



## This Week's eNews

November 21, 2023

### Blog of the Week

Heather Bell

Our hearts overflow with Thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. You might have a favorite scripture about giving thanks. Most of us have a traditional prayer that it said when we eat our Thanksgiving dinner.



This is a prayer from Abigail Van Buren:

[Read More](#)

### Important Links

[1stPresDowntown.org](https://1stPresDowntown.org)

[Church Calendar](#)

[1st Pres on Facebook](#)

[Giving](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

[1st Pres on YouTube](#)

[1st Pres Children](#)

[1st Pres Youth](#)

## This Week

Office Closed

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

November 23 and 24



Feeding Our Community  
**Turkey Drive 2023**

You can contribute to the Turkey Fund at any time. Your incredible generosity truly makes a difference.



Mission Team  
**International Mission Trip**  
November Update

As Believers, sometimes we ponder the work we are doing for God's glory. Are we having the right impact in a way that reflects His love and mercy? Am I doing what the Lord has truly called me to do, or am I simply doing the work ...

Coming in December

[Read the Entire Report](#)



You may think it's early to be talking about anything Christmas (except those of you who have already started listening to Christmas carols and watching Christmas movies - don't pretend you're not!). It's not too early because this all-church party is less than two weeks away!

We are on a roll with successful meal gatherings at 1st Pres and this all church Christmas Party & Chili Cookoff is sure to prove no different!

We want you to mark your calendars and think about your most delicious chili or macaroni and cheese recipes to share. Salad, cornbread, beverages and dessert will be provided.

### **FOOD**

There is a sign-up sheet in Krueger Hall or you can [sign-up here to bring chili or mac 'n cheese](#)

### **CHILDREN ATTENDING**

Tell us how many children will be attending with you so we can plan for gifts  
[sign-up here](#)



**Food Drive**  
**Fill the Pack**  
Through November 30th

The list of needed items and bags to fill are in Krueger Hall throughout the month of November.

You can also access the CdA Backpack Program's Amazon Wishlist here:

[Amazon Wish List](#)

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### **Retiring** **Emily Rogers** **December**

Emily Rogers, one of our wonderful Administrative Assistants, has decided to retire this December. Emily has been a faithful smile and source of all information here in the office for the past 9 years, and she will be dearly missed.



Emily and Tom are looking forward to being retired together and celebrating this next season of their lives. Emily plans to continue as an active member of 1st Pres and being able to participate in the life of the church in new ways.

I know I speak for the entire staff and many others in the church in saying a huge thank you to Emily for keeping all of our ducks in a row, our calendars organized, and our endless questions answered. We will miss you in the office and thankfully we will still be able to see you often.

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### **In Memory** **Laura Brown** **November 15, 2023**

Laura Brown, wife of Dan Brown and daughter of Dave and Jo Teater, passed into Jesus' loving arms on November 15th. Pray for peace and comfort for Dan, and their children, Gavin, Danielle, David, and Jennifer and for Dave and Jo as they mourn their loss.

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### **In Memory** **Margaret Ann** **Christian**

## Homegrown Christmas

December 16 | 3 pm

Join us for an afternoon of acoustic Christmas music as Outreach's gift to the congregation. More details next week.

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November 9, 2023

Margaret Ann Christian passed away quietly in her sleep on November 9th. Please pray for comfort for her family.



The Great Ends  
of the Church

### Sunday's Service

What is justice in the eyes of God? Join us Sunday as we explore the call to seek justice in a broken world?

[Watch Now](#)

## General News

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### Getting Connected

#### Small Groups

Adult Discipleship is still organizing the Sermon-based Small groups, while some have already begun. We do have a page on our website that is still in development, including weekly questions for group discussion. Please check back for updates. Contact Dan Brown for details or if you have questions.



#### Small Group Links

[Men's Fellowship](#)

[Sermon-Based Small Groups](#)

[Sunday Morning Bible Study](#)

[Women's Circles](#)

### New Location

#### Men's Thursday Fellowship

11:30 am | Kreuger Hall

Due to uncomfortably cool temperatures at the Iron Horse restaurant, our Thursday Men's Fellowship group is moving back to Krueger Hall starting November 30th.

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### Providing Comfort

#### Prayer Shawls and Lap Blankets

Do you know someone who could use a reminder that there are those who are praying for them? You'll find a lovely selection in the Fireside Room. Be sure to complete the sign-out sheet so we know where our prayers should be directed.

## Weekly @ 1stPres

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### Sundays

7:15 am Bell Choir Rehearsal

9 am Classic Service in Sanctuary & Online

10:30 am Contemplative Service in Sanctuary

### Thursdays

Men's Fellowship

Ecumenical Kitchen Lunch

ARMS Meeting

10:30 am Bible Study

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DOXA Service 11 am in gym

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Fridays**

Knitting for Warmth

## Family Ministries

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Please join our team of volunteers who serve in Family Ministry! All volunteers are background-checked and receive additional training. If you have not volunteered before and would like to learn more about next steps, please [email Kierstie](#). If you have already received your background check and training, please use the link below to serve with our Sunday ministry offerings.

### Seeking Volunteers for:

- Nursery Assistants
- Pre-K-1st & 2nd-5th Grade Sunday School to Assist Teachers with Prepared Lessons
- Middle-School Youth Group Assistants

**Sign Up Today**

**Access Code : Love1st**

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