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1st Pres eNews

October 27, 2020

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Blog of the Week

Stephanie Rogge



Praying God's Name

When the winter storm blew in last week and I started hearing reports of car accidents and power outages, I found myself praying again. The prayers were not for myself, but instead for complete strangers who might be in danger. I find that I've been doing that a lot lately. When I hear about something that is completely out of my control, which is literally everything, I find ...

[Read More](#)



This Week



1st Pres Campus Update

As you know, due to the recent COVID positive reports among staff and choir, we elected to limit Sunday worship to online only through Sunday, November 1. This is to continue to support all affected persons as they work through their recommended periods of self-isolation. 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

Communion Next Sunday

Pastor Craig and the Session have recommended that we postpone communion one Sunday so we might celebrate together. The current plan is to celebrate communion on Sun, Nov 8.



Connections of Care in Action
Our Response to COVID-19

8. Watch for updates from Pastor Craig.

To continue to keep our staff and members safe, the church office will be closed through this Friday, 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 have tested positive in our church.

Don't hesitate to contact the church at 208-667-8446 or or [email the office](#).



The Connections of Care groups were formed for situations where

separation is necessary. We can always keep connected and pray and care for each other as a church family even when we are unable to see each other in person. Please stay connected with your group and thank you for all the prayers for our church family. Our mission is to share in the optimistic power and amazing love of our Father with each and the larger community in any way that we can.



November 1 - 7

We are once again providing meals and snacks for the Family Promise guests, housed in a local static location. And...

There is only one family in the program right now: a woman and her baby. Bill and Teri made the decision to make enough with their family meals to share! "It just seemed easier than to have our volunteers make food for just one person." Bill and Teri are at home right now with their daughter and her kids, so they always have plenty of food and share the cooking. Bill or Teri will deliver the food.

If another family enters into the program, Bill and Teri will reach out to the congregation. Our church is so very generous with their time and money. We have received donations to our 1stPres Family Promise checking account to help pay for groceries and meals. This money is

Tent or Treat Cancelled

With a heavy heart, the Community Outreach team is sad to announce that we have decided to cancel our Halloween event. With the number of COVID

cases in our congregation and staff, we decided it was the prudent course of action. We do hope and pray that next year will bring the positive changes we're all planning for, and we will once again be active in the community!



At the moment, we are planning on hosting Neigh-tivity in December. We'll keep you updated as the situation evolves.

Pastor Appreciation Month

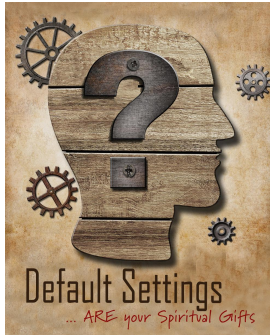
Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month? There are many ways we can show our appreciation: cards, a phone call, gift certificates, tickets to a Chiefs game ... the list goes on. Let's take time this month to bless our Pastor and his

for our co-ordinators (Bill and I right now with hopes for someone to take up Eric and Chris's role) to use as needed when it is our turn to host guests. Teri said, "I love the faith in us to do the right thing."

family by filling up their mailbox and their hearts with expressions of appreciation.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!



Is Mercy part of your default setting? We are asked to be merciful even as our Father is merciful. Listen as Pastor Craig continues with our new *Default Settings ... ARE Your Spiritual Gifts* message series. [Listen to Craig's message to learn more.](#)

Seeds. Carley uses a pumpkin this week to illustrate her fun message this week. This is one you won't want to miss! 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



CDAIDE Volunteers Needed

CDAIDE has had quite a few volunteers drop off and is in need again. If you can help, please contact Bev Moss or [visit their website to learn more.](#)



New Resources!

[CDAIDE](#) is pleased to announce several new programs available to local workers and families.

Fair Trade Festival & Missions Celebration

Like so many things this year, the Missions team is considering their options for hosting the Fair Trade Festival & Missions Celebration. It's unlikely that we can host the event this year in-person, typically held in December. The team is considering the options, and we'll update you when there's new information.

Connections of Care at 1st Pres

By now you should have received your packet and heard from your group

Captain so that you are in contact and can



be praying for one another.

- [Educational Funding for Parents.](#) Must apply by Dec 15th.
- [Childcare Scholarships.](#) This is a United Way program.

Looking for additional resources, consult this [Region One Resource Directory](#).

If you know anyone who might benefit from these programs or resources, please pass on this information.

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 to 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!

Despite our best efforts, the Coronavirus was able to creep into our congregation and staff. To keep the spread of the virus contained, the Session and staff decided to suspend all in-person activities through at least November 1st. Sadly, this means Adventure Kids' Club will have to be canceled again this week.

A Peek into Christmas



It has been very challenging going into the Christmas season here at 1st Pres. We are trying to figure out how we can remain safe while still providing many of the wonderful traditions we have all grown to love (like Advent Family Readings and UnPageant). This year will undoubtedly look different, but we think we can still have modified versions of our beloved activities!

Advent Readings

We will be looking for families who would like to videotape the Advent readings from home to share with the

finding 10 children (or 7 children if we have a family who would like to participate as Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus) to make up the manger scene, there will be no lines, just hanging out on stage while Craig tells us the Christmas story. We will need 3 wise men, 3 animals, 1 Mary, 1 Joseph, 1 Star, and 1 Angel. We would make sure to take great care in making sure the scene is socially distanced and as safe as possible.

We are also hoping for some children/youth to provide instrumental or vocal performances during the service on

congregation. Be expecting a signup or invitation to participate!

December 20th (This is also when the Christmas Story will be told).

UnPageant

We have plans A, B, and C when it comes to the Unpageant. We think plan B will be the most likely plan. Plan B includes



If you are interested in participating in either event, please let me know. Should in-person activities be suspended over the holidays, we would still find a way to make sure this special service would still take place.

IMPORTANT NOTE for when we DO come back to church: 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

Normally, Kids' Club meets every other Wednesday evening (kid-free evening anyone?!). The focus of our fall/winter session is The Fruits of the Spirit. However, this Wednesday's session is cancelled until folks have a chance to return to full health.



Who: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Time : 6 - 7:30 pm

Dates:

Wednesday, Oct 28 - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, Nov 11, 25

Wednesday, Dec 9, 23

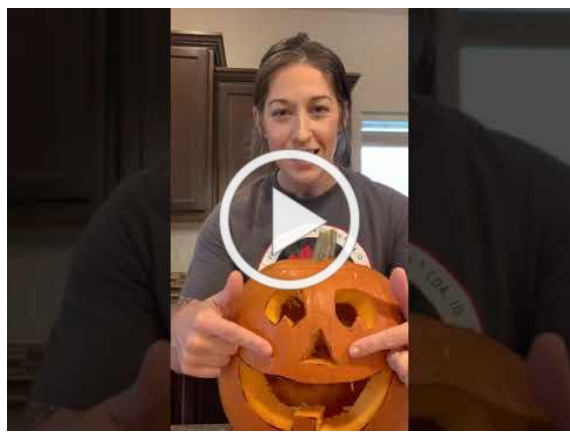
Guidance

- 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

"The Gospel According to a Pumpkin"

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 10/25.](#)



October 25, 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!

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



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 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](#).

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

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



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

eNews, on the church calendar, or you can
call the office. Thank you for staying
positive, and please test negative!

email: office@1stpresdowntown.org
website: 1stpresdowntown.org