

THE LINK

APRIL 2021

He has RISEN!

Alleluia!

CONGREGATIONAL-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Over the past few weeks, I've been thinking a lot about her words: *his love has no memory*. It is difficult for me to imagine a God who welcomes me home from my wayward journeying and places his ring upon my finger. The image I often hold to is the image of an angry judge ready to punish and rebuke me for my disobedience. And yet, the God revealed in Jesus Christ is the one who welcomes us home with open arms, a God who freely loves us in the face of our brokenness. In other words, *God has no memory*. The Lord does not keep account of our sins. He does not remember our iniquities (Heb. 8:12). When he looks at each of us, he sees his Son, and we are welcomed to his table as heirs of the Kingdom.

As we journey together through Holy Week, my prayer is that each of us will remember that God's love for us is declared in no uncertain terms from the cross on Golgotha: in Jesus Christ, God has made each of us a recipient of his unending love, a love that does not remember our sins. It has no memory. It is the love of a Father who celebrates our return to him and welcomes us back into his home. *Who is Jesus, really?* He is our loving Savior!

Let us celebrate his love together as we gather at the empty tomb.



In Christ,
Pastor McLane

p.s. If you'd like to see some photos of the student performance noted above, head over to the CongoPres Youth page.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Since September, our students at CongoPres Youth have been studying the Gospel of Luke. Our theme for this year's study of Luke has been the following question: "Who is Jesus, really?" That may seem like an odd question to ask, but I think it is an important one. Many of us have spent our entire lives in the church and have read the gospels and the rest of the New Testament multiple times. As we have engaged the story of Jesus, we have probably developed some ideas and images of who he is. Many of these images are accurate and important. For example, we often describe Jesus as loving those on the outskirts of society: the lepers, the sinners, the tax collectors, and the Samaritans (to name a few). However, many of our images and ideas can be misleading. Jesus is often depicted as a stoic man who never shows emotion. When you begin carefully reading scripture, you realize that this image is far from the truth. As the Gospel of Luke shows us, Jesus experiences joy, suffering, hope, uncertainty, anxiety, and many other emotions *just like us*. As the early Christian church consistently declared, Jesus is *fully human*. He is like us in every way (except for sin).

As we approach Easter Sunday, I think it is important to think carefully about the images we have in our minds about the events of Holy Week. Perhaps we imagine Jesus as some cosmic superhero standing before the Roman authorities and laughing in the face of his opponents. Indeed, there are some who describe him in this way. Sometimes it is easier to imagine Jesus as an untouchable hero than it is to see him suffering on the cross. However, I find it best to pause when we are presented with this depiction and ask the question, "Who is Jesus, really?"

Who is Jesus, really? He really is the God of the universe dying on a cross for you and me. He really is the Son of God sent to reconcile us with our loving Father. He really is the one who takes our sins upon himself and experiences death in our place.

Recently, I was reminded about how truly powerful these truths are. As part of our study of the Gospel of Luke, we recently asked the students to perform a short drama of Luke 15:11-32, The Prodigal Son, during our Sunday night programming. Our youth did a wonderful job depicting this incredible story of a father's love and grace towards his wayward son. Following the presentation, we discussed the significance of this story for our understanding of God. When asked, "What does this story tell us about God's love for us?", one of our students raised her hand and said, "It tells us that his love has no memory." I was not expecting this answer, and when she gave it, I was floored.



Pastor's Letter continued on page 2



FOOD BANK SUNDAY

APRIL 18TH

THIS MONTH'S NEEDS:

- Soup
- Tuna
- Meats
- Chili
- Beef Stew
- Canned Fruit
- Pork n' Beans
- Beans (variety)
- Canned Vegetables
- Spaghetti Sauce



These items may be brought to Fellowship Hall and deposited in the grocery cart. Donations are taken to the Community Action Partnership Food Bank. Thank you!

MAY LINK DEADLINE IS MONDAY APRIL 19TH

Articles may be sent via email to annab@congopres.org or brought to the church office. Articles received past the deadline will not be guaranteed inclusion.

Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Favorite Book? We would love to hear from you!!

BE JOYFUL
always
- THES 5:16 -

If you would like to volunteer to help assemble the LINK for mailing please come to the church office on Tuesday, April 27th at 9am .



Interlink has long been an agency supported by the Women's Association. In their last thank you letter, they explained their mission: "The generosity of donors like you help cover the costs of the various services we provide. Your contribution supports things such as installing safety modifications in our client's homes (i.e., rails or grab bars), the construction or installation of wheelchair ramps where needed, and transportation services to medical and other appointments. The Interlink staff and volunteers are proud to offer this 'gift of independence' - safety and security- to hundreds of local residents each year. But we could not do this work without the support of generous people like (the Women's Association)" We are so happy to be able to support this worthy organization. Come see for yourselves what our mission is for our church and for the valley. Pastor Steve will be helping us to better understand the parable of the "Workers in the Vineyard" on the second Monday of April. Happy Easter to you all.



9:00am Contemporary Service

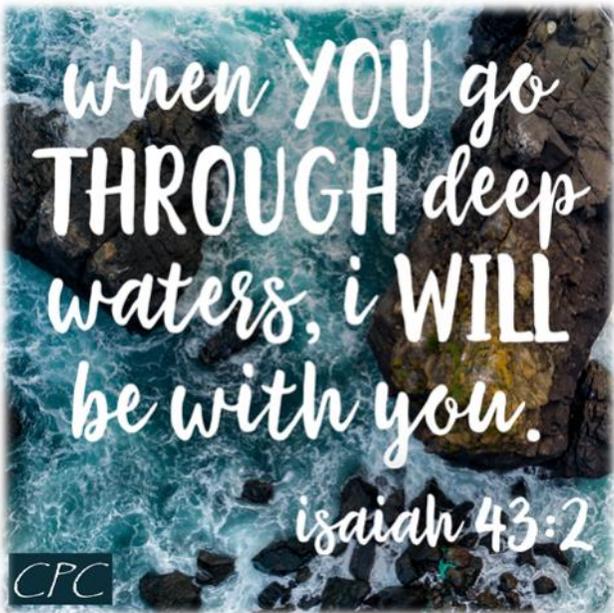
This worship offers a relaxed way to praise our Lord. Our talented Song Team leads our music. Children's Church is available for kids entering Preschool thru 5th grade, with nursery for the younger ones.

11:00am Traditional Service

This worship is traditional with hymn selections and special music offerings. Nursery is available for children 1st grade and younger.

9:00am and 11:00am Livestream

The Worship Services are livestreamed on our website: www.congopres.org, and can be viewed at any time during the following week.



Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations for Angel Tree children and their families. Before Easter, each child will receive a package with a few things including scriptures, a yummy chocolate cross and a gift card from Congo - Pres.

Your generous support has also provided for birthday gift cards for the rest of 2021. These small gifts remind the families and children that they are in our thoughts and prayers throughout the year.

We also want to thank the individuals who wrote Easter cards to the inmate parents.



Holy Week Schedule

24-Hour Prayer Vigil – April 1-2

7:00pm, April 1 to 6:00pm, April 2; in our Sanctuary.

Sign up for one-hour time slots in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office.

Good Friday Worship Service – April 2

In-person worship, 6:00-7:00pm, in our Sanctuary.

A worship service commemorating the final hours of our Lord's life on earth as he suffered death upon the cross.

(The service will be live-streamed.)

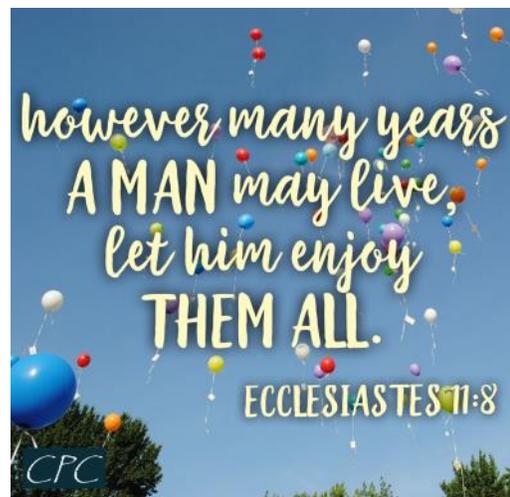
Easter Sunday Worship – April 4

The Easter Sunday Worship video will be available online.

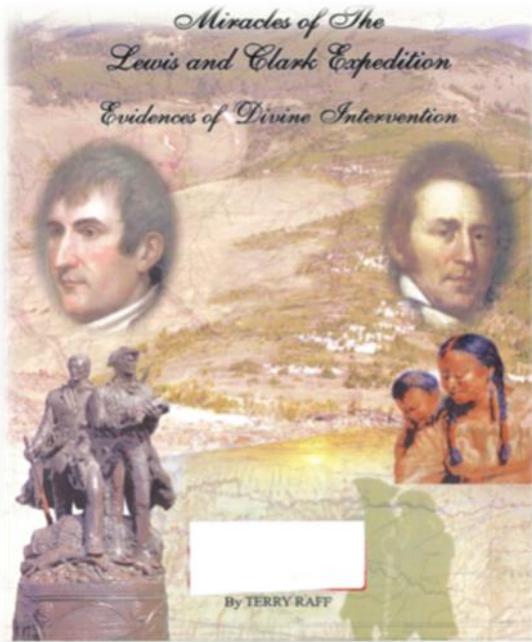
this month you may want to
help celebrate our april
BIRTHDAYS by sending a card to:

- 1st Julia Williams & Scott Dolezal
- 2nd Bobbi Matousek
- 3rd Molly Zimmerer & Judy Washburn
- 6th Denise Ruddell, Cherie Wormell & Jempy Zenner
- 7th Michael Dolezal
- 10th Bob Franklin
- 12th Rick Crane, Ella Rudolph & Tanner Cranston
- 13th RYanne Travis
- 15th Denis Hackwith & Paul Schrette
- 17th Ryan Katzenberger
- 16th Brad Peer & Becky Schroeder
- 18th Don Thornton, Kaitlyn Carpenter & Kason Van Buren
- 20th Judy Delka & Cliff Matousek
- 21st Melanie Gibler, Bob Coons, Mark Peterson & Ann Dolezal
- 22nd Dan Rudolph & Wyatt Wittman
- 23rd Krista Solem
- 24th Melissa Thomson, Megan McKown & Anna Walden
- 25th Ron Jones
- 26th Logan Hibbard, Kirsten Kaiser, Lynn Ridinger & Scott Larson
- 27th Lori Coons & Beth Katzenberger

happy
birthday!



April Pick!



**This book was recommended by
the CPC Christian Book Club**

**CPC Christian Book Club
Monday April 5th
10:30 am in the Chapel**



A man's heart
plans
his way but the
LORD
directs his
steps.

Proverbs 16:9

The Lewis and Clark Expedition opened the door to America's exploration and settlement of the West. This Army Corps of Discovery was going where no white men had ever been, into land uncharted, among fierce Indian tribes. Their mission was to find the most direct water route to the Pacific Ocean. Most Americans believed the men of the Expedition would never return alive. It was rumored they were all dead.

This book tells what others do not ~ God's role in the success of this historic Expedition. It reviews the many miracles that occurred, why the Louisiana Purchase was a miracle itself, and why only one man died when they all could have died, many of them several times over.

Miracles of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is an attempt to bring together the unbelievable hardships and dangers these courageous men faced that could and should have spelled death. Their lives were spared in every instance. It had to be more than luck or coincidence. It was Divine Intervention!

The author, Terry Raff, is a professional entertainer and balladeer who has performed for over 20 years across the country. In his first book, *The Stories Behind the Songs*, he tells the fascinating stories about many of the songs he sings on stage. A former school teacher of 20 years and long-time student of Lewis and Clark, Raff firmly believes that God had a hand in the founding of America, in general, and The Expedition's success, in particular.

He and his wife, Barbara, make their home in Kooskia, Idaho. They are the parents of seven children.



Chicken Divan

From the kitchen of: Mike & Sally Gabby

Ingredients:

- 1 rotisserie chicken (deboned)
- 2-3 boxes frozen broccoli or equivalent amount of fresh broccoli
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 4-6 oz. grated cheddar cheese
- Buttered bread crumbs
- Dash of curry powder (optional)

Directions:

- Cook frozen or fresh broccoli (do not overcook)
- Layer chicken and broccoli in a 9 1/2 x 13 greased baking dish
- Mix cream soups, mayonnaise, curry powder and lemon juice in bowl and spread over chicken and broccoli
- Sprinkle cheese on top and follow with buttered bread crumbs
- Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour

Note: You can also use disposable cake pans which makes several smaller casseroles.





April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5</i></p>				1 6p Bell Choir	2 6p Good Friday Worship Service	3
				7 pm - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil		
4 Happy Easter! <i>He is Risen</i>	5 9a Sr. Exercise 11a Nominating Committee	6 9:30a Staff Mtg 6p Trustee Mtg	7 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 12n Wed. in the Word 3:30p Kids Club 6p MidWeek	8 6p Bell Choir	9 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	10
11 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 11a Worship 3p Divorce Care 5p WIRED 7p YIPPY	12 10a Women's Association 12:15p Nominating Committee 6:45p Women's Bible Study	13 9:30a Staff Mtg 11a Senior Ministry Meeting 6:30p Board Mtg	14 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 12n Wed. in the Word 3:30p Kids Club 6p MidWeek	15 6p Bell Choir	16 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Youth Movie Night	17
18 Food Bank Sunday 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 11a Worship 5p WIRED 7p YIPPY	19 LINK DEADLINE 9a Sr. Exercise	20 9:30a Staff Mtg	21 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 12n Wed. in the Word 3:30p Kids Club 6p MidWeek	22 6p Bell Choir	23 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	24
25 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 11a Worship 5p WIRED 7p YIPPY	26 9a Sr. Exercise 1p Service Ministry Mtg 6:45p Women's Bible Study	27 9a LINK Volunteers 9:30a Staff Mtg	28 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 12n Wed. in the Word 6p MidWeek	29 6p Bell Choir	30 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	

College Scholarship Application

Application will be taken until May 15, 2021

Through the generosity of former and current members and friends of our congregation, a trust fund has been established for the purpose of furthering educational opportunities for members of our congregation and others who are or have been involved in the life and ministry of our church. The trust fund yields an annual interest which is used by our Congregational-Presbyterian Church Fund Ministry to award scholarships to students. The CPC Fund ministry is excited to announce that the application for our 2021 College Scholarship is now available. The CPC Fund Ministry has set the following guidelines:

1. The recipient must be a member of our congregation or active in the Congregational-Presbyterian Church youth program at the present time, or previously if now in college or going back to school.
2. The award is renewable annually *upon application*, for a maximum of four years, toward certification or an associate, bachelor or graduate degree.
3. Awards will be granted:
 - * Those graduating from high school and going on to college
 - * Current undergraduate and graduate students
 - * Those in vocational training
 - * Those in career changes

Applications will be mailed to students who have been active in our youth ministries. They are also available in Fellowship Hall and in the church office.

The Senior Ministry Team & Volunteers delivered over 20 Valentine's Day treat boxes to Seniors on Wednesday February 24th.



Fit & Fall Proof

(Senior Exercise)



THERE WILL BE NO
SENIOR EXERCISE
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:
FRIDAY APRIL 2ND
MONDAY APRIL 12TH



Join us every
Monday, Wednesday
& Friday
at 9am
in Fellowship Hall

All Seniors are welcome to attend.
Social distancing is practiced.



Our nursery is open Sunday mornings and for all worship services. Loving child care for infants through age three is provided for the Sunday 9:00am Contemporary Service beginning at 8:45am. Childcare for ages 1st grade and younger is available during the 11:00am Traditional Service beginning at 10:45.

CAMP SPALDING



Mark your 2021 summer calendar now for Camp Spalding! Summer camps start in June and run through August for elementary ages through senior high. Camp Spalding is on beautiful Davis Lake, north of Spokane. Camp Spalding is optimistic that forthcoming COVID vaccines will allow for a more normal summer camping season in 2021. Online registration for Summer 2021 is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 5th. Check www.campspalding.org for camp dates and more info. Please contact Kelly Paynter or Pastor McLane if you are in need of financial assistance to camp. Camp scholarship paperwork will be available in late February.



Hey, Congo-Pres Kids! You're invited to **Children's Church** each Sunday morning! All kids who are in **Preschool (4 years) through Fifth Grade** are invited to Children's Church below the Sanctuary at 9:00am each Sunday. Doors open at 8:50am. Stop by the hand sanitizing station, give your hands a quick scrub and come join us! Each week we have a Bible Lesson and fun activities. We have socially distanced tables and all kids have their own tub of craft supplies. Children's Church concludes when the 9:00am service ends. At that time, please come get your child at the bottom of the ramp. We will not dismiss children outside without an adult present.



WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL

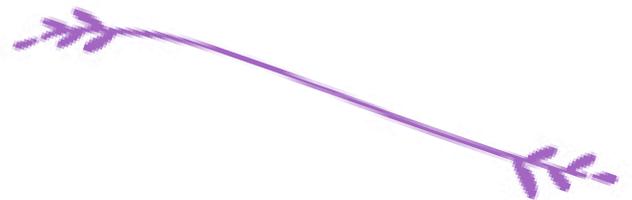
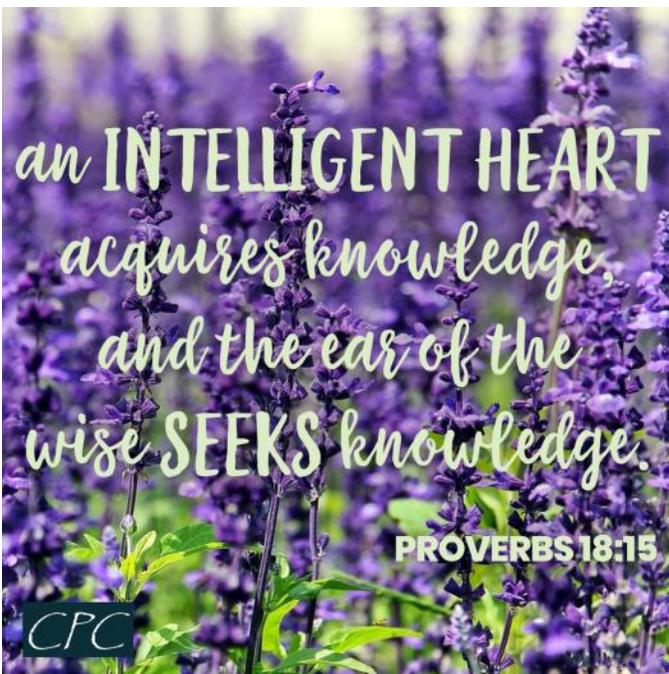
Kids' Club meets Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm and is for children in Kindergarten up to 5th Grade. Many fun things are planned for Kids' Club including creative object lessons, crafts, games, individually wrapped snacks and an interactive and engaging Bible story time. Snack & free time will be from 3:30-4pm. The planned hour of our afternoon will begin at 4pm and conclude at 5pm. Kids' Club will meet in the Children's Ministry space directly below the Sanctuary. Please use the ramp entrance to enter and exit. *Please note: Kids' Club will not meet on April 28th.*

Contact Kelly Paynter, Director of Children's Ministries, with questions, concerns or comments at kellyp@congopres.org, 743-4444 or 791-1262.



The Women's Association meets on the second Monday of the month at 10am in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, prayer support and education. April hostess are Roberta Owens and Shari Rhodes. Devotions will be read by Kathy McIntosh. Please take a look on page 5 of this months LINK to learn more about Women's Association. *We hope to see you April 12th!*

Women's Christian Book Club will meet again on *Monday April 5th at 10am* in the Chapel. Please contact Marilyn Kidder for more information. Check out this month's book recommendation on page 8.



Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning, 6:45-7:45 am in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve leads this Bible study and discussion. The group is currently reading the book of Acts. Enjoy coffee and donuts, and experience great fellowship with the men of the church.



Monday Night Women's Bible Study will be meeting this month on *April 12th & April 26th* at 6:45 pm in the Administration Building Board Room. The group will be starting a new lesson "Great Prayers of the Bible". For more information or to purchase a book please contact Rona Meske.

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study meets every Friday at 10am in the Chapel. The group will not meet the morning of Good Friday on April 2nd. We are currently studying the book of Acts. Study books are still available for anyone interested. All women are welcome to join us for fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Please bring your Bible and study book to class. For questions call Jean Allen..



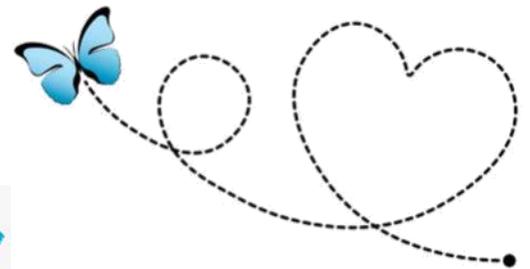
Please join us each week for Wednesday in the Word. This program meets every Wednesday, 12-1pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to come meet with Pastor Steve and discuss the biblical passage for the coming Sunday sermon. We will maintain social distancing; please wear your face covering. All are welcome to join the exploration of biblical teaching and its application for Christian living.



SUPPORT OUR INTERNS!

CongoPres Youth has been blessed with two faithful interns to care for our students: Noah Norwood and Jules Hussey. We want to thank them for their service and for investing in our kids' lives.

Previously, the congregation has provided a Sunday evening meal for the youth, and the interns were able to take leftovers home. Because we are unable to provide Sunday meals at this time, we are asking for donations of gift cards to show our appreciation to our interns for their time and effort toward our youth ministry. Any type of meal or grocery card would be greatly appreciated, such as Happy Days or Fazzari's. Please drop off at the church office during the week with a short note of gratitude or give to Loa Vornholt on Sunday. For more information call 509-295-3930 .



*Thank
You!*





YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT



Friday - April 16, 6:00-9:00pm

YIPPY & WIRED

Join CongoPres Youth on Friday, April 16 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in Fellowship Hall for a Youth Movie Night. Grades 6th-12th are invited for pizza, dessert, and a movie. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Pastor McLane at mclanes@congopres.org.

WIRED

Sundays - 5:00-6:30pm

Middle School ministry (6th-8th grades)

Sunday nights 5:00-6:30pm is all about middle school madness! Join us for games, faith, and fun! At WIRED, we believe that God is calling each of us to follow Him with our whole lives. We want to explore what that means together. Don't miss it! *NOTE: There will be No Wired on April 4.*

YIPPY

Sundays - 7:00-8:30pm

High School ministry (9th-12th grades)

Are you looking for a group of friends to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Do you want to know more about your faith and how it impacts your daily life? YIPPY is our high school ministry that provides a place for students to gather. And grow. We meet on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm at the Youth House for games, worship, and general shenanigans. It's always a little crazy! *NOTE: There will be NO YIPPY on April 4.*

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Pastor McLane or Bobbi Jo, Youth Ministry secretary at (208) 743-4444 in the church office if you have any questions.

STAY CONNECTED AT CONGOPRES

We want to make sure that you're aware of all the great things happening at CongoPres. One of the best ways for you to stay connected is to receive our church emails. Here are a few of the topics we'd like to share with you:

- A digital copy of the Link Newsletter
- Upcoming Events
- Important announcements from Pastor Steve and Pastor McLane
- Connect@CongoPres
- COVID updates

If you do not currently receive emails from the church, please contact the church office at annab@congopres.org or (208) 743-4444 and ask to be placed on the church email list. No spam, no junk, just ways to stay connected.



Stay Connected!



MIDWEEK

Meeting weekly, 6:00pm – 7:00pm, in Fellowship Hall

Taught by Pastors Steve and McLane



An 8-part video series on the life of Christ

We will watch and discuss a new episode each week

(MidWeek is livestreamed on our website)

(MidWeek will not meet on March 31)



Congregational-Presbyterian Church
 709 6th Street
 Lewiston, Idaho 83501

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Contact Us

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 Email: cpc@congopres.org



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 MclaneS@congopres.org

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 Travis Walker Children's Ministry
 Jana Peer Clerk
 Rona Meske CPC Fund Ministry
 Sharon Damon Fellowship
 Gary Chase Membership & Evangelism
 Dar Wendt Mission
 Laureen Trail Senior Adult Ministry
 Mike Gabby Service
 Tom Tower Stewardship
 Deb Zenner Worship
 Loa Vornholt Youth Ministry

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OFFICE HOURS:

M-F: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.