

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2020



### COVID COMMISSION REPORT

The Commission always evaluates the statistics and data presented to us, and reviews our weekly status during the week and the worship services. Just as a reminder that this virus is still a threat, we looked at the numbers over the past 30 days (Oct. 24 to Nov. 24) to see the trends. Since the 24<sup>th</sup> of October to the Commission's latest meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>, we find that almost all indicators have doubled. The only one that didn't double was the ICU patients. In October there were 20 ICU patients and in November 30. Hospitalizations in Hamilton County on that day were 36, now 79; weekly averages 103 then and 227 now; daily average 78 now 140 with a high the day of our meeting 264. These are very troubling numbers and with this kind of reporting, the Commission is holding steady in terms of any changes this week and are strongly asking everyone to do your part to keep us where we are. We do not want to restore restrictions or move backwards. Be very conscientious and careful. Masks are mandatory at the church during the week and during the worship services. Renew your commitment to protect yourself, your family and your friends. Continue with your personal best hygiene practices, wear masks, maintain social/physical distancing, and wash your hands thoroughly, regularly, and completely with soap and water. Thank you for your care for each other and for your cooperation in keeping our people safe and helping slow and stop this virus from spreading.

### SESSION REPORT – NOVEMBER 23 MEETING

Pastor Kirk challenged the Session with a devotional from Luke 7 which also served as the sermon text of last Sunday (Jesus, the host and the outsider). The passage tells us the Christian life is costly, calls for unconditional surrender and a modification of our affections. "Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee".

Agenda items included reports from the various standing committees as well as:

- A look at a draft strategic plan for Camp Vesper Point which listed why we have a church camp. Reasons included were:
  - The great commandment and great commission.
  - To create a place where trust is built and relationships strengthened.
  - Take people out of their regular environment to experience and focus on relationships.
  - To present an environment that sees God's creation and the beauty of it.
  - Offer people activities and opportunities for taking "safe" risks and new experiences.
  - To provide a platform for the Christian life to be lived out and modeled for others.

- Checked out the new church website and app download; how easy it is to use and give on-line.
- Offered a healthy discussion of what it looks like to be a city-centered church and how discipleship might look.
- An update on the financial pictures of the Deacon's budget and World Missions.
- The Covid Commissions work on opening as many ministries as possible safely.
- The Session will not meet in December. Next meeting scheduled for January 18.

### PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY.

A day that lives in infamy. For the increasingly smaller group of World War II veterans – thank you for your service.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRES KIDS

There is no Children's Church, in-person Sunday School, or Virtual Sunday School on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, we concluded our semester of Midweek Zoom meetings. The 2021 start-up date for Midweek will be announced once it's been determined. Don't forget to register for an Advent kit!

There will, however, be Nursery spaces available on November 29<sup>th</sup> during both of the worship services. Parents of Nursery-age children (ages infant-3-years-old): We have prepared a total of 7 spaces on the Fellowship Hall and Nursery levels of the Children's Wing for your use. Due to the pandemic, we are not able to provide staff or volunteers for these rooms at present. Instead, they will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis to families needing a Nursery space for their little ones. There will be a formal screening and check-in and check-out process on the Fellowship Hall level of the Children's Wing, next to the elevator, near the Douglas Street entrance. You can opt to have your own space or share with another family that is currently in your "social bubble". Parents or adults appointed by parents such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, or immediate family members who are in your "social bubble" will be responsible for caring for your children in these rooms. We're working on getting the worship service streamed into each room. Masks for adults and children 4+ years-old will be required. Masks for children 3-years-old and younger will be optional.

The cloth worship bags are prepared each week for children who remain in the worship services. The bags will include clipboards with activity sheets and other materials to aid our children in tuning into the service and will be cleaned and sanitized on a weekly basis. Please remember to return the bags after our worship services (do not take them home) and please place them in the plastic bins with the "Used Bags" sign on them.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



1st Pres received 559 shoebox gifts from individuals and churches in our area. 150 of those came from our church family. Thank you to the 20 volunteers from our church who worked over 100 hours to receive the boxes and pack 41 cartons ready for delivery. Thanks also to those who participated in person and online to share Jesus with children around the world. Online giving was an option this year in light of Covid and many of our members took advantage of that opportunity.

### MISSING A BIBLE?



There are several Bibles in the Lost and Found box in the Connector. If your personal devotions are slipping, perhaps you are missing your Bible. There are two with special inscriptions on the “dedication page” and may have sentimental value in addition to the Word. One is “To Mom: from Bryan and Lia” and the second is a Warrior’s Bible “to James: from Mama and David”. All the Bibles are on a table in the Connector this week.

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE



The 1st Pres Congregational Care Ministry is here for you! If you or someone you know has had a new baby or is ill or hospitalized or could use prayer, a meal, a pastor’s visit, a call, flowers, or a card, let us know by calling the church office, 267-1206, any time day or night. Are you interested in being a part of this ministry? Contact Pastor Chris Ehlers, [cehlers@1stpresbyterian.com](mailto:cehlers@1stpresbyterian.com).

Our Congregational Care Ministry is especially available to help senior members or those with special needs during this precautionary period. We can provide assistance with grocery shopping or acquiring necessities like medications and/or toiletries. Please contact Rachel Allred, [rachel.d.dyer@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.d.dyer@gmail.com).

*“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*

### RAPHA FELLOWSHIP



The Rapha ministry is meeting in person each week. Please consider joining us on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30. To RSVP for Wednesdays or to get information on the Rapha Program, contact Pam Adams, [pam@1stpresbyterian.com](mailto:pam@1stpresbyterian.com).

## WORLD MISSIONS

### New Mission Partners Announced

*Roger and Abi Lowther – Tokyo, Japan*



World Missions is pleased to announce new mission partners, Roger and Abi Lowther, who have been serving with Mission to the World in Japan since 2005. In 2009, the couple was called by a Japanese pastor to help plant Grace City Church Tokyo, the first church of a church planting movement in the city that is led by indigenous pastors and core teams. A total of ten churches have been planted in the network over the past ten years. Roger and Abi serve at GCCT as the director of Faith and Art and the director of Music, respectively. Roger is the founder and director of Community Arts Tokyo which reaches Japanese artists and musicians with the gospel—facilitating church planting through the arts. Abi serves on the MTW Asia Pacific Leadership Team. Roger and Abi also lead the MAKE Collective, a global network of missionary artists and musicians within MTW. The Lowthers are parents to four sons, Aiden (17), Eastin (15), Coen (11), and Kaizen (7). Their home church is Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. Roger is the author of *The Broken Leaf: Meditations on Art, Life, and Faith in Japan* (2019) and was the featured organist during the October 12th conference service. Please welcome the Lowthers to the First Pres World Missions family. Financial support of their ministry will begin in January 2021, and they will be formally introduced to the congregation at the 70th World Missions Conference in October 2021.

### World Missions Budget Year End: December 31, 2020

Please be in prayer about making a contribution and/or pledge to the ministry of First Presbyterian World Missions by the end of the year. World Missions is not funded by the deacons’ budget but is dependent upon the faith promise giving of our members and friends.

As the World Missions budget is based on the calendar year, funds are still needed to cover all expenses through next month. Thank you very much for your prayer and sacrificial giving in support of World Missions. We give God all praise for the privilege of serving in his gospel outreach to the nations.