



Important Links

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Blog of the Week

Stephanie Rogge

What Can We Do But Pray

I find myself praying more. With everything going on the world, I find myself getting overwhelmed.

I'm sure many people feel the same way. Rather than sit around and worry, I find that I need to take my concerns to the only One who can do anything about them ...

[Read More](#)



This Week

Congregational Meeting

~ **THIS SUNDAY** ~

September 13th

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 has worked diligently to gather candidates for your approval.



[Join Congregational Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 854 8507 2415
Passcode: 163253

The Session is following through on its promise to you with a forum for you to share your heart with your fellow 1st Pres'rs.



Following the congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 13 at 10:30**, you are invited to participate in an open forum offered both in-person in the sanctuary and via Zoom. This is a separate Zoom link from the Congregational meeting.

[Join Congregational Forum](#)

Meeting ID: 837 6252 9710
Passcode: 553745



Fall is approaching and it's time to prepare for the return of our regular Sunday morning programming. That's right, summer is about over!

We are looking to fill several roles. First, a nursery volunteer to assist Kyler in caring for our littlest 1st Pres'rs. This should be someone who loves to work with children, birth through 3 years old.

We also need a volunteer team of two to teach and shepherd our preschool and kindergarten class. It would be great to have a few teams who could rotate.

Next, we need a few volunteers who would be willing to work with our 1st grade through 5th grade students, both in large group and small group formats.

Finally, we are seeking a team of people who would commit themselves to praying for our children and families on a regular basis.

If you are interested in hearing more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please call or email Carley Walker at 208-215-5337 or carley@1stpresdowntown.org

A New Way to Host Family Promise

Sept 27 - Oct 3

We aren't 'hosting' *this* week but our week will be here before you know it. Things have changed dramatically and rather than hosting families in our building, we're providing food and groceries to a static location - a way to demonstrate Love First to these families trying to make a fresh start.

Teri and Bill Burch will be contacting congregation members to help provide and deliver groceries and dinner to the families at their static location. We are scheduled to provide food and groceries from Sunday, September 27 through Saturday, October 3. We have a list of people who have volunteered in the past and will be contacting them by email or phone with the needs of the families during the week of September 13. If you'd like to help, please contact Teri



and Bill, or call the church office.

Find out more about how we support [Family Promise of North Idaho here](#).

Coming soon! Connections of Care Groups



The Session has approved a plan for giving each and every 1st Pres member and attender connection with a group of fellow 1st Pres's committed to care and pray for each other - a Connection of Care group.

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 name. 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 of 1st Pres Connection of Care.



Choir Rehearsals Start This Thursday

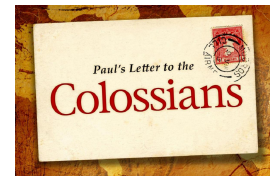
Safe, socially-distanced rehearsals for choirs start this week, September 10, and the bell choir rehearsals begin on September 20. Much thought has gone into how to do this successfully and safely, which is a good thing because we sure miss the musical talent of these gifted 1st Pres's!

First choir rehearsal is Thursday, Sept 10th at 7pm.

First bell choir rehearsal is Sunday, Sept 20th at 7:30am.

Want to be 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



Please join our Colossians Bible Study from 4 - 5:30 pm on Thursday's in the Fireside Room. This is for those new to Bible study as well as veterans.

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 (\$10) will be distributed to participants at the study session.

Sunday's Service Watch again or for the 1st time!

Communication - we all do it in some form or fashion (this includes listening!). How good are



you at communicating? Listen to how Pastor Craig tells us how it's a critical component of the Christian faith.

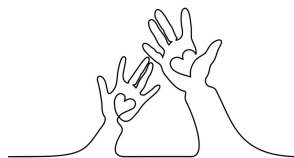
Carley's third children's devotion used calculators to make her point (think about last week's devotion :-). You might want to pull out an old fashioned calculator - she inspires a fun task.

You can find her 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

What is WW2 Up To?



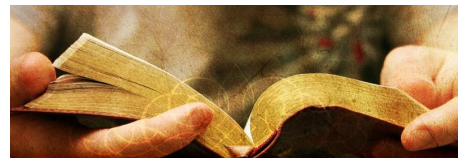
As you can imagine, a social group that isn't allowed to meet ... makes things

interesting. That said, [Widows & Widowers 2 \(WW2\)](#) is staying in touch with each other with uplifting and touching emails and phone calls. Since getting together socially is still a challenge, nothing has been planned at the moment.

If you have ideas, would like to join the group, or need any information, give Karen Huber a call or call the church office.

Men's Fellowship This Fall

The Saturday Men's Fellowship group is meeting! The plan is to meet Saturday, September 19th at The Bakery by the Lake - 7 am sharp. Contact Dan Brown for more information.



The Thursday Men's Fellowship group has been meeting virtually and will continue to do so for the time being. Contact John Mackesy for more information.

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.

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

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

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

Do you have yarn to donate? We can always use more! Call Carolyn Peterson.

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



Children & Family Ministry

Hello First Pres Families!

As promised, the Children and Family Committee met last week to discuss the survey results. There was a variety of responses, with only a couple having similar requests. The most sought after support was the inclusion of a social opportunity outside of Sunday mornings. We had a few requests for at-home resources. We also had some families who would like family gatherings that are outside as the weather permits. The great news is that we feel we can accommodate all of these requests!



Family Porch Visits



We want to connect with you and your children! In an effort to do that, we would like to come and have a socially distanced porch visit with you! Please sign up below for a porch visit. If you would rather meet at a park or at the church just let us know. Carley and a member of the

Blessing of the Backpacks & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

You are invited to participate in our annual Blessing of the Backpacks event on Sunday, September 20th at 11:00 AM. Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket for your family. We will be outdoors if the weather allows. If it is too chilly, we will move into the gym for a socially-distanced picnic with masks (if inside) when not eating. Make sure to bring your child's backpacks so they they can be prayed over as we enter the new school year. This year, we will also be presenting the 3rd graders with their personalized Bibles.

If you would like your child

Children and Family Committee will make the visits (we will be wearing masks and maintaining social distancing). We will tell you all about our plans for the fall and talk about how we can support you best through this season.

Sign up here: [Family Visits](#)



to receive a personalized Bible, please reply to this email with the correct spelling of their name (please include their middle name if you would like that to be added to the inscription on the cover). To be eligible, they the child should be entering 3rd grade OR older if they have not received a Bible previously.

Adventure Kids Club

We want to explore the idea of a Kids' Club with you. The idea is that the club would be every other Wednesday in conjunction with the middle and high school confirmation classes (kid-free evening anyone?!). The Club would be a social opportunity with faith formation, games, and a craft. The focus of our fall/winter session would be The Fruits of the Spirit. We would begin with seven sessions starting September 30th. We will have prizes and incentives along the way, including a big prize at the end for anyone with perfect attendance!



Who: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Time : 6 - 7:30 pm

Time : 6 - 7:30 pm

Dates: Wednesday, Sept 30

Wednesday, Oct 14, 28

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.

If you are interested in this offering, please send Carley a quick text or give her a call so we have an idea of the interest level. **We will be holding a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30 to answer any questions** you may have, at this time we can also discuss the potential of a Zoom option for those who do not feel comfortable participating in person. We will compile a list of families who are interested in the Kids' Club and will send a personal invite to the Zoom meeting early next week.

Weekly Children's Devotion

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. Here is a link to the devotion for this week: **[Devotional Video from 9/6](#)**. 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 the children your child will love seeing themselves on the big screen and this is a great way to support a feeling of community.



September 6, 2020 Children's Devotion with Carley

I am praying for you this week and every week, please reach out with specific needs or prayer requests.

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

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

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

some fun incentives to keep students checked in and up to date.

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 6-7:30 pm, approximately twice each month 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 or Kierstie Renninger to see if there will be any additional meetings at the church.

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!

