

THE LINK

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP
to guide my feet and
a LIGHT for my PATH.

PSALM 119:105

JANUARY 2022

CONGREGATIONAL-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Church Family,

Near the middle of the first century AD, Paul wrote a pair of letters to a recently established congregation of Christians in the town of Thessalonica. The people to whom he addressed the two letters we now call 1 and 2 Thessalonians were for the most part new converts to Christianity who had grown up in a Greek cultural environment. One of Paul's major challenges was that of helping these believers to learn, understand, and live by the very different social and ethical teachings of Jesus.

The parallels between Paul's first-century situation and contemporary times are hard to miss. The secular, self-centered, and often pleasure-seeking mindset of our American culture mirrors much of ancient Greece, and presents a major challenge to Christians who seek to think and live on the basis of a genuinely Christian view of reality.

There was also in the Thessalonian church a high degree of apprehension, misunderstanding, and speculation about the return of Jesus. The Thessalonians knew that Jesus was to return, but they were not sure when it might take place or what it meant for them. Not knowing what to think, they had become upset rather than hopeful, unsettled rather than strengthened, by the prospect of Jesus' return.

In our day, the COVID pandemic, political and social unrest, and increasing hostility toward Christianity has served to heighten an already-intense interest in and speculation about the return of Jesus; at times it seems as though there is no end to a rising flood of books, television shows, and Web pages devoted to the subject.

How can Paul's letters, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, help us to live a more authentic Christian lifestyle, and what can they teach us about the coming return of Christ? These are two of the questions we will address in our next sermon series which begins on Sunday, January 9. Through our daily Bible Reading Plan and Devotions, we will have the opportunity to individually read and consider the message of the two letters. Then, on Sunday mornings, Pastor McLane and I will choose a passage from the previous week's reading for further exploration.

As we follow Paul's writings, may our minds be informed by his words, and may our hearts be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit in order to more faithfully follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

www.congopres.org

To help you get to know and stay connected to your CongoPres Staff connect@CongoPres will be bringing you interviews with our staff on a regular basis. This month we feature an interview with Co-Senior Ministry Director Laureen Trail.

Where do you serve in our church?

I serve in the church in the voice choir, the bell choir and the senior adult ministry. Before COVID I also enjoyed helping straightening the sanctuary and sitting at the welcome center.

What gifts has God given to you for this ministry?

I believe God has given me a new respect for our seniors over the past five years I have been volunteering. I am very awed by their resiliency and gratitude for life, their kindness and forgiveness, their many strengths including a strong faith and work ethic. I also often feel very protective of our seniors and am glad to know that most have caring family members in the area. Learning from Mike Gabby over the past few years and working with our dedicated volunteers, and now a ministry partner, Mike Holder, are great gifts.

How has serving brought you closer to Jesus Christ?

I believe serving in the Senior Ministry has brought me closer to Jesus by growing in humility and patience, an increased desire to help others know they are remembered and respected even though they may not be able to participate physically at church or may have limited abilities. God has provided the opportunity for new relationships with a variety of people and helped me with creative ideas, some traditional and some new. In the choirs, I have gained more understanding that God doesn't necessarily want imperfection, but rather a heart to praise and to appreciate others' talents.

What brings you joy as you serve?

Joy comes in many ways! I enjoy watching and participating in the social interaction between our seniors at Fit & Fall Proof exercise. It's evident that seeing friends two or three times a week is often the more important part of participation. We have a lot of joy laughing with each other, eating donuts after exercise to put back the calories we have just worked off and sharing life stories. It is always a blessing to hear that our cards, phone calls and visits have helped someone know they are not forgotten, and know they are in our prayers for illness, crisis or the loss of a loved one.

The joy of music has been a big part of my life for many years. It's hard to imagine what life would be without music - it's a wonderful gift to touch our lives in so many ways and a way to praise God beyond just words. I enjoy the camaraderie of praising God with music as part of a group.

What is a Scripture verse that encourages you in your ministry?

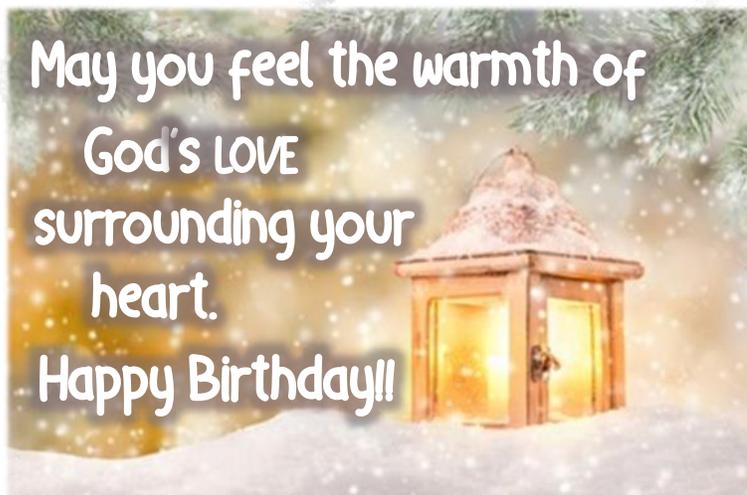
Our study of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, especially reviewing the fruits of the Spirit over the past few months, has been very helpful and meaningful. Growing in love, joy, peace and gentleness is a great challenge in any Christian's life, and a reminder that we are given so much to enrich our lives.

Mark your Calendars: January 2nd

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!

January Birthdays

2nd	Susan Mann & Stephanie Wright
3rd	Don Gillin
4th	Bill Edwardson & Joe Travis
6th	Noreen Anderson & John Alley
8th	Jeannie Goodman
9th	Dick Riggs, John Blake & Kathie McConnell
10th	Terry Goodman
11th	Bill Johnston
12th	Mary Dolezal & Karen Van Stone
13th	Maja Rodrigues, Susie Bunt, Sebastian Downs & Dawn Schnuerle
14th	Ann Young, Ben Brinegar, Cindy Doeringsfeld & Alex Mills
17th	Jim McCracken
18th	Roger Wood & Gabrielle Zenner
20th	Jana Peer
21st	Kelly Kennaly, Ron Davis & Brian Grimm
23rd	Polly Heim
24th	Max Johnson & Lauren Johnson
25th	Victor Racicot
26th	Britta Myhre & Tami Wright
27th	Roberta Owens
28th	Clyde Gossage, Carol Pardue & Rich Garai
29th	Alexandra Brinegar
30th	Nicole Trotter
31st	Shari Rhodes & Gary Wells



February LINK Deadline is Monday January 17th

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, January 25th at 9am.

FIT & FALL PROOF

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

NO CLASS ON:
Monday, January 10th
Monday, January 17th



As we wind up the year and look to the new year we are reminded of how many blessings we have. We are particularly thankful for our many volunteers who help us serve the children of our children:

Shelby and Nick Hall
John and Tasha Rudolph
Josh and Jenny McKarcher
McLane and Charley Stone
Lori Coons
Jules Hussey



Thank you for showing God's love to our children! May God continue to bless our children and their families!

On December 5th the children did a service project in making Blessing Bags, to hand out to those in need. 60 bags were filled with food, toiletries, warm socks, hand/feet warmers and \$5 coffee cards!! Thank you to our congregation who helped contribute to this project. The bags can be stored in your car and handed out whenever you feel led. Each child took two bags home to give away. If you'd like one for your car feel free to grab one! I have given two away already!

In February we are going to try our next project; collecting boxes of cereal for our neighborhood elementary school. Our goal is to have a box for every student at Webster Elementary to take home. 300+ boxes! It will be a way for each child to have something easy to eat.

If you would ever like to volunteer or see what is going on with our program please do so! The children will bless your heart as much as you help them! Contact Jamie Williams if you have any questions! 208-791-2467



Food Bank Sunday January 16th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

This month's needs:

- Sugar Free Foods
- Diapers
- Baby Jar Food
- Baby Cereal
- Bar Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner



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.

*The Lord will be your
everlasting light.*

Isaiah 60:20



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.

WORSHIP WITH US



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!



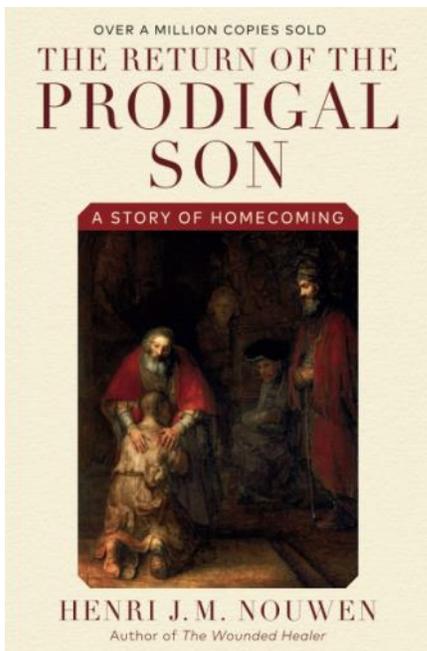
Sharon Damon, Fellowship Chair



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 clanes@congopres.org.



BIBLE STUDY

WWW.CONGOPRES.ORG

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.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity partners with people in your community, and all over the world, to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families. Through our 2020 Strategic Plan, Habitat for Humanity will serve more people than ever before through decent and affordable housing.



CongoPres Youth in January



WIRED

Sundays - 5:00-6:30 p.m.

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! *We will not meet on January 2nd.*

YIPPY

Sundays - 6:30-8:00pm

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! *We will not meet on January 2nd.*



Questions?

Please contact Pastor McLane
at mclanes@congopres.org or
208-743-4444

If you would like a copy of the January/February Upper Room they are available in Fellowship Hall or the church office.

The Church Office will be closed:

Monday January 17th
&
Monday February 21st

A big thank you to all who brought produce to the sharing table this year. It's such a blessing for those of us who don't have gardens.

Thank you,
Denise White



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.



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 from 3:30-5: p.m. 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 4:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Kids' Club will meet in the Children's Ministry space directly below the Sanctuary. Please use the ramp entrance to enter and exit.



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 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service beginning at 8:45 a.m. 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 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service.



Hey, Congo-Pres Kids! You're invited to **Children's Church** each Sunday morning! Come to the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and right after the Young Disciples time, all kids who are in **Preschool (4 years) through Fifth Grade** are invited upstairs in Pilgrim Hall for Children's Church! Each week has a Bible Lesson and fun activities.

***A note to Parents:** Children's Church concludes at 10:15 a.m. 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.

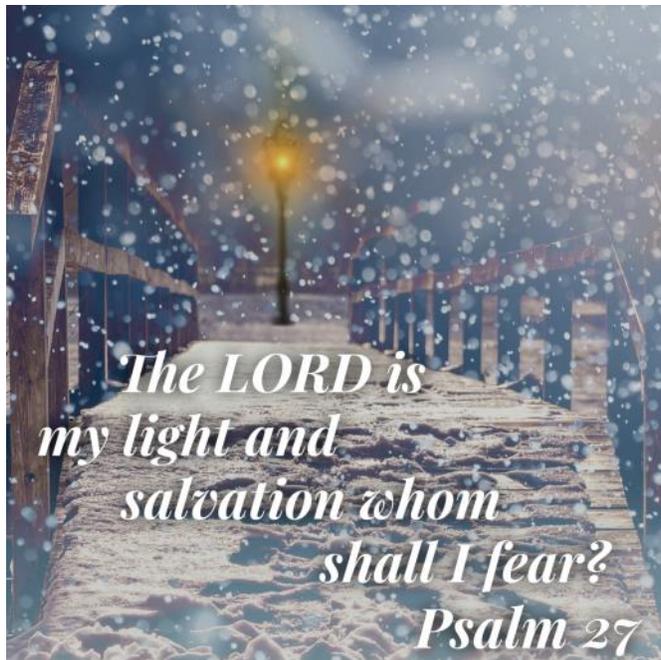


Contact Pastor McLane Stone, with questions, concerns or comments at (208) 743-4444 or mclanes@congpres.org.



Women's Christian Book Club will meet again on *Monday February 7th at 10am* in the Chapel. Please contact Marilyn Kidder for more information. Please check out the groups book recommendation on page 18 of this months LINK.

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 1 Corinthians. Study guides are available for \$5. For more information please contact Gayle Beck. This bible study will resume Friday January 7th.

The following small groups are currently on hold:

*Wednesday in the Word

* Midweek

Look for more information on these small groups
in the February LINK.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study will be meeting this month on January 10th & 24th 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 January 10th. Read more about the Women's Association on page 16 of this months LINK.

The Service Ministry Committee will meet Monday January 24th at 1:30pm in the Administration building conference room. If your are interested in becoming involved with this committee please contact Kristen Kaiser.



SMALL GROUPS

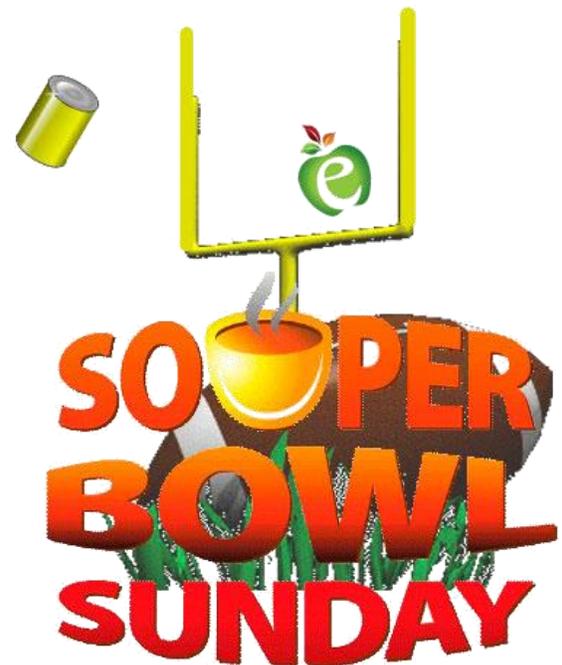
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The CongoPres Women's Association supports a variety of charitable organization. One of these charities is the Battered Women's Shelter at the YWCA. At every meeting we have a list compiled by the Y requesting different items. During the year members bring items which one of us takes down to the Y. During the past year, we donated nearly \$500.00 worth of personal products, microwave food items, as well as canned goods and other miscellaneous goods. We also support the Y with financial donations from our treasury. We have no dues for our organization but we have been blessed with donations from members to support our charitable giving. We will meet again on January 10, 2022, at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses for the meeting are Shari Rhodes and Kathy McIntosh. Pastor Steve will be giving our Bible lesson on "David's Prayer for Pardon", Psalm 51. Please join us for refreshment, fellowship and education.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The Mission and Community Outreach committee will again be promoting our "Souper Bowl" food drive in January and ending on Super Bowl Sunday February 13th. The collected food will be distributed to the Lewiston and Clarkston school districts. The food can be placed around the goal posts in Fellowship Hall. Types of food needed are a variety of canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, snacks, noodles and ready to serve non perishable meals. This is Super Bowl 56 so our goal is 56 bags of food. Thanks for your help.



Merry Christmas and a big thank you to the wonderful, hard-working members of Congopres's Worship Committee: Verna Aucutt, Gayle Beck, Debbie Deibel, Sheri Dotson, Barbara Riggs, Andi Wagner, Debbie Zenner and Steve Wilbraham (Advisor).

I also want to thank all of the many church members who willingly volunteer to help usher or serve communion each month. Bless each of you.

Yours in Christ,
Pat Lindquist-Hulett (Chair)

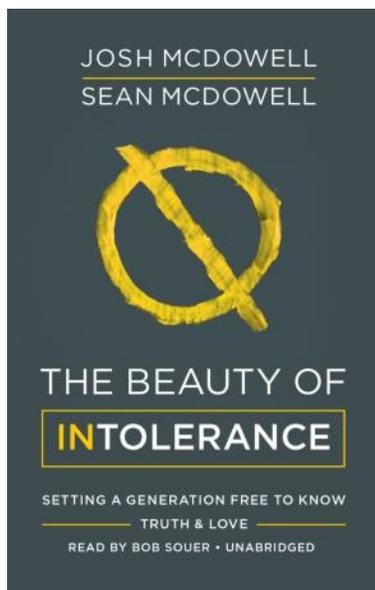


Youth Retreat at Camp Spalding



January Picks!

Today's message of cultural acceptance is dangerously distorted and deceptive. In a world that shouts: "If you truly care about other people, you must agree that their beliefs, values, lifestyle, and truth claims are equal and as valid as yours!" it's no wonder our youth are confused. *The Beauty of Intolerance*--brand-new from Josh McDowell with son Sean McDowell--cuts through the confusion and points you back to the place where the *only* truth resides. . . Jesus Christ. Tied directly to the Heroic Truth initiative launched by the Josh McDowell Ministry, McDowell will share how a biblical view of truth can counter cultural tolerance and encourage a love and acceptance of others apart from their actions with a heart of Christlike compassion.



OTHER GREAT READS:



[The Girls with the Louding Voice](#)
by Abi Dare



[Lace Makers of Glenmara](#)
by Heather Barbieri



[We Must Be Brave](#)
by Frances Liardet



[The Wounded Spirit](#)
by Frank Peretti



THESE BOOKS WERE
RECOMMENDED BY THE CPC CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

CPC CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
10AM IN THE CHAPEL



January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Bolton Sunday</i> 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12n Fellowship	3 9a Sr. Exercise	4 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots 5p Worship Team Meeting 6p Trustee Mtg.	5 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Senior Exercise 3p Kids Club 6:30p Choir 7p Membership & Evangelism	6 5:15p Bell Choir	7 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	8
9 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 10:15a Fellowship 11a Worship 12n Fellowship 5:00p WIRED 7:00 pm YIPPY	10 10a Women's Association 6:45p Women's Bible Study	4 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots 6:30p Board Mtg/	12 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Senior Exercise 11a Senior Ministry Team Mtg. 3p Kids Club 6:30p Choir	13 5:15p Bell Choir	14 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	15
16 <i>Food Bank Sunday</i> 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 10a Fellowship 11a Worship 12n Fellowship 5:00p WIRED 7:00 pm YIPPY	17 <i>LINK Deadline</i> Office Closed	18 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots	19 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Senior Exercise 3p Kids Club 6:30p Choir	20 5:15p Bell Choir	21 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	22
23 9a Worship 9a Children's Church 10a Fellowship 11a Worship 12n Fellowship 5:00p WIRED 7:00 pm YIPPY	24 9a Senior Exercise 1:30p Service Ministry Mtg. 6:45p Women's Bible Study	25 9a LINK Assembly 9:30a Staff Mtg 3p Deep Roots	26 6:45a Men's Bible Study 9a Senior Exercise 3p Kids Club 6:30p Choir	27 5:15p Bell Choir	28 9a Sr. Exercise 10a Women's Bible Study	29
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ALL CHURCH CALENDAR



Congregational-Presbyterian Church
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Lewiston, Idaho 83501

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CONTACT US

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Find us on
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PASTORS

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

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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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 Kate Nowlin, Joe Hulett, and Mike Rooney

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