



Important Links

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Blog of the Week Linda Scheideler, Deacon
Blessings Abound!

Did you ever want to do a do-over, when something just didn't go right the first time? How lucky are we that the Deacons were able to hold our Back-to-School Clothing Giveaway for a second Saturday! [Read More](#)

This Week

Call for Elder Nominations



Our Nominating Committee is working to fill six positions so the Session can conduct church business at full strength. [Learn more here](#) or use the button below to go directly to the nomination site.

[Nominate Elders Now](#)

**The church office will be closed
 Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day holiday**

Immediately following the 9 am service on Sunday, September 13, we will hold a special all Congregation meeting to vote for new session members. Our nomination committee is working diligently to gather candidates for your approval.

Watch for the Zoom link next week if you'd like to attend remotely.

Candid Conversations

The Session is following through on its promise in the recent letter to you by providing a forum for you to share your heart with your fellow 1stPres'rs.

Following the congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 13**, you are invited to participate in an open forum offered both in-person in the sanctuary and via Zoom. This will be a separate Zoom link from the Congregational meeting.
(Zoom link coming next week).

Connections of Care Groups are Coming

The Session has approved a plan for giving each and every 1stPres member and attender a connection with a group of fellow 1stPres'rs committed to care and pray for each other. Since we are hindered in our ability to gather and connect for a season due to COVID it's critical we find a way to make sure everyone can enjoy the bonds of love and support we share in the church family.

These Connection of Care groups will be around 12 people assigned to each other to provide the basics of regular check-in's and specifically praying for each other by



Our "Flying Solo" group has been grounded for most of 2020 - just like all of us! In January we had to postpone a bowling/chili dinner event due to bad weather, but February brought us all together for a wonderful afternoon of line dancing. What a fun day that was! We had no idea how many dancers we have in our midst. Once the pandemic hit, we had to cancel once again. But we are well, still in communication with one another, and looking forward to taking off again very soon! Come join us.

~ Sam and Jeannie Logozzo



connecting. Each group will choose a Captain/convener and a name. Beyond the bottom-line of connecting and praying, groups can also have optional activities like sermon discussions, Bible reading, worship watch-parties, and serving projects like coming alongside a working school-age family or a student. Special resources will be developed to help the group members make the most of this connection. This experience will be an extension of the weekly worship gathering, adding that 'secret sauce' of feeling like you're cared for and prayed for personally even if worshipping online.

name. You will be able to opt out of this experience if you are attending in-person worship or don't have a need for this connection at this time. Existing groups like Christ Care groups, Bible studies and Circles can opt in as a whole group as they continue their established routines for

Our Staff is fine-tuning the plan so watch for information coming in the next two weeks about how you or your group can be a part in a 1stPres Connection of Care.



Choir Rehearsals Start in September



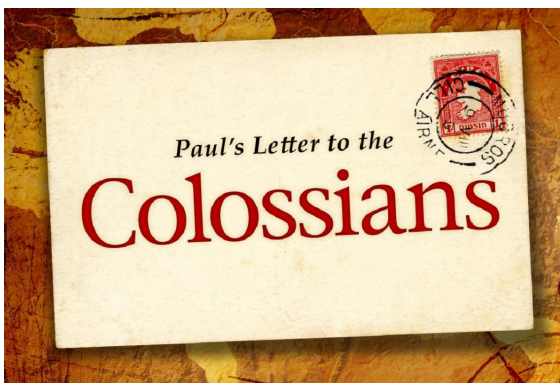
COVID can't stop the music! Our new music director Kent Kimball and worship specialist Ray Weaver are resuming safe, socially-distanced rehearsals for choirs and bell choirs in September and October (mainly by using Krueger Hall as a big spread-out rehearsal and performance space), as well as recorded and live music offerings for Sunday morning worship. Much thought has gone into how to do this successfully and safely, which is a good

thing because we sure miss the musical talent of these gifted 1stPres'rs!

First choir rehearsal is Thursday, Sept 10th.

Want to help as a choir member or bell player? Contact [Kent Kimball](#) for more info. Want to help out with Praise Team on Sundays? Contact [Ray Weaver](#).

Colossians Bible Study September 2020 through April 2021



You are invited to attend our Colossians Bible Study beginning on Tuesday, September 8 from 4 - 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room. This is for those new to Bible study as well as veterans.

Led by Bob and Carolyn Fish, the study will apply Colossians' powerful, relevant wisdom to needs and issues you are

currently working through while you acquire personal Bible study skills. The Colossians study is part of the Navpress study series and utilizes a workbook (\$10).

The study will practice social distancing. Participants are welcome to wear masks, but they are not required. It will run on the second and fourth Tuesdays of September, October, and November, and then resume in February, March and April.

Those interested in joining this study should contact Carolyn Fish directly at ckfish3474@gmail.com or call her at 562-201-3474 to sign up. Workbooks will be distributed to participants at the first study session on September 8th.

Sunday's Service

Watch again or for the 1st time!

This series has addressed what we're living through and how to consider how we can respond as Christians. Pastor Craig reminded us that grace can heal divisions - that it gives us the mission to carry that grace back into the world and sow its seeds. We are called to be different. We are called to think, speak, and act different!



Carley delivered her second children's devotion - a very cool message about pencils! You can find this video on our YouTube channel. Be sure to tune in with your family for a special time of devotion together. [View HERE](#)

As always, many thanks to the team that made broadcasting the service possible! [Watch this service or any of our past services on our YouTube Channel](#)

Church News

Gifting Prayer Shawls



With Pastor's increased emphasis on prayer, keep in mind that we have prayer shawls for distribution! Please reach out

to Carolyn Peterson if you think of someone who might benefit from this special gift!

Job Posting

Custodian / Groundskeeper

We continue our search for our new Custodian/Groundskeeper. This is a full-time, hourly position which reports directly to the Church Administrator and is accountable to the Building and Grounds Team and to the Session of the church.

If you know of someone interested in this position, check out the full details on Indeed: [Custodian/Groundskeeper](#).



Visiting the Church Office

Our New Normal

Please call the office to schedule any appointments so we can make sure whomever you need to visit is available.

208.667.8446

Youth Update

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

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.

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.



Students and Parents can learn all about the plan on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6 pm** both in-person in the Youth Room/Krueger Hall at the church and via Zoom. All Middle School and High School students and their parent(s) are invited to participate.

Next Meeting: September 16th



Things are changing. Moving forward we'll be alternating the confirmation sessions with nights of fun on Wednesdays. Join us at the church from 6:30-8:00 for an evening of fellowship. Call Kierstie Renninger if you have questions about what we'll be doing!

Schedule

Sundays

Sunday services are once again in the sanctuary and online. Contact Pastor Craig to see if there will be any meetings at the church.

Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm

All youth are welcome to join us for outdoor activities through the month of August.

Children's Ministry

Hello Families!

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to fill out our survey. We had some great ideas! The Children and Family team is meeting tomorrow night to go over the survey

results and to have a brainstorming session. We should have some solid solutions and ideas to offer as early as next week. If you have any ideas or suggestions that did not make it onto the survey, simply send me an email so we can make sure they get discussed.



When You Are Ready, We Are Here!



Just a reminder that we are at the Church and ready for your children on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We have childcare with Kyler for children three and under. I am available for a group lesson and open play in the Adventure Zone for children older than three. We will be requiring masks for all children three and older. As soon as we have a critical mass, we will be offering individual Sunday school classes.

Weekly Children's Devotional

Each week we will be providing a pre-recorded devotional for children's time. We are creating a playlist on YouTube so you can easily access the devotion to share with your child. We will also have a challenge each week. Snap a photo of your child completing the challenge and we will share it during the announcements at church! I know your child will love seeing themselves on the big screen and this is a great way to support a feeling of community.



August 30, 2020 Children's Devotional



3rd Grade Bible Presentation

It's that time again! All students who are entering 3rd grade have the opportunity to receive a personalized Bible from the congregation. This is a special rite of passage and an important step in your child's faith formation. If you would like your child to receive a personalized Bible, please email me with the spelling of their name (please include their middle name if you would like that to be added to the inscription on the cover). It would also be very helpful if you would let us know your comfort level with receiving the Bible. Would you be comfortable coming into the church and receive

the gift with the congregation on a Sunday morning or perhaps you have an alternative idea that suits your comfort level? Please include that information with your reply. Look for a date within the next few weeks.

I am praying for all of you as you prepare for the upcoming school year. As a fellow parent, I know how incredibly stressful this season has been. Please reach out to me with questions, concerns, ways I can support you and your family, or prayer requests.

Have a blessed week,

Carley

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

Groups & Gatherings

Ministry Groups can meet at the church!

Please contact the church office to reserve a room for your Ministry group. Please remember that maintaining social distance and wearing masks is highly recommended. Emily and Chris, your amazing receptionists, will work with the Church Administrator to ensure spaces are available and cleaned properly.

Staying In Touch

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!

