

# THE LINK

A scenic landscape featuring a wooden cross standing on a rocky mountain peak. The cross is made of weathered wood and has a small green tag attached to it. In the background, there is a calm lake, rolling green hills, and distant mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

“For I know the plans I have for you” says the Lord.  
“They are good and not for disaster.  
To give you a future and a hope.”

jeremiah 29:11

SEPTEMBER 2023

CONGREGATIONAL-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Pastor Steve



Regarding the debate about faith and works. It's like asking which blade in a pair of scissors is most important.

~ C.S. Lewis

Thank you  
Pastor  
Steve!

We will  
miss you!



Dear Church Family,

*“So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, goodbye”*

With those words, the children said goodnight to the partygoers in the Sound of Music. Today I join them in that refrain as I say goodbye to you as your pastor.

Like a trapeze artist who lets go of one trapeze but hasn't quite grabbed hold of the next, I am finding the transition from ministry to retirement both exciting and frightening. I daresay the analogy holds true for a congregation saying goodbye to their pastor and wondering about their future. So let us not forget that regardless of what we do or do not have a hold of at this moment, Christ has a hold of us and he will never let us go.

Thank you for your love and encouragement throughout my 18 years of ministering with you. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord and to his church. Thank you for your generosity both spiritually and materially. Thank you for your hospitality as you enjoy your friends and welcome newcomers in our fellowship. In the years to come when I am asked about the Idaho church where I was a pastor, I will be able to say with all sincerity that together we sought to “Know Christ, Become Like Christ, and Share Christ.” As much as anything, it was your mission statement that drew me to this congregation, and I have been honored to live it with you under the guidance and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of each Sunday morning service, I seek to give you both a charge and a blessing. As I depart this congregation, my charge to you is from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 12, where he says: “Dear brothers and sisters. Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace.” This is my prayer for you, my CongoPres brothers and sisters.

Paul closes Second Corinthians with this blessing, and with it I bless you: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

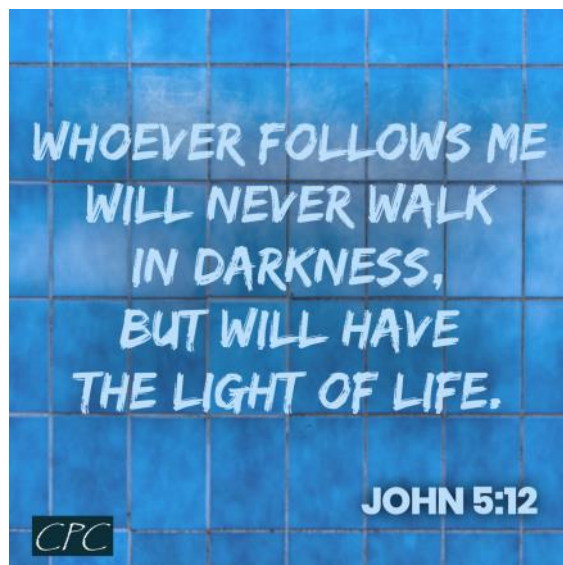
Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve

## OCTOBER LINK DEADLINE IS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH

Articles may be sent via email to [annab@congopres.org](mailto:annab@congopres.org) or brought to the church office. Articles received past the deadline will not be guaranteed submission.

We are in need of 4 to 6 volunteers that are interest in helping assemble the LINK each month. Volunteers are currently meeting on the 4th Tuesday at 9am in the church office Conference Room. In September the date for LINK assembly is Tuesday September 26th, If you are interested please join us on September 26th at 9am or contact Anna in the office.



## Food Bank Sunday September 17th

### *This month's needs:*

- Mac & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Chicken Helper
- Tuna Helper
- Cake Mixes
- Brownie Mixes
- Flour
- Spices
- Frosting
- Sugar



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!

# Worship With Us



10:00am



Combined

## Worship

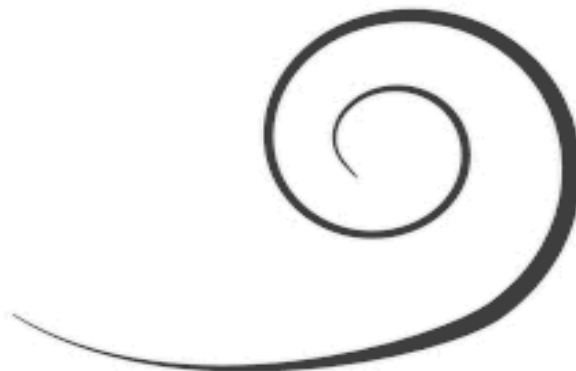
Beginning Sunday, September 3, and continuing through the interim period between Pastor Steve's leaving and the arrival of our new pastor, we will have a 10:00am Combined Worship Service *each Sunday*. The service will combine elements of our 9:00am Contemporary Service and our 11:00am Traditional Service. The question of returning to our 9:00am and 11:00am Sunday format will be addressed when our new pastor arrives.

## 10:00am Livestream

Each Worship Service is livestreamed on our website: [www.congopres.org](http://www.congopres.org), and can be viewed any time during the following three months.

## 10:00am Parking

As the entire congregation gathers to worship together, parking will be a bit tight in our church parking lot. Please ***do not*** park in the church parking lot unless you need close-in access to the church, reserving our parking lot spaces for those with physical limitations. There is plenty of parking on the side streets around the church (which is unrestricted on Sundays), and in the LCSC parking lot across from the Activities Center.



# RE<sup>☀</sup>CONNECT!

The Reconnect kick off is September 7th, 10am-Noon. Come join us for a time of fellowship, crafts and prayers. We will be meeting the first and third Thursday of each month in the basement of the Admin Building. LET'S GET RECONNECTED!

Any questions please call or text Marcia Barkley, 509-552-9536.

SHE IS  
Clothed  
IN STRENGTH  
and Dignity  
& LAUGHS  
WITHOUT  
fear of the  
FUTURE

It's Bunco time again! Come warm up to fall with Bunco and Soup. September 23rd @4pm in Fellowship Hall. Come have a fun evening with ladies from the church and ladies from the First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston.

Bunco is a fun, easy, dice game that anyone can play. It's a great mixer and a nice way to meet new friends. All ladies are welcome to bring a friend. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we have a count for tables and food. Any questions please call or text Marcia Barkley 509-552-9536.





# Mark your Calendars: September 3rd

*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!*



2nd	Seth Dilling & Bobbi Jo Sinner
5th	Elaine Williams
6th	John Tilton
7th	Jazmine Olson & Lee Owens
10th	Connie McDonald & Amy Parker
11th	Laura Williams, Joy Gerritsen & Lloyd Reuschlein
12th	Lori Holder
14th	Pat Emerich, Tina Lantz & Clare McCracken
15th	Bob Allen, Gale Kambitsch & Geonna Travis
16th	Kaitlin Coleman
17th	Doug Riggs & Doug Lind
18th	Stephnay Gossage & Tami Thomson
19th	Elizabeth Racicot
21st	Kate Nowlin & Anna Bruce
22nd	Ben Barkley
23rd	Morgan Ashe & Jacquie Shore
24th	Jacki Ficker & Ella Walker
25th	John Mannschreck & Julie Lind
26th	Vivian Seubert & Camie Smith
30th	Diane Kovach & Natalie Hardin



*May God bless you on your birthday, and always.*



September Birthdays

# PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

*(The following was shared by Mike Rooney in Sunday Worship on August 14.)*

The Pastor Search Committee (Bev Williams, Peg Fulton, Kathy Johnson, Chuck Gabby, Joe Hulett, Mike Rooney) has been working since last October on the important assignment entrusted to them, namely to find a senior pastor to lead our church after Pastor Steve retires in September. We have been busy with many meetings, lots of homework, much prayer, interviews with potential candidates and even hosting site visits by 2 potential pastors to our community. We were fortunate to identify 3 very strong candidates who expressed interest in our church and our senior pastor position. We focused our efforts on them this summer. We are happy to report that we offered our nomination for the senior pastor position to our top choice candidate—and that he accepted the nomination!

We are keeping the identity of our next pastor in confidence for now. He has not yet notified his current church of his intention to leave and we don't want his church to hear about this through the grapevine. There are a few more steps to take before our new pastor arrives. We must finalize the "terms of call" with him and the presbytery. He must submit to an interview with the Committee on Ministry at the Presbytery in Spokane and get their approval. He and his wife will need to find a home here in the valley and organize a household move. In the next month, we anticipate an opportunity for our new pastor and his wife to lead us in worship on a Sunday, after which a congregational meeting will be convened to vote on his appointment as our pastor. He will most likely be joining us in the fall.

The pastor search committee is keenly aware that you, our church family, have been praying for us. We are deeply grateful for this and for the other expressions of support that we have received over the past months. It has been an intense but satisfying experience for us. We do not think you will be disappointed when you meet and get to know the person and his wife that the Holy Spirit has led us to invite to this important role in our church life.

Blessings to you all!  
Mike Rooney



# Wilbraham Retirement and Farewell Celebration:

On Sunday, September 10, at 4:00pm, our congregation will gather at the Lewiston Elks Lodge to celebrate Pastor Steve's 18 years of fruitful ministry at our church, his retirement from ordained pastoral ministry, and to say farewell to Pastor Steve and his wife, Lauri as they leave Lewiston to make the journey to their future home in Texas.

This will be a church-wide potluck, and everyone who plans to attend is being asked to help out by providing a dish for the joyous party. There are food sign-ups available in Fellowship Hall for main dishes, side dishes/salads, and desserts. The church will provide beverages.

If you have any questions about the potluck, you may contact Sharon Damon at (509) 295-2954, and any other questions in regards to the celebration may be directed to Beth Katzenberger at the church.



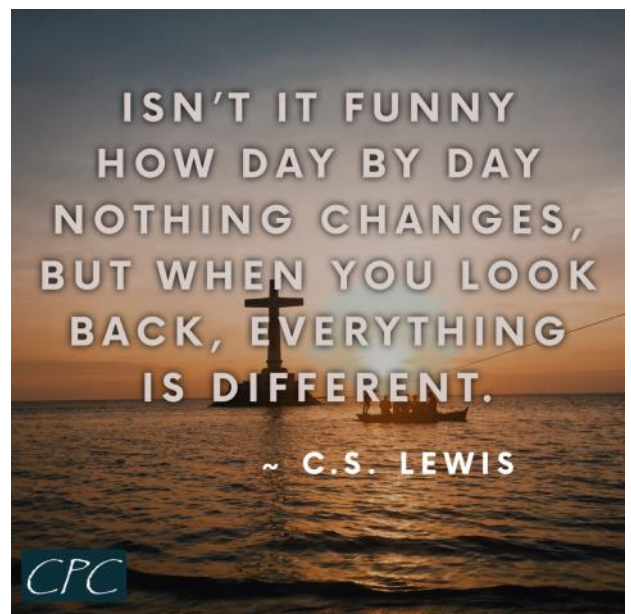


Women's Christian Book Club will meet again Monday October 2nd at 10am in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome. If you are interest in learning more about this group please contact Marilyn Kidder for more information.

Men's Bible Study - Pastor Steve leads the Bible study and discussion every Wednesday morning, 6:45-7:45am - we are currently in the book of Revelation. Enjoy coffee and donuts, and experience great fellowship with men of the church.

The Friday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly from September thru May at 10am in the chapel. We are studying Hebrews this fall. Study guides are available and will cost \$7. There is a Scholarship Fund available for anyone3 needing assistance with the price of this guide, Please contact Gayle Beck at (509) 751-9981 for more information. Please leave a message.

If you are interested in our Divorce Care class please contact John or Loa Vornholt for more information.



Deep Roots: Theology for Today Deep Roots will begin again on Tuesday September 5th This weekly conversation on Tuesdays, 3-4pm in the Chapel, is coordinated by Tom Boubel and facilitated by Tom and other members of the group. All are welcome to join us for the reading of important Christian texts aimed at enriching our lives today.

Monday Night Ladies' Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (September through May) at 6:45 pm in the Conference Room. This month bible study will be held on September 11th and 25th. Please contact Rona Meske for more information.

Women's Association meets September through May on the second Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 10am and are held in Fellowship Hall. Women's Association is open to all women and new members are always welcome. The September meeting will be held on September 11th. For more information please contact Peggy Fulton.

Reconnect is a group formed by our Women's Ministry. Reconnect meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 10 am ~ 12pm in the basement of the Admin. Building. They meet during the months of September ~ May. In September ladies will meet September 7th and 21st. Please bring your crafts to work on or just come and visit with the ladies of our church and community. Bring a friend for some fun and fellowship.



If you are interested in learning more about the CPC Online Alpha Course please contact Cliff or Bobbi Matousek.



## Mission and Outreach

The "Adopt-a-Teacher" program is a recent outreach to show support and appreciation to schoolteachers who are members and friends of our church family. Teachers can request a grant of up to \$500 for supplies or other items they deem necessary for a healthy learning environment. To date we have sent support to two wonderful teachers, Jamie Williams, and Mollee Dilling. Jamie teaches first grade at Webster Elementary and Mollee teaches Kindergarten at Lewis Clark Christian School. Both have shared gratitude for this program which we are only able to do because of your generous support of our church. In addition to being used for classroom supplies, such as books, crayons, pencils, playdough, art supplies, the funds will also be used for snacks and helping with life skills of how to make sandwiches and feed yourself at home if needed. We love our teachers! There are Adopt a Teach Grant applications on the Mission table in Fellowship Hall. Complete the form and put it in the basket or give it to church office or to Patti Mann.

Another way our church family supports schools in our community is through monthly contribution to the Lewiston Independent Foundation for Education (L.I.F.E) designating the funds to their District Food Pantry which helps with their backpack program for children to take food home. This foundation assists social workers in meeting basic needs so students can focus on learning.



a teacher  
TAKES A  
hand  
OPENS A  
mind  
& TOUCHES A  
heart

# DEEP ROOTS

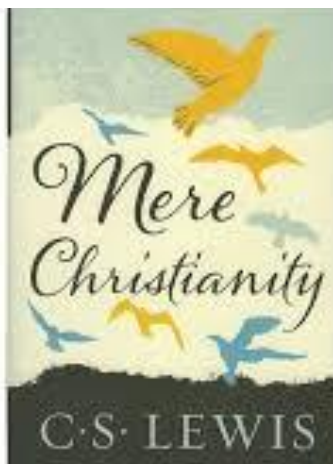
STARTED BY PASTOR MCLANE

CONTINUES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

STUDYING THE BOOK "MERE CHRISTIANITY" BY C.S. LEWIS

Please join our group studying this amazing book, which is a collection of 15-20 minute weekly talks by C.S. Lewis on BBC radio during the darkest days of World War II for the people of the United Kingdom. His goal is to convey the essential (that is "mere") tenets and ideas of Christianity shared across to spectrum of Christian denominations and beliefs. Lewis has a gift for discussing and inspiring thoughts and ideas about Christian theology, but in a way that is approachable to people without theological training. The chapters run a "mere" 4-8 pages, but are packed with insights, ideas and clever illustration.

If you are concerned about joining us in the middle of this book, fear not! Each chapter is a self-contained essay not requiring knowledge of previous chapters. We meet in fellowship hall Tuesdays at 3pm (for one hour) starting Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – right after Labor Day. We start off with "Charity" (section III, chapter 9) – only 3 pages long! So newcomers, dive in and join us, we have amazing conversations. There are 15 chapters left, so we finish mid-December. The book is readily available from many sources – and there is a wonderful YouTube channel, each chapter read by an "English speaking" man (unfortunately not C.S. Lewis) with clever "doodles" illustrating the commentary. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGBGTZLP8VU>. Any questions, feel free to contact Tom Boubel at (509)-993-2142..



"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."

C.S. Lewis quote from "MERE CHRISTIANITY"

# September Activities

## Youth Group

Sundays at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall  
September 10th, 17th & 24th



No Youth Group on September 3rd!  
Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!

The children's ministry needs your help! We need volunteers to teach the Sunday school lesson during the 10 AM service: read a Bible story, do a craft and a snack too. Everything you need will be provided... we just need you! You can do just one Sunday a month or whatever works for your schedule.

If you're interested  
please call Jamie Williams  
at  
208-791-2467.  
Thank you!





# Fit & Fall Proof

*(Senior Exercise)*

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



## September Sr. Ministry Activity

Seniors will enjoy a tasty meal and fellowship at Tomato Bros. in Clarkston on Thursday September 14th at 11:30am. If you need a ride please be at the church by 11am to ride the van over to the restaurant.

Questions?? Please contact Lauren Trail, Sr. Ministries Director.



Women's association We are a very relaxed group with a member giving the morning devotion, a couple ladies providing refreshments, lots of coffee, conversation and laughter.

After a relaxing summer, The Women's Association of Congo/Pres will be meeting again. ALL women in the church are invited to attend our first meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. We are a very relaxed group with a member giving the morning devotion, a couple ladies providing refreshments, lots of coffee, conversation and laughter. With the retirement of Pastor Steve, the programs for Women's Association will be different this year. Members have volunteered to present programs. The first one will be given by Peggy Fulton and will be on the history of bell ringing. Attendees will have an opportunity to actual ring a bell. We have no dues, but contribute to many charities through donations. Come give us a try.



Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all having a great summer and staying cool this week. Our first in-person fall fundraising event since 2019 will happen this September! We are hosting a fabulous buffet dinner at the LCSC William Conference Center Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The evening will include sharing from program graduates and a Silent dessert and baked goods auction. The auction will also include a few themed baskets and some services. There will be no live auction.

We would like to invite all of our partner churches to participate by inviting church members to donate desserts and other baked goods like breads and rolls. You can also donate services like "pie a month for six months" or "holiday cookies". Be creative and if you have questions just email me or call my cell. Please have all those who are willing to donate fill out the attached Silent Auction Donation Form and send it to Family Promise by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to encourage each of your churches to make tickets available to your people I will deliver a packet of tickets to each of your churches. Tickets will also be available on our website [familypromiselc.org](http://familypromiselc.org). Call or email me if you have any questions.

Thank You,

Steven W. Thomas  
Executive Director  
Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley Inc.  
208-798-3349 - Office  
208-791-0173 - Cell  
[steve@familypromiselc.org](mailto:steve@familypromiselc.org)  
PO Box 1555 Lewiston ID 83501 - mail  
921 9th Avenue Lewiston - location





Thanks to your contributions, the CPC fund has covered the expense for all new shades on the upstairs level of Helen's House, and they have all been installed. The old faded white shades were torn, frayed, stained, and holey (not holy)! The new shades are a nice tan color, and are light and heat blocking. We can already tell that those rooms are cooler, and they are definitely more attractive.

The CPC Fund Committee is pleased to be involved in projects and needs that come to our attention. Please let us know if you have an idea you would like us to consider.

With thanks,  
Lori Holder, CPC Fund Chair



### INTRODUCING OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR!

Your church board is blessed to have retained Rev. Randall Nicolai (he strongly prefers "Pastor Nick") starting Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, working until our new pastor arrives later this year. Pastor Nick is an ordained Lutheran pastor with over 40 years of ministry experience – recently finishing a two year interim at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Moscow. He and his wife (Noel) are longtime residents of Pullman and diehard Cougar fans! His interests are cooking, music, poetry, history.

Pastor Nick will work part-time, and plans to be present in his church office Mondays and Tuesdays in addition to leading Sunday worship. He has a good vision of his role as our interim pastor, preparing the transition for our new pastor. He has been praying for Congo Pres since our first meeting in July and is eager to meet and learn about our congregation and our church.

It is amazing to see how God has been watching over Congregational Presbyterian in this time of transition!

Grace and Peace to all of you,

Tom Boubel (Trustee)

## Step Saver Parking

In order to provide close-in parking for those among us who are mobility challenged, the five parking spaces on the north side of our church parking lot will periodically be designated as "Step Saver Parking." At these times, please use the spaces *only* if needed. Events for which Step Saver Parking will be in place include: Sunday Worship, Senior Exercise, Senior Gatherings, and Memorial Services.



## Host Families

The Presbytery of the Inland-Northwest will hold their Fall meeting on Thursday, September 21 at Spalding Presbyterian Church and Clarkston Presbyterian Church. They are looking for a few families to host those who may need a place to sleep Thursday night and have breakfast Friday morning, having traveled from the northern end of the Presbytery. If you are able to host a member of our presbytery, please contact Pastor Steve at [steve@congopres.org](mailto:steve@congopres.org), or (208) 743-4444.



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

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contact us

**Congregational-Presbyterian Church**  
**709 Sixth Street, Lewiston, ID 83501**  
**Phone (208) 743-4444; Fax (208) 798-3050**  
**Website: [www.congopres.org](http://www.congopres.org)**  
**Email: [cpc@congopres.org](mailto:cpc@congopres.org)**



**Rev. Steve Wilbraham . . . . . Pastor**  
**[SteveW@congopres.org](mailto:SteveW@congopres.org)**

**MINISTRY TEAM**

**Jamie Williams..... Children’s Ministry**  
**Beth Katzenberger. . . . . Clerk**  
**Lori Holder . . . . .CPC Fund Ministry**  
**Sharon Damon..... Fellowship**  
**Bobbi Matousek . . . . .Membership & Evangelism**  
**Patti Mann. . . . . Mission**  
**Laureen Trail..... Senior Adult Ministry**  
**Mike Holder . . . . .Service**  
**Vicky Boubel... . . . . Stewardship**  
**Pat Lindquist-Hulett. . . . . Worship**  
**Keesje Mills . . . . . Youth Ministry**

**Trustees:**  
**Kate Nowlin, Joe Hulett, and Tom Boubel**

**STAFF**

**Lisa Huddleston.....Administrator/Treasurer**  
**[LisaH@congopres.org](mailto:LisaH@congopres.org)**

**Beth Katzenberger.....Music Ministries Director**  
**[BethK@congopres.org](mailto:BethK@congopres.org)**

**Laureen Trail .....Sr. Ministries Director**  
**[LaureenT@congopres.org](mailto:LaureenT@congopres.org)**

**Anna Bruce.....Secretary/Receptionist**  
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**Chris Browne.....Custodian**  
**[cdbseahawks77@gmail.com](mailto:cdbseahawks77@gmail.com)**

**Rich Goodwin ..... Facility Manager**  
**[RichG@congopres.org](mailto:RichG@congopres.org)**

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