [Download the reading list.](#)

Also, watch your inbox for a weekly video blog from him, where he takes 10 minutes to share with you what he's learning, the questions he's asking, and things he's thinking.

Serving Those Who Serve

Help Us Find Those in Need

CDAIDE is providing resources and emergency financial assistance to those who live or work (currently or within the last three months) in restaurants and hotels in the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden/Post Falls area and have been affected by COVID-19.



If you know of someone in this situation, please let them know that an owner or manager can refer them to CDAIDE resources at <https://www.cdaide.org/refer-care>.

2020 College Scholarship Application - New Due Date!

Due May 31st



All scholarship applications now need to be received no later than May 31st . Please email your application to [Stephanie Rogge](mailto:bookkeeperfirstprescda@gmail.com) (bookkeeperfirstprescda@gmail.com). You can also mail applications directly to the church.

If you don't have the application, it can be found here: [Scholarship Application](#)

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the office:
208.667.8446

Important Links



While we're all adjusting to our current normal, we thought you might like quick access to these helpful links.

- [Subscribe to our YouTube Channel](#)
Join the 9 am Sunday service and view past services.
- [Online Giving](#). Please continue to support the ministry of our church through tithes, pledge fulfillment, and offerings. Take advantage of our convenient and easy-to-use online giving portal or you can mail your offering checks directly to the church office.
- [Submit Prayer Requests to iPray](#). We are a praying church! We pray together every Sunday and there is a committed group that prays for the needs of others all week long. Submit a [PRAYER REQUEST](#)

Don't hesitate to call the office if you have any questions: 208.667.8446

Steven Balas, Director of Student Ministries

Notes from Steve

Word for Today

"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17:3



Pictionary and/or Charades and/or Scavenging

Wednesday 6:30 pm

I had sooo much fun playing Pictionary/Charades last week! We let whoever's turn it was choose which they wanted to do. I laughed until it hurt!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/523636452?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/523636452?pwd=RGgxNkhNT3pRZnFWVFZnNThVblpMQT09)

[pwd=RGgxNkhNT3pRZnFWVFZnNThVblpMQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/523636452?pwd=RGgxNkhNT3pRZnFWVFZnNThVblpMQT09)

Meeting ID: 523 636 452

Password: 1234567

Free At Last - the Camping Trip - Register Now!

Let's celebrate our freedom together! We will be having tons of fun but we will also be learning cool tools for navigating our way to God through all of life's obstacles - even unexpected uproars like COVID-19. What a great way to kick-off summer - please plan on coming if you can!!!

Where: Priest Lake, Lionhead campground, group site

When: June 8 - June 11 (assuming we are opened back up by then)

Cost: \$50/child (with discounts for siblings and scholarships available)

Registration: <https://1stpres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/419932>

Registration deadline: May 17 (we need commitments asap!)

Greatest Shelter Contest - \$20 Amazon Gift Card Prize!

Congratulations to our shelter winner for the beautiful shelter - with a fire pit



Now the only question is ... how will she spend her loot?

Scavenger Swag

Your young ones have proven themselves adept at hauling in the loot! I have Amazon gift cards to give out. I can give these via email, but with this round of rewards I wanted to deliver them in person. If your child has been attending Zoom meetings and you'd rather they received their reward via email just let me know, otherwise I will text first, then drive by and leave your gift on the doorstep, then wait in my car for a second. If you want to chat for a minute come out - otherwise I will drive off and you can start spending the loot!

Digging Deeper - for high schoolers!

Is your child interested in learning more about God - in a more focused and mature manner? Youth group is a lot of fun, and there are a variety of interest levels amongst the kids. I want to create an avenue for any who want to really get into the things of God at a higher level. This would be an at-your-own-pace mentored study for those who want to take this step in their Christian growth. Let me know if you think this is your child.

Camp Spalding

We have discount codes available for Camp Spalding. If you are interested in attending camp this summer let me know.

As always, I am available with any questions, concerns or prayer requests!

Steve

steve@1stpresdowntown.org

Cell (208) 816-8122

C h i l d r e

Carley Walker, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Notes from Carley

Hello Families,

Zoom Connect and Learn

CANCELLED THIS WEEK!

I am super bummed that we have to cancel this week's **Zoom Connect and Learn**



meetings! I will be at the church distributing flower baskets for the fundraiser so I won't be available. Our congregation stepped up as they always do! We sold 180 flower baskets! This fundraiser brought in an incredible \$2,520 that will be used for scholarships and summer programming! I cannot thank everyone enough for their amazing support.

Our Zoom meetings will be back as of Wednesday, May 13th.

Preschool - 1st-grade:

I asked the 4, 5, and 6-year-olds to color a picture about creation this week. I would love you to send me a picture of your child proudly displaying their artwork for a special project I am working on. **This week's challenge:** Find something that God created and bring it on our Zoom to "show and tell."

2nd through 5th-grade Challenge:

On May 13th, during our Zoom meetings, we will be talking about how we are all unique, gifted, and special. I would encourage your child to think about one thing they consider a talent or unusual thing about themselves to share with the group.

Flower Basket Pick-up Info

Tomorrow is a fun day at 1st Presbyterian - our flower baskets are finally available! You guys really came through (as always!). We sold an amazing 180 baskets, the proceeds will total over \$2,500 and will directly support the Children's Ministry at 1st Pres. We will use these funds to support summer programming as well as to support our camp scholarship program. THANK YOU!

Special Directions:

Pick-up will be in the gym between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. There will be someone at the door directing you where to go. If it is raining, we will use the office entrance for pick-up. If the weather is nice, we will use the gravel lot gym doors. We will be practicing strict social distancing in accordance with the guidelines provided by the State of Idaho. As much as we would love to visit with all of you, we ask that you pick-up your basket and avoid hanging out. To speed up the pick-up process, consider bringing a pre-filled out check. Each flower basket is \$35.00. We will also have the ability to accept credit card payment.

Again, thank you so much for supporting the children of 1st Presbyterian! These funds will directly support the faith formation of all our Adventure Kids!

5th Grade Transition

It is hard to believe it's already time to begin talking about the transition from 5th grade to middle school within the church! We have eight 5th graders that will be moving onto the youth group. Steve, the summer interns, and I have come up with a plan for a (hopefully) seamless transition.

To begin the transition:

- **Wednesday, May 13th**, from 5:30 - 6:15 (before Steve's youth group meets). Current 5th graders and their parents to meet via Zoom.

- **Wednesday, May 20th**, from 5:30-6:15 just the 5th graders to join us on Zoom
- **Wednesday in May, 27th** the incoming 6th graders will be invited to either join the youth group in-person (if Idaho guidelines permit) or on the regularly scheduled youth group zoom meeting

The idea behind the Zoom meetings is to build a sense of community within the 5th-grade cohort. We will talk about fears and expectations as well as just getting to know each other better. Beyond this introduction to youth group, Steve is setting up a camping trip for the youth group (depending on state guidelines). All incoming 5th graders and their families would be invited to attend, so tentatively mark June 8th - June 11th on your calendars!

Please reach out if you have any questions regarding our plans to transition the 5th graders into the youth group.

Save the Date

- Every Wednesday for all ages: Zoom Meetings
- Incoming middle schoolers: Zoom Meetings May 13, May 20, May 27th
- **Blessing of the Bikes** June 7th, 2:30 pm
- **Youth Camping Trip** (incoming middle schoolers and family) June 8th - June 11th (Details to follow)
- **Summer Kick off BBQ, Yard Games, and Volunteer Appreciation** June 20th, 4:00 pm

Stay well,

Carley

Carley@1stpresdowntown.org or 208-215-5337.

G r o u p s

How We're Responding to COVID-19 Now

The Session met on May 5th to discuss our COVID-19 virus response. The decision was made to continue with current social distancing behaviors. They will re-evaluate on **May 19th**. We hope and pray that group meetings will return to normal soon.

Remember that phone contact is a good substitute for in-person contact. Be sure to keep in touch with each other as a way to show Love 1st. We'll keep you up-to-date in the eNews, on the church calendar, or you can call the office. Thank you for staying positive, and please test negative!



