

MARCH 22, 2020

## 1ST PRES WORSHIP SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED



We are vigilantly monitoring updates of the spread of Coronavirus as they are made available and will make every effort to keep you informed regarding 1st Pres calendar rescheduling.

We care about our congregation and pray ceaselessly for your protection, strength, and faith. As Christians, we have a wonderful opportunity to know and to share the love and faithfulness of Christ amidst the uncertainty that surrounds us.

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35-37*

Although we know the power and sovereignty of the One we serve, we would be remiss if we didn't encourage you to follow the current CDC protocol:

- Everyone should wash hands frequently and thoroughly.
- We encourage you to stay home as much as possible even if you're not exhibiting symptoms.
- If sneezing or coughing, do so into elbow or tissue. Try not to shake hands or use fist bumps.
- Do not share cups or water bottles.
- **Do not panic.** The cure rate for those under 50 years old who are infected is 99.7%, and the virus doesn't attack children or pets. Older folks with other health or pulmonary issues are the highest risk.

The following events have been postponed:

- **Steve Green Concert** has been moved to May 17.
- **Senior Adult Luncheon** is postponed until an undetermined date.
- **New Member (Inquirers' Class)** is postponed until an undetermined date.
- **Holy week** activities and services times will be made available as they are determined.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

In light of the coronavirus, our congregational care ministries is available to help senior members or those with special needs during this precautionary period, including assistance with grocery shopping or acquiring necessities like medications and/or toiletries.



If you are in need of such services, please call Rachel Allred at (423) 505-9009 or email her at [rachel.d.dyer@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.d.dyer@gmail.com). Rachel and other church members can work with you to have groceries/necessities shipped or delivered to your home by able members of our congregation.

If you wish to have a member of our church check on you daily by phone, please call Ann Walldorf at (423) 240-9480 who can connect you with a "church buddy". Additionally, our church phone line (423) 267-1206 is available 24 hours a day.

We ask that you be faithful in taking measures to keep yourself, loved ones, and our community safe. We pray for you to be enveloped in Christ's peace and kindness, as we care for one another, especially the most vulnerable among us.

*"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:26-27*

## WORLD MISSIONS

*Church Planting Movements in Strategic Global Cities*



Just as First Pres Chattanooga is trying to navigate today's realities and "how to do church" in the midst of a global crisis, our mission partners are also learning to cope in their particular cultural contexts. Here are a couple of examples:

Our partner, Matt Waldo, co-pastor of City Church Manchester, writes, "Please pray for us as we adapt church life to the lock-down situation in the UK. We're hoping to take our services online and we're stretching to find the equipment and expertise to do that. Please pray as well that this current crisis would open gospel opportunities. We have recently been overwhelmed with pastoral needs and so we ask that God would provide patience and wisdom with so much demanded of our time and energy. We have been encouraged with non-Christians attending church and a new believer from the university mission has started attending too. What can we be praying for you?"

One Chinese pastor who is quarantined with his family in Wuhan, China, is leading an on-line group with Third Millennium Ministry's curriculum on *The Apostles Creed*, translated in Mandarin by our partner Ben C. You may view this pastor's encouraging story at <https://vimeo.com/392542322>.

The World Missions staff has contacted our missions family to offer support and prayers during this very difficult time. If you are interested in receiving up-to-date, specific prayer requests from our partners, please contact the World Missions Office.

## CAMP VESPER POINT

We still have openings for family camp and kid camp at CVP. We are inviting families of First Pres to attend the first family camp session, June 3-6. This is a great way to get to know other church families at our beautiful camp property. We are close to filling our staff needs for summer, but still need a few more girl and boy counselors. They must be a rising senior or college age to work as a counselor. More information online at [vesperpoint.org](http://vesperpoint.org).



## SAVE THE DATES: 1ST PRES' FAMILY VBS

*You Are What You Love*

Monday-Wednesday, July 6th-8th, 5:30pm-8pm

Nursery provided and programming for families with children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade and youth are invited to serve as volunteers.

Registration is coming soon. Contact Misha for more info at 648-7903 or [misha@1stpresbyterian.com](mailto:misha@1stpresbyterian.com).



## FAMILY VBS 2020 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help run the children's program so that parents can attend the adult program. Would you be willing to sacrifice some of your time for the benefit of our young families attending VBS? We need 6 volunteers to help lead the kids' games and crafts rotations; we will supply a crew of helpers to prep crafts and games. We also need 8 volunteers to lead groups of kids around to their rotations each night (PreK-K group, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade group, and 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade group). Please contact Misha Sisco if you're interested: [misha@1stpresbyterian.com](mailto:misha@1stpresbyterian.com), 423-648-7903.