

Midweek Announcements
November 11, 2020

1. Veterans Day. We begin today with Veterans Day. The Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs gives the history of this day as follows:

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Originally, it was known as Armistice Day. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day. The day is designed as “a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.”

We do thank our veterans and pray God’s blessings upon you.

We also thank the families of veterans, who endured the time of separation during deployments and service. Their sacrifices are real and worthy of honor. So, may God bless all of you for your patriotism, love of country, and willingness to sacrifice for the common good.

2. Lockdown 2.0. Last night the Governor had a press conference in which he addressed the surging cases of COVID in Nevada. For the next two weeks – through Tuesday, November 24 – he asked people to stay at home as much as possible and to not leave the house unless it is necessary. The Governor also encouraged community members to limit exposure to people outside their household and utilize curbside services for businesses as much as possible.

What does that mean for us?

a. Sundays: Well, there are two Sundays that are within the two weeks. I am recommending that anyone who is capable of attending by *watching the live stream* do so for the next two Sundays. If you are watching these midweek announcements, you are able to watch the live stream.

To be clear: We **are not** shutting the doors of the church at the direction of the government. The worship team will be here and the same protocols will be in place for those who do come to attend in the sanctuary: mask mandatory, safe distancing, no fellowship hour. However, in order to try to slow the spread and to participate with the larger community in supporting efforts to slow the spread, we would rather voluntarily comply and help for two weeks in order to mitigate the likelihood of a more restrictive shutdown right before Christmas.

b. Office: For the next two weeks, we will be returning to our spring and summer pattern of low activity and presence in the church office. For those coming to the office, we will need to be more

intentional about requiring masks at all times. For other meetings and rehearsals, be prepared to follow carefully the protocols that have been put in place.

c. Fellowship: The most devastating impact this pandemic has had on us at First Presbyterian Church has been the inability to fellowship with one another. People are aching for contact. The isolation, loneliness, and extended restrictions are taking an enormous toll – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is overwhelming.

We are asking – pleading, really – that we work together to build up and encourage one another. Please do not wait to be called. Call someone to ask how they are doing. Call, text, or e-mail someone to let them know that you are ok – or not ok. You are not alone in feeling alone. Pray with each other over the phone. Spend time together remembering God’s blessings in the past. Spend time together thinking about the things you can do when this pandemic subsides. If it helps to have a specific goal: make one call (or send one e-mail or text) each day to a different person in this congregation, sharing a story or thought about when you have experienced God’s blessing in your life – whether it was a new job, a healing, someone helping you in an unexpected way, whatever. Do that each day, with a different person, for the next fourteen days.

d. Stewardship: We are going to be dedicating pledges on Sunday, November 22. If you have already turned in your pledge card, thank you. If you have not, please do so. The theme this year is found in Philippians 1, “producing a harvest of righteousness.” The agricultural imagery seems appropriate for this season. Because of the ongoing restrictions, we are planting with the prayer that *faithfulness now will produce a harvest later*.

e. Northern Nevada Dream Center food bags. Just a reminder: if you are interested in participating in supporting the Northern Nevada Dream Center, we have the food bags of two sizes (red and green) that are available in the narthex (just outside the sanctuary) and in the church office.

f. N.O.T.S. Warming Shelter: Unless there is a state- or county-mandated shutdown, First Presbyterian Church is scheduled to host the Warming Shelter in the Family Life Center from December 1 through December 14. The protocols are different because of the pandemic, but much else is the same. There are three shifts each night, every night: Shift 1: 8:30 p.m. – 11:45; Shift 2: 11:45 p.m.-3:45; Shift 3: 3:45 a.m.-7:00 a.m.

Links (click or cut/paste):

Training (YouTube video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW2O7MTfCgM&feature=youtu.be>

Schedule: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bljWshBfpcjw0r1yQyCWI-8BXIZ2CF2Ooi89C4W0aHM/edit#gid=0>

Handbook:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CwXu8uMHoMul8TMF10FcZvcCUj6fUZCzM0o1856X8Oo/edit>