



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

1st Pres eNews

October 21, 2020

Important Links

1stPresDowntown.org

[Church Calendar](#)

[Connect With Us](#)

[FaceBook](#)

[Giving](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

[rightnow Media](#)

[1st Pres on YouTube](#)

Blog of the Week

Janet Starkey



Choices

I have been thinking about my blog for days. The topic kept shifting.

I've been reading a book written by Dr. Edith Eger, *The Choice*. She is a woman who lived through the horrors of the Holocaust. The story is an inspiring account of survival. I could have gone with that and written about hope and healing in light of what's going on now. But...

[Read More](#)



This Week



1st Pres Campus Update

In the last two weeks four members of the staff, including Pastor Craig, and nine members of the choir have tested positive for COVID19 and are all isolating at home. Two other staff members have had symptoms and are awaiting the results of their COVID tests. Thanks be to the Lord for His mercy as none of those who have tested positive on the staff or in the choir have had severe symptoms requiring

To keep our staff and members safe the church office will be closed through October 30; staff will be working from their homes (except our custodian) and church activities will be held virtually or cancelled. Stay tuned for updates on whether you are involved in a group which will be affected by this. Several outside groups will continue to use the building as they have had no contact with those who

hospitalization or extra medical attention.

One staff member is a positive link between the choir and the staff but there is no way of knowing for certain if that's why the virus made its way into the staff after the exposure to the choir at a Thursday night rehearsal the week prior to last. Another reason to be thankful to the Lord is that circumstances have contained the virus to both groups and we know of no significant exposure to the congregation at large. Several spouses, though, have also tested positive and those families are working to make sure everyone is tested and kept safe from exposure.

As you know we elected to limit Sunday worship to online only this past Sunday, and we will continue to do so for the next two Sundays as all affected persons work through their recommended periods of self-isolating. If all is clear and we feel confident the spread of the virus has been contained, we will resume both in-person and online worship on November 8.

have tested positive in our church.

If you have concerns about being exposed to someone at the church who has tested positive don't hesitate to contact the church at 208-667-8446 or 1stpresofficecda@gmail.com . If you test positive for COVID and attended the church anytime since Thursday, October 8 it would be helpful to let us know.

The Connections of Care groups were formed for this very type of situation: to keep connected and praying and caring for each other as a church family when we are unable to see each other in person. Please let your group know of any prayer requests or needs you have, and thank you for lifting up the choir members and staff members who have been directly affected. Of course, we still have abundant and hopeful faith in God's sovereign power and generous love even, perhaps especially, in challenging times such as these. Our mission is to share in that optimistic power and amazing love with each and the larger community in any way we can.



Pastor Appreciation Month

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month? There are many ways we can show our appreciation: cards, a phone call, gift certificates, tickets to a Chiefs game ... the list goes on. Let's take time this month to bless our Pastor and his family by filling up their mailbox and their hearts with expressions of appreciation.

It's Tent or Treat This Year!

The Community Outreach team is pleased to announce that we **will** be hosting a Halloween event this year! And, yes, (as with so many other things this year!) it's a little different. We are joining the Downtown Association on Saturday, October 31st at their Fall Harvest Festival which runs on 5th Street from Front to Coeur d'Alene Avenue. We'll be setting up tents (canopies) instead of (car) trunks on 5th Street between Lakeside Ave and Coeur d'Alene Ave (adjacent to our gravel lot).





ORCHARD RIDGE

Senior Living

Aging Well Workshop

Saturday, October 24

9 am - 2:30 pm

Peace Lutheran invites you to attend this workshop led by local professionals who are experts in their fields of aging. Sponsored by Orchard Ridge, the workshop requires a reservation.

RSVP to 664.8119 or email

cdafrontdesk@theorchardcda.org to

reserve your spot!

We do need your help with:

- Groups that would like to set-up, decorate, and staff a tent (much like trunk or treat, but under a canopy)
- Candy donations
- Anyone who'd just like to help where needed
- Set-up and take-down help (super easy because we're right next to the church)

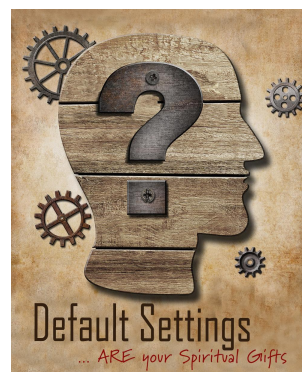
We will be practicing social distancing, using gloves, and wearing masks to keep both our member volunteers and the public as safe as possible.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!

Pastor Craig continued with our new *Default Settings ... ARE Your Spiritual Gifts* message series. When we all work together, serving, we can accomplish amazing things. What is serving? [Listen to Craig's message to learn more.](#)

Blessings. God is in control and will take care of us - no matter what! Listen to Carley's devotional message on our YouTube channel. [View HERE](#)



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

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



Church News



Testing Positive

Several members of the choir and now

Connections of Care at 1st Pres

You should have received your packet describing our new Connections of Care

community. You should have heard from your group Captain so that you are in



staff have been diagnosed as COVID-19 positive. All are resting and doing as well as can be expected. To the best of our knowledge, all are resting at home. Please keep our congregation in your prayers as we move through these challenging times.

Office staff are working remotely this week, but most are available by phone. Meetings have been moved to Zoom or rescheduled.

contact and can be praying for one another.

A few groups are in need of a Captain to get started. Please call the church office if you can help your group if it is without a leader.

If you did NOT receive a packet, please call the office so we can get you connected!



Knitting for Warmth Has Prayer Shawls

If you know someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, there are several available now in a variety of colors. Also, if you would like to knit a shawl for distribution, yarn and patterns are available. Contact Carolyn Peterson or call the office if you have any questions.

Orchard Ridge Christmas Gift Basket Ideas

Because it's never too early think about Christmas giving, 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



Basket filler ideas

Socks with traction on the bottom | Full size lotions, shampoo, conditioner, liquid body wash | toothpaste & toothbrush | nail polish & large nail files | large print word find books | prepackaged goodies (cookies, nuts, chocolates etc.)

What Does It Take to Keep a Church COVID Safe?

We get a lot of questions about how we keep 1st Pres looking good and safe during COVID. Even though no procedure is 100% effective, we are doing our best to keep you safe. Last year, 1st Pres went through an overhaul of our custodial practices. We introduced better tools and chemicals that are effective for our many surface types. Our regular cleaning process begins with a hospital-grade sanitizer, followed by a peroxide-based cleanser. This has been a proven cleaning method for many facilities that ensures surfaces are clean and safe even under heavy usage.

In the 2020 COVID era, we have introduced many new ways to keep areas as safe as possible. Access to the building is limited to better care for areas and those using the

building. Room usage is spaced out and scheduled so there is time to clean before the room is used again. Items that are typically passed or shared have been removed for now to limit the number of touch points a person might encounter. Comfort items such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes are available throughout the building.

The church is committed to doing all that it can to ensure 1st Pres'ers continue to have a clean and safe environment as they work and worship together.



Children & Family Ministry



Hello First Pres Families!

Children and Families will be hosting a tent for Tent or Treat on October 31st. We're going to need LOTS of help - greeting, handing out candy etc. Please let Carley know if you can assist. We're hoping to set-up shifts since it's from 10-3.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As you begin to come back to church you will find we have limited seating in the sanctuary. Because of this, we are inviting children to join us in the **Adventure Zone** before church begins. If you love having your kids sing with you in the sanctuary, you are more than welcome to make that choice for

your family. Simply bring them into the Adventure Zone during announcements. This is a temporary solution to our capacity issue while social distancing. Many have expressed a love of having their children present during the beginning of worship and we do not intend to change this in the long term.

Adventure Kids Club

Kids' Club is meeting every other Wednesday evening (kid-free evening anyone?!). The focus of our fall/winter session is The Fruits of the Spirit. Prizes and incentives along the way, with a prize for anyone with perfect attendance!



Who: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Time : 6 - 7:30 pm

Dates:

Wednesday, Oct 28 - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, Nov 11, 25

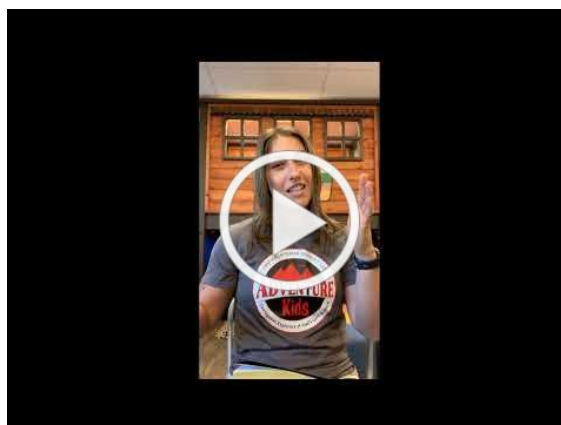
Wednesday, Dec 9, 23

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 check for all children before entering the building in accordance with the current color zone (this is subject to change as the District changes).
- We will heavily promote social distancing, but with the nature of children, we can not guarantee children will stay socially distanced.
- We will offer at-home activities and challenges for the subsequent Wednesday when we do not gather in person.

Weekly Children's Devotion

Each week we are providing a pre-recorded devotional for children's time. 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 10/18.](#)



October 18, 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.

Have a blessed week,

Carley

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



Youth Ministry



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



Fun Fall Stuff!

Due to Covid concerns and out of an abundance of caution, we are **cancelling** the Harvest Festival planned for this week. However, families should keep an eye out for a connection from the Youth Team next week.

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: ksrenningee@gmail.com or 208-651-4204



The next confirmation meeting will be on Zoom. Pastor Craig will be sending out the meeting link.

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!

Are you interested in ways you can be involved in supporting our awesome youth? We have many volunteer opportunities available to match your interests, and we would love to get you connected! Please contact Kierstie Renninger for more information! Thanks!

The 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 positive COVID cases among staff and choir, we are back to recording the Sunday Worship services. Blake Miller, our

Wednesdays

Youth usually meet every Wednesday, generally at the church for study with Pastor Craig and on the other week, a fun

tech coordinator, has produced the service which is first aired at 9:00 am Sundays. Or, you can watch at another convenient time, as they are recorded on our [YouTube channel](#).

evening with Kierstie and Tyler Renninger. Watch your email for the most current schedule.



Groups & Gatherings



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



Meetings by Zoom

This will be a quiet week in the church building, as our staff is working remotely due to recent positive COVID diagnoses. However, reach out to us by phone, email, or through our website.

phone: 208-667-8446

email: office@1stpresdowntown.org

website: 1stpresdowntown.org