

the link

may this SEASON remind you
of the hope, joy, love,
& PEACE found in CHRIST.

ROMANS 15:13

DECEMBER 2021

CONGREGATIONAL-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“RAKE ‘EM UP” FALL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, December 11

Beginning at 9:00am

On Saturday, December 11, we are planning to spruce up the church grounds. We need volunteers to supply the muscle and skill! The work will involve leaf raking and removal. We will start work at 9:00am and plan to finish no later than 12:00noon - so, come whenever you can and stay as long as you can. We will provide some breakfast snacks (no lunch this year due to COVID-19). Please bring leaf rakes, leaf blowers, tarps, large garbage cans, gloves and pick-up trucks. Contact Rich Goodwin (509-780-3410) or richg@congopres.org with questions.



Dear Church Family,

The season of Advent has been observed for centuries by Christians as a time to consider the significance of the Son of God coming into the world and to prepare for the celebration of his birth. Most people today are unaware of the meaning of Advent, assuming “preparing for Christmas” involves shopping, baking and making travel plans. This makes it all the more important that you and I give emphasis to Advent as a season of personal preparedness for the arrival of Jesus, the Christ.

The love of God that descended to Bethlehem in the form of his Son is not only a matter of glad tidings but is the all-powerful, all-loving grace of God that transforms lives. This grace reveals our sin and overcomes it, and this grace conquers darkness and brings light to the world. Such transforming grace can never be achieved by human effort but only by divine intervention.

Our four Advent Sundays, the first of which is November 28, will feature special readings and the lighting of our Christmas wreath, and the Advent Sermon Series will explore the four main themes of preparing ourselves for Christ’s coming: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. As are available throughout the year, the sermons will be accompanied by the Daily Bible Reading Plan and Devotional. I invite you to daily reading and thoughtful meditation on God’s Word during the Advent Season.

On Christmas Eve we will offer services at 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Both will be held in our Sanctuary and both will be Livestreamed for those who desire to participate from home. The services will feature many of our beloved Christmas carols, the passing of the Christ light, and a meditation on God’s gift to the world. Child Care in our nursery is provided for both services. The 5:00pm service will include a Time for Young Disciples, after which the children will be invited to a very special Christmas Eve Celebration in the children’s area.

Lastly, let me remind you that there are some in our community who will be looking for a church to attend during the Christmas season. However, many “un-churched” people believe that church is like a club and you really shouldn’t show up unless you are a member. Please invite your friends and neighbors who don’t have a church home, or whose church does not offer a Christmas Eve Service, to come with you to our church or to join you in your home for the Livestream of the service.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24

5:00 and 7:00pm in our Sanctuary

All in our congregation and wider community are invited to share in the celebration of Jesus' birth.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve. Both will be held in our Sanctuary and both will be Livestreamed for those who desire to participate from home.

The services will feature many of our beloved Christmas carols, the passing of the Christ light, and a meditation on God's gift to the world.

Child Care in our nursery is provided for both services.

The 5:00pm service will include a Time for Young Disciples, after which the children will be invited to a very special Children's Christmas Eve Celebration in the children's area.

Our current Sunday Worship Sanctuary COVID protocols will be in place:

Masks are welcome but not required

Please use the hand sanitizer provided

If you have a fever or other COVID-19 symptom, please do not join us



Mark your Calendars: December 5th

*Join us monthly as we celebrate with cake during Fellowship Hour for a special Happy Birthday Celebration for our Friends and Members!
Stop by this month for some cake, coffee & conversation for your special birthday month!*



December Birthdays

1st	John Baskin & Max McKarcher
2nd	Addy Paynter
3rd	John Rusche, Rob DeVleming & John Williams
5th	Debbie Deibel
6th	Marilou Dietz
7th	Jace Paynter
8th	Jerry Gossage & Kinsey Brinegar
10th	Jim Osborn & Mike Gabby
12th	Nick Hardin & Chris Shaw
13th	Susie Ashburn & Scott Trotter
14th	Cedar Betzold
15th	Roberta Hobbs & Breanna Ramsey
16th	John Vornholt & Alan Johnson
17th	Jacqueline Wagner
18th	Arlene Osborn, Jamie Williams, Josh McKarcher & Peyton Ely
21st	Marilyn Hinman
22nd	AJ Barndt & Bob Emerich
24th	Niki Breazeal
27th	Jamie King
28th	Marianne McIntosh, Barbara Riggs & Nick Quarry
29th	Zachary Dilling
30th	Dave Williams & Nikko Vega
31st	Laureen Trail



December Birthdays

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH
JOY, HAPPINESS, GOOD
HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND**

www.congopres.org

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January LINK Deadline is Monday December 20th



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 submission.



If you would like to volunteer to help assemble the LINK for mailing please come to the church office on Tuesday, December 28th at 9am.

Fit & Fall Proof

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



NO CLASS ON:

Monday December 13th
Friday December 24th
Monday December 27th
Friday December 31st

The Stone that was Rejected

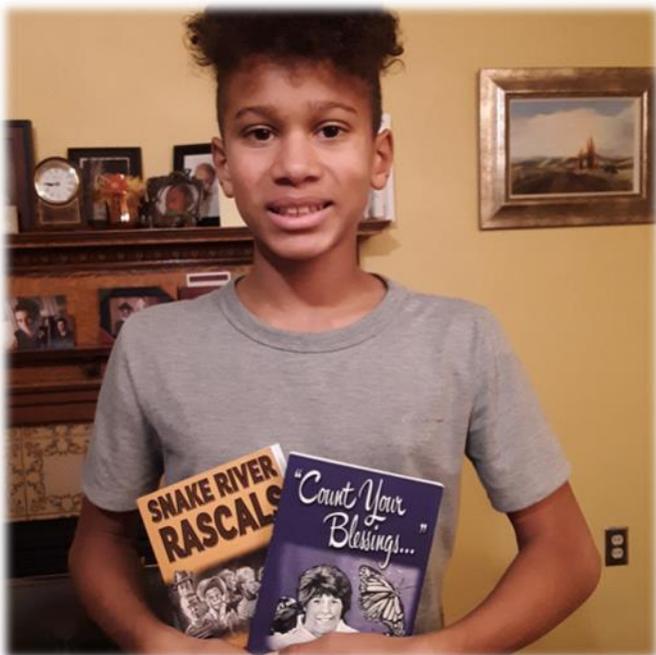
By Bob Franklin

Toward the end of the summer, Congregational Presbyterian Church's combined middle school and high school youth group had a rock-painting session, in which they painted small stones with decorations and a reference to a bible verse. In addition, they each wrote out a card with their names, school, the complete bible verse and why they chose it, or what meaning it had for them. Our son Ian was among the participants. For his verse, he chose Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord Always, again I will say, rejoice!" The stones and their accompanying cards were to be used during the all-church campout, where campers were tasked with memorizing the verses on the rocks they had chosen. Following the campout, the few remaining stones that hadn't been chosen were put out on a table in Fellowship Hall, available to any takers.

Bill Otton, a Lewiston native now living in Oregon, was in town for the graveside service for his mother, Glenna, a long-time member of CPC. Hearing Pastor Steve mention the stones during the church service the following day, Bill decided to take a look and pick one up. The stone he chose caught his eye because it listed a verse that had been used for his mom's service and also for his wife's memorial several years earlier, Philippians 4:4.

Bill was moved to thank Ian for his stone and its comfort to him by sending Ian copies of two books he had written. Enclosed with the books was a letter expressing his appreciation and agreeing with Ian's commentary that the verse tells us "to be happy and joyful", concluding, "...and that's how my mom and my wife lived." It was very moving to Ian's mother, Samantha, and me (maybe less-so to Ian) to see God's hand at work; not coincidence, but "God incidents."

We often don't get to see the impact or reach of our words and actions. A sixth-grader is given an assignment to paint a stone with a bible verse ("I didn't really have one in mind; I just picked one"), but the stone doesn't get chosen or used for its original purpose. Instead, it finds its way to the give-away table and is used to bring comfort to a son and husband reflecting on the two most important women in his life, now gone. It's also used to remind us of God's control and shaping and timing of events, and the power of seemingly insignificant actions to touch the lives of others.



Ian-

I was in Lewiston last weekend for the graveside service for my Mom, Glenna Otton. After church service the following day Pastor Steve told us we could pick up a rock with a verse painted on it. Yours caught my eye: Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord Always, again I will say, rejoice!" The verses I'd asked Pastor to use for Mom's service were the same I asked for my wife's Memorial service 9 years ago - Philippians 4:4-9. You are right when you wrote it says to be happy and joyful - and that's how my mom and my wife lived.

To thank you, I'd like you to have copies of the two books I wrote. "Count Your Blessings" is the story of the half century my wife and I spent together. She was a terrific lady. The other book, "Snake River Rascals" is a fun one about my wonderful childhood in Lewiston - I was so blessed! Enjoy!

Bill Otton

The Stone That Was Rejected

FOOD BANK SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH

THIS MONTH'S NEEDS:

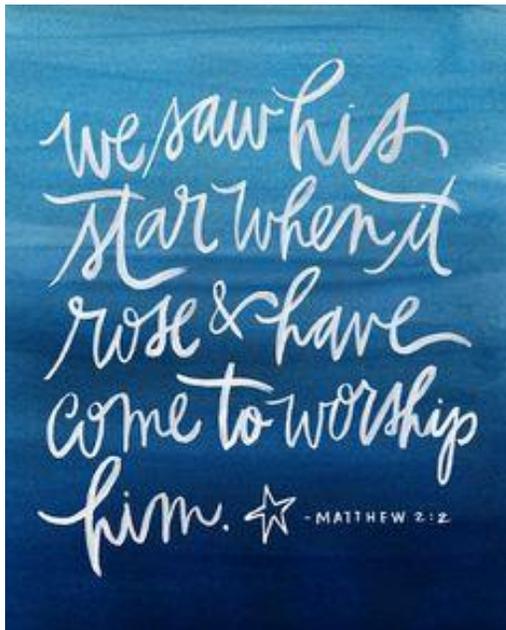
- Fruit
- Pudding
- Juices
- Snacks
- Eating Utensils
- Zip Lock Baggies
- Peanut Butter
- Top Ramen
- Noodles
- Rice
- Dry Beans
- Jams
- Jelly
- Coffee



These items may be brought to Fellowship Hall and deposited in the grocery cart. Thank you!

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.



Coffee Hour

The Fellowship committee is looking for volunteers to serve during coffee fellowship after each service. If you're interested please sign up on the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!



Sharon Damon, Fellowship Chair



DEEP ROOTS: THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

TUESDAYS AT 3PM

Join Pastor McLane on Tuesdays at 3pm in the chapel for a reading of important Christian texts aimed at enriching our lives today. Questions? Contact Pastor McLane at mclanes@congopres.org.



Bible Study

www.congopres.org

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Moment for Mission

At CongoPres, we believe that mission is not simply something we *do*, but is essential to our identity as disciples of Jesus. We are a family of God that has been given a mission to serve and love the world through the grace of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we fulfill our mission “To Know Christ, To Become Like Christ, To Share Christ” is through supporting and serving local ministries and organizations here in the LC valley and beyond. Below, we want to highlight one of our ministry partners. If you would like to know more about how you can support this organization or others, please reach out to our Board Member for Mission, Dar Wendt, or Pastor McLane.

YWCA

The YWCA of Lewiston and Clarkston is dedicated to empowering women, eliminating racism, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. It is committed to building a strong community by actively promoting the value of diversity and the right to a life free from violence, poverty, and oppression.

YWCA’s strategic framework is the culmination of consultation and exploration with YWCAs across the country and reflects our legacy as a pioneering organization that squarely confronts social justice issues to make lasting, meaningful change. The focus areas below guide our organization’s collective efforts at the national and local levels, with each YWCA association tailoring its approach to meet their community’s needs.

YWCA focuses our mission-driven work on these areas to improve the lives of girls and women: racial justice and civil rights and empowerment and economic advancement. The YWCA offers a Domestic Abuse Program that provides safety and support through advocacy and education while working towards social change. We also offer a program for Sexual Assault which provides a safe and understanding environment that fosters hope, healing and empowerment.



Hanging of the Greens

Join us special celebration of the advent and Christmas on November 21st on 3-5pm in Fellowship Hall. For more details see page 7.



Did you know that childcare is provided at every service at CongoPres? Our nursery is open on Sundays 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. Your child is welcome to remain in the nursery until Fellowship Hour ends at 11:00am. Childcare for ages 1st grade and younger is available during the 11:00am Traditional Service.



PSALM 107 1



There's a place for all kids Preschool to 5th grade at CongoPres Kids Club! Join our Assistant to Children's Ministry, Jules Hussey, Wednesday afternoons beginning September 8th from 3:30-5pm. Many fun things are planned for Kids' Club including creative object lessons, crafts, games, snacks, and an interactive and engaging Bible story time. Snack & free time will be from 3:30-4:00pm. 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.



Hey, Congo-Pres Kids! You're invited to **Children's Church** each Sunday morning! Come to the 9:00am Worship Service and right after the Young Disciples time, all kids who are in

Preschool (4 years) through Fifth Grade are invited upstairs Pilgrim Hall for Children's Church! Each week has a Bible Lesson and fun activities.

***A note to Parents:** Children's Church concludes at 10:15am. At that time, you may come get your child(ren) and take them to the All-Church Fellowship time in Fellowship Hall or allow them to remain upstairs until 10:30 when our child-care providers will take them to the nursery. We will not dismiss the children to Fellowship Hall without an adult.

Contact Pastor McLane Stone, with questions, concerns or comments at (208) 743-4444 or mclanes@conGOPres.org.

www.conGOPres.org

Children's Ministries

ADOPT A FLOWER BED

In Romans 8 it says, “you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’” Our flower beds are crying out “Adopt Me.” We are seeking Church members who would like to “Adopt” a flower bed so that our flower beds may say ‘Abba, Father.’ The Church flower beds are in need loving care of planting, weeding, fertilizing, mulching, etc. If you have some spare time, and would be interested in adopting a Church flower bed to provide care, please contact Rich Goodwin at (208) 743-4444.



During the month of December, the **Women's Association of CongoPres** distributes our funds to the various charities we support. We do this again in June, leaving just enough in the treasury to maintain our bank account. One of these organizations is the Presbyterian Women's Organization. This philanthropy then uses the monies collected from the various Presbyterian churches to fund their Worldwide Mission. The mission of this organization is to “fund the creation and nurturing of mission partnerships; justice and peace advocacy and other actions; engagement in ecumenical movements; new directions in leadership enhancement and training; the production of Bible studies to nurture your (Presbyterian women) faith...” So, as in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, our Women's Association is making an impact on spreading the Christian faith throughout the world in a concrete way. We invite all women of the church to join us on December 13, 2021, at 10:00, to celebrate the Christmas season. Jacki Ficker and Joyce Roberts are hostesses for the meeting. Nell Bice will give the devotion and we will be studying and discussing Moses' Prayer for Israel (Exodus 32:9-14) with Pastor Steve.



CongoPres Youth December

High School Fall Retreat (December 3-5)

Join us for our annual fall retreat at Camp Spalding. At CongoPres Youth, we look forward to this special weekend away with our students and volunteers. While at Camp Spalding, we enjoy great food, fantastic games, and engaging speakers and worship. Cost is \$100. Scholarships are available! Please RSVP to Pastor McLane ASAP as there are limited spots.

WIRED

Sundays - 5:00-6:30pm

Middle School ministry (6th-8th grades)

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!

YIPPY

Sundays - 7:00-8:30pm

High School ministry (9th-12th grades)

High school students 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!

Questions?

Please contact Pastor
McLane at 743-4444



Growing in Faith



Women's Christian Book Club will meet again on *Monday December 6th at 10am* in the Chapel. Please contact Marilyn Kidder for more information.

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 Romans. Enjoy coffee and donuts, and experience great fellowship with the men of the church.



The Friday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly for one hour in the church chapel. The study begins at 10am. The group will be studying I Corinthians and study guides are available for \$5. For More information please contact Gayle Beck.

Small Groups

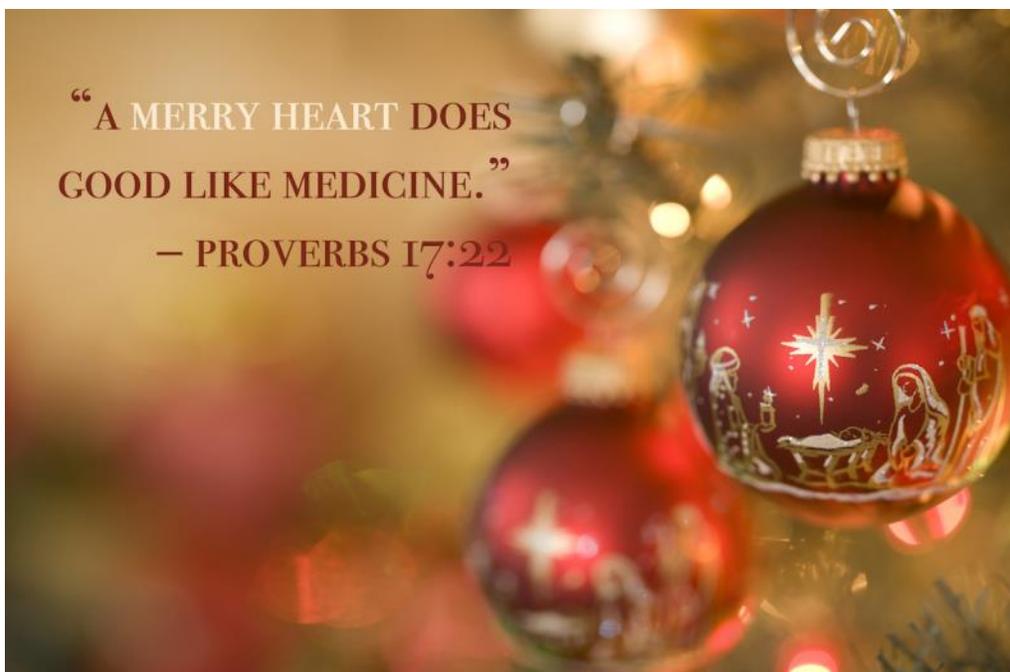
The following small groups are currently on hold:

- *Wednesday in the Word
- * Midweek

Look for more information on these small groups in the January [LINK](#).

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study will be meeting this month on December 13th and 27th at 6:45 pm in the Administration Building Board Room. For more information please contact Rona Meske.

The Women's Association meets on the second Monday of the month at 10am in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, prayer support and education. This month they will meet on Monday December 13th. Read more about the Women's Association on page 12 of this month's [LINK](#).



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you to the generosity of our congregation which resulted in 86 shoeboxes being filled with gifts of love that will bless children around the world.



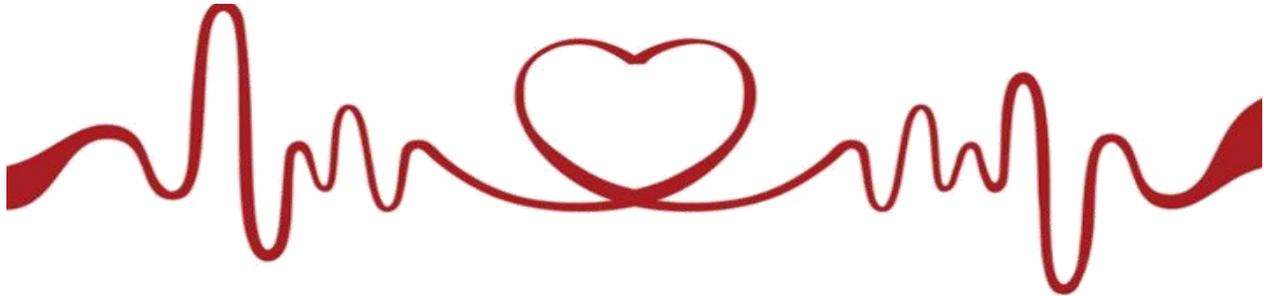
Please join us for a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, December 5, 10:00am
(immediately following the 9:00am service)
in the Sanctuary

The purpose of this meeting is to receive and vote on the recommendation of the Church Board for our Pastors' Compensation in 2022.

Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 28th 12:00 – 6:30pm
In Fellowship Hall

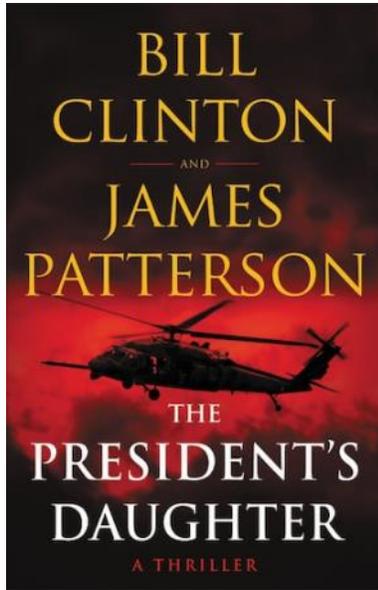
We are scheduled to host a Red Cross blood drive on December 28th in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to donate will need to get online to schedule a donation time at www.RedCrossBlood.org. Navigate to the blood drive scheduled for our church on that date and then pick an open time you wish to donate. Plan on 30-45 minutes for your donation. There will be refreshments following the donation times. Covid 19 has presented some real challenges this year for Red Cross and blood donations. The Red Cross remains very much in need of whole blood. Your thoughtful donation at this time will be very much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the blood drive please contact Jim Schroeder at (208) 553-1112. Thank you!



*The staff at CongoPres
would like to wish
each of you a Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



December Picks!



Matthew Keating, a one-time Navy SEAL –and a past president –has always defended his family as staunchly as he has his country. Now those defenses are under attack.

A madman abducts Keating’s teenage daughter, Melanie—turning every parent’s deepest fear into a matter of national security. As the world watches in real time, Keating embarks on a one-man special-ops mission that tests his strengths: as a leader, a warrior, and a father.

Tales from the Library

OTHER GREAT READS:



Remember Me: A Spanish Civil War Novel

by Mario Escobar



In Transit

by Mary Agria



Wunnerful, Wunnerful

by Lawrence Welk



The Four Winds

by Kristin Hannah



THESE BOOKS WERE
RECOMMENDED BY THE
CPC CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB



CPC CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB
MONDAY DECEMBER 6TH
10AM IN THE CHAPEL

December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 3:30p Kids Club 6:30p Choir 7p Membership & Evangelism Mtg.	2 5:15p Bell Choir	3 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	4
5 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY 9a Worship 9:15a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12:15p Fellowship	6 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Christian Book Club	7 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots 5p Worship Com. Mtg 6p Trustee Mtg	8 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 11a Senior Ministry Team Mtg 3:30p Kids Club 6:30p Choir	9 5:15p Bell Choir	10 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	11
12 9a Worship 9:15a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 5p WIRED 7p YIPPY	13 10a Women's Association 6:45p Women's Bible Study	14 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots 6:30p Board Mtg	15 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 3:30p Kids Club 6:30p Choir	16 5:15p Bell Choir	17 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	18
19 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 9a Worship 9:15 a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12:15p Fellowship 5p WIRED 7p YIPPY	20 LINK DEADLINE 9a Sr Exercise	21 9:30a Staff Mtg	22 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 6:30p Choir	23 5:15p Bell Choir	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5p Christmas Eve Service 7p Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Glory TO THE newborn KING</i>
26 COMMUNION 9a Worship 9:15 a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12:15p Fellowship	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9a Sr Exercise 1:30p Service Ministry 6:45p Women's Bible Study	28 9a LINK Volunteers 9:30a Staff Mtg	29 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Sr. Exercise 6:30p Choir	30 5:15p Bell Choir	31 OFFICE CLOSED 9a Sr. Exercise	



Congregational-Presbyterian Church
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Contact Us

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 SteveW@congopres.org
 Rev. McLane Stone Associate Pastor
 MclaneS@congopres.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Jamie Williams Children's Ministry
 Jana Peer Clerk
 Rona Meske CPC Fund Ministry
 Sharon Damon Fellowship
 Bobbi Matousek Membership & Evangelism
 Dar Wendt Mission
 Laureen Trail Senior Adult Ministry
 Kirsten Kaiser Service
 Mike Holder Stewardship
 Pat Lindquist-Hulett Worship
 Loa Vornholt Youth Ministry

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 Rich Goodwin Facility Manager
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OFFICE HOURS:

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