



News at First

Special Edition

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First Presbyterian Church will be opening our doors for in-person worship service Sunday, July 5. We are excited about being together again, and we, the session, with Pastor Emory, have drawn up the following guidelines to create as safe a space as possible. At the same time, even with all of our changes, we cannot guarantee that you and your family will be immune to possible exposure to COVID-19, so it is important for you to decide how and when you will participate based on your own personal situation.

There are several health protocols that have been put into place. In order for you to make a decision about whether attending worship in person is the right option for you and your family, we would like to outline our health and safety plan. We will continue to post weekly virtual sermons via Facebook and YouTube for those who do not feel comfortable or are unable to attend in person. Adult Sunday school will return at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, with social distance seating. Adult Sunday school *via* Zoom will continue to be available for those that wish to utilize it. Worship time will be at our previously scheduled time on Sundays at 10:00 a.m in the sanctuary.

The church doors will open 30 minutes in advance. There will be no greeters, and we ask that there is no congregating in the gathering spaces or the fellowship hall before or after worship. The church will be cleaned after each worship service. Worship will be shorter so we ask that restrooms are used only in emergencies, as they will need to be disinfected after each use.

We will be following guidelines for social distancing by spacing every other pew, maintaining space between individuals and 6 feet between parties.

We will be limiting physical contact as much as possible during our shortened worship service, and we will be adapting our rituals such as communion, passing the peace, singing hymns, utilizing the screen for the order of service in absence of bulletins and collection of offering. There will be an offering drop off at the entrance of the church where you should drop your offering as you enter for worship.

Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance. We encourage congregants to bring their own small bottle of hand sanitizer to use immediately prior to receiving Communion.

Face masks are not required but encouraged for anyone who would like to utilize them for their own personal discretion and comfort level.

We are using the CDC guidelines to determine if attending worship in person is safe for you and for those around you. These guidelines will be posted on the church doors as a reminder. You should **NOT** attend worship if any of the following apply to you:

1. Are sick or have an underlying condition.
2. Work with or care for high risk people.
3. Have been within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 5 minutes or had direct contact with their mucus or saliva in the past 14 days.
4. Have had ANY of the following symptoms in the last 48 hours:

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| Fever of 100.5 degrees or higher | Cough |
| Fever symptoms like alternating chills and sweating | Diarrhea |
| Trouble breathing, shortness of breath, or severe wheezing | Sore throat |
| Loss of smell or taste, or change in taste | Headache |
| Muscle aches | |

We are eager to be together as a congregation again, and we are serious about keeping everyone safe. As we begin worshipping under one roof again, we will be making adjustments as we experiment with what is best for our congregation. If you have questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to help us to keep our facility germ-free, please contact the church office or any member of the session.

Blessings to you and your family,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church and Pastor Emory