



1stPresDowntown
Since 1888
LOVE1st
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF COEUR D'ALENE

1st Pres eNews

November 24, 2020

We ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2021 and return it soon so budgets can be developed. Pledges can be mailed to the church office, or go directly to our [Giving Portal](#) and automatically schedule your giving. Thank you!

Staff are always ready to answer your questions and help with your needs and prayer requests.



Important Links

1stPresDowntown.org

[Church Calendar](#)

[Connect With Us](#)

[FaceBook](#)

[Giving](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

[rightnow Media](#)

[1st Pres on YouTube](#)

Blog of the Week

This week of Thanksgiving we decided to bring in a guest author. Please enjoy a Max Lucado reflection.



The Benefits of Gratitude

The widest river in the world is not the Mississippi, Amazon, or Nile. The widest river on earth is a body of water called *If Only*.

... [Read More](#)



This Week



The staff is very



grateful for all of you!

Office Closed

Thursday, November 26th

Friday, November 27th

Sunday Service Update Reminder

Online ONLY Through December 20th

[Access our YouTube channel here](#) to watch our services anytime.

Session will re-evaluate the current plan on December 22.

Christmas Families This Year



Our Deacons work to accomplish our Love1st mission in many ways, and one is through gifting needy families in the downtown Coeur d'Alene area. Deacons interview each family to determine their needs and how we can best gift them at Christmas. Please join us as we share the love of God with these families.

You can contribute directly through our [Giving Portal](#) indicating **CHRISTMAS FAMILIES-DEACONS** fund. You can also donate a check or purchase gifts by coordinating with the Deacon Lead for the family. Visit our [Christmas Families page](#) for more details and the rest of the story.

Shopping & Giving Deadline: Dec 12, 2020

Turkey Fund 2020



Food insecurity is a problem that faces so many in our community. You can make a difference and

help local families by donating to the 1stPres Turkey Fund!

\$50 grocery card will be purchased for needy 1stPres families and individuals, community friends, school counselors and nonprofit partners this year to help defray holiday food costs.

Visit our [Giving Portal](#) and select 'Turkey Fund' to make a donation of any amount. You can also mail or drop a check off at the church office during normal hours.

Advent Begins This Sunday

November 29th



Celebrate Advent by Lighting an Advent Candle... From Home!

We will celebrate Advent each Sunday in Advent during our worship service and will feature a 1stPres

Encouraging Our Confirmation Students

Can you help encourage our 1stPres Middle School and High School Students on their Confirmation Journey?



family lighting the Advent Candles. Are you interested? We need volunteers!

Participants will be provided a set of instructions, script and set of candles. Recording can be done on laptop, tablet or phone camera. If you'd like to provide a video for one of the Sundays of Advent or for the Christmas Eve pre-recorded service (November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20, December 24), please email [Pastor Craig](#)

Students on the Confirmation Journey can grow in their faith by regularly participating and accomplishing homework goals. Church members can encourage them by donating \$5 or \$10 amounts to the '**Blessing Confirmation Students**' fund which will be used to purchase gift card rewards for hitting milestones along the way. Go to our [Giving Portal](#) and select 'Blessing Confirmation Students' to make a donation.

Deck the Halls Family Camp at Lutherhaven

We have another opportunity to join with our partners at Lutherhaven Ministries to have a fun-filled Family Camp! See the link for all the details. Invite your extended family members or friends to join in on the fun!

Our group will plan on attending together on Friday, December 11th through Sunday, December 13th.



[Lutherhaven Deck the Halls Family Camp](#)

Register here: [Digital Sign-up](#)

Praying for our First Responders

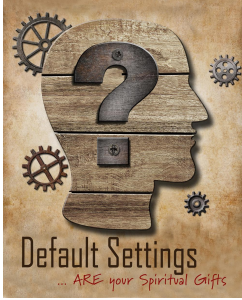


As you can imagine, our first responders are on the front line every day, and they're tired. Pastor Craig hosted conversations this past Sunday with Rick Clutter and Mike Sablan, two of our local heroes. They asked for prayers for mental health and healing, proper equipment, patience and continued support of all of our first responders. Please pray for these treasured individuals and their important work. You can listen to the full interview by [viewing the November 22nd service](#) available on our YouTube channel.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!

Pastor Craig wrapped-up our Default Settings message series last Sunday with the Gift of Faith. What is the difference between faith and little faith? We learned how our faith is validated in God and how faith can help us all do amazing things. Listen (or listen again) as Pastor Craig concluded *Default Settings ... ARE Your Spiritual Gifts* message series.



[Listen to Craig's message to learn more.](#)

Thankful! Even Jesus gave thanks to God. Carley recounted the story of the loaves and fishes (Matthew 14:13). We DO have so much to be thankful for! Listen to her devotional message on our YouTube channel [View HERE](#).

As always, many thanks to Blake Miller, our tech coordinator, and the full team that makes broadcasting the service possible!

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



Church News



Advent Devotional for 2020 from *Presbyterians Today*

Presbyterians Today's Advent and Christmas devotional, [Let Us Light Candles: Matthew 25 and the work of Advent](#) is now available. This extended online devotional – taking us not just through Advent but through Christmastide and ending with Epiphany, Jan. 6 – brings to you the inspiring words in Howard Thurman's poem "I Will Light Candles This Christmas."



Serving Ecumenical Lunch

Next Thursday, December 3rd



We provide lunch for the Ecumenical Kitchen one week from Thanksgiving: on December 3rd.

We will provide sack lunches and hope you can help by providing a few. These lunches usually contain: a sandwich, fruit/veggies and a dessert.

Please contact Bev Rasor at 208-765-3410 and let her know how you can help.

Searching for a Home

Can you help?

This past week the church office received a special request to help locate housing for a couple transitioning from Gulfport, MS to Coeur d'Alene. The husband has just accepted a position with the Forest Service and is scheduled to begin January 3, 2021.

They are looking for a church home as well as a 1 bedroom, studio apartment, or house for him to move into between Christmas and New Year's. The wife will follow once he is settled. If you can help,

please contact:

Carla and Michael Bennett

bscbarns@yahoo.com

Michael's Cell: 228.343.1797

Winter at Lutherhaven



Lutherhaven has provided us with opportunities to enjoy their facility and spend time fellowshiping together as a congregation in the coming months. Are you interested in sending your child to Winter Camp or perhaps even renting a cabin with your family/friends next month? Fill out the survey below and let us know!

[Lutherhaven Camp Interest Survey](#)

[Bennett Housing Request Letter](#)

Orchard Ridge Christmas Gift Basket Ideas

Orchard Ridge has provided us with a list of gift basket ideas. These baskets are distributed to residents and should be returned to Orchard Ridge no later than December 15th. If you have questions, call Holly at 664-8119 or email her at



hjohnson@theorchardcda.org



Children & Family Ministry



Deck the Halls Family Camp

We have another opportunity to join with our partners at Lutherhaven Ministries to have a fun-filled Family Camp! See the link below for all the details. Invite your extended family members or friends to join in on the fun!



Our group will plan on attending together on Friday, December 11th through Sunday, December 13th.

[Lutherhaven Deck the Halls Family Camp](#)

Register here: [Digital Sign-up](#)

Cost breakdown:

Cabin/Room \$50.00 per night (sleeps up to 10 people).

Meals:

Adult \$41 per day

You will register and pay Lutherhaven directly for your stay. Please do let me know if you will be attending, though, as I have some surprises in store for those who come!

****Lutherhaven is making every effort to remain safe by requiring masks when in**

Teen (13-17) \$30.25 per day
Youth (4-12) \$22.75 per day
Children under 4 attend for FREE!

common areas, eating with your small cohort group, and scheduling times for activities to avoid large gatherings.

Advent 2020

Begins This Sunday, November 29th!



If you are interested in helping to make Advent even more special this year, please let me know! Below are some opportunities where we'd love your participation!

Advent Readings

We are looking for families who would like to videotape the Advent readings from home to share with the congregation. Be expecting a signup or invitation to participate! See note in 'This Week' above.



UnPageant Stars Needed!

Although we will not be meeting in-person for the Unpageant, your family will have to opportunity to participate! We are in need of a small group of children for our pre-recorded version of the Unpageant. This will be filmed on a Saturday with a very limited number of participants for safety. The video will be live-streamed on the 20th of December.

What a fun opportunity for your child to share their adorable talents with our congregation, friends, and family! Please reach out to me directly if you would like more information.

Adventure Kids Club

Fall/Winter Focus: The Fruits of the Spirit

Parents: Kids Club IS meeting this Wednesday, November 25th!



Who: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Time : 6 - 7:30 pm

Dates:

Wednesday, Nov 25

Wednesday, Dec 9, 23

Guidance

- For safety, our group would need to be between 3 and 15 children
- We will operate within the same color zones as CDA School District, utilizing their guidelines.
- Masks required and a temperature
- We will heavily promote social distancing, but with the nature of children, we cannot guarantee children will stay socially distanced.
- We will offer at-home activities and challenges for the subsequent

check for all children before entering the building in accordance with the current color zone (this is subject to change as the District changes).

Wednesday when we do not gather in person.

Weekly Children's Devotion

Grateful again! Carley retells the story found in Luke 17:11-19. She explores the blessings of gratitude and challenges us to think about how often we forget to thank God for the big and little things in our lives.

We have created a playlist on YouTube so you can easily access the devotion to share with your child. Here is a link to the devotion for this week: [Devotional for 11/22.](#)



November 22, 2020
Children's Devotion with Carley

I hope you all have an amazing week. I am praying for you and your children. Please reach out with specific prayer requests, questions, or concerns.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

Carley

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



Youth Ministry



Middle School and High School Ministry for Fall 2020-Spring 2021



Fun Fall Stuff!

The Youth Team is looking for adult volunteers to join us in our mission supporting youth. If you would like information on how to get involved, please contact Tyler or Kierstie Renninger.

T: tylerdrenninger@gmail.com or 208-819-0090

K: ksrenninger@gmail.com or 208-651-4204

Bi-Weekly Confirmation

In case you were wondering, the youth are *not* meeting this week, Nov 25th.



- Expect an email from Pastor Craig with updates, expectations and assignments.
- Both in-person (as allowed by local health guidance and Session decisions) in Youth Room at 1stPres and/or on Zoom.
- If coming in-person, please wear a mask and enter through Lakeside entrance of church.
- If joining via Zoom, come in at 6:00 pm, have your handout downloaded and ready. Zoom meeting information was sent in a separate email from Pastor Craig.

We are excited to journey towards confirmation with any interested middle or high schooler! This will be an incredible season! Please reach out to Pastor Craig, or Tyler & Kierstie Renninger if you have any questions!



Confirmation Details

Pastor Craig has joined forces with the Youth Team to come up with a plan to offer all Middle School and High School

students an in-depth walk through what Christians say, do, and believe; which our tradition calls Confirmation. Bi-weekly Wednesday gatherings will be led by Pastor Craig and other adult volunteers. There will also be a schedule of just-for-fun hangout times. Each student will be surrounded by direct

support from adult church members and mentors as well as have direct access to Pastor Craig and the volunteers for whatever they're dealing with. Parents will be supported as well so they feel equipped to reinforce at home what's learned at church. There will be some fun incentives to keep students checked-in and up-to-date. At the end of this experience will be a weekend Spring Retreat, an all-expense-paid Summer weekend at Silverwood, and a 'rite of passage' faith experience in the Spring that is modeled after a 'prayer walk' experience.

Schedule

Sundays

Due to guidance from our Session, we are back to recording the Sunday Worship services. Produced by our Tech Coordinator, Blake Miller, the service first airs at 9:00 am Sundays. You can also watch at any convenient time, as they are recorded on our [YouTube channel](#).

Wednesdays

Youth usually meet every Wednesday, generally at the church for study with Pastor Craig and on the other week, a fun evening with Kierstie and Tyler Renninger. Watch your email for the most current schedule.



Groups & Gatherings



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. Thank you for staying positive, and please test negative!

