

The Session of First Presbyterian Church recognizes that Christian community—worship, study, fellowship and prayer—is crucial, giving strength and joy and deepening our faith in God. We also recognize the continued need to address proactively the coronavirus pandemic, working with governments, those in the health care community, churches and others to prevent transmission of the virus, saving as many lives as possible. To help us do that, we propose the following motion.

MOTION: THAT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMPUS WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGH AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 13 FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND WILL REMAIN CLOSED TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH AT LEAST OCTOBER 31, AS PRESCRIBED:

- In-person worship services remain suspended. We will continue to offer Joyful Worship on Sunday mornings via live stream or a pre-recorded service posted on our website, for the following reasons:
 - The metrics related to COVID-19 are increasing in SC; and
 - the demographics of our congregation, that includes a high number of members older than 65.
 - Consideration for the integrity of an in-person worship service and the number of people permitted to attend when following public health guidelines
- Most business in the church facility remains suspended, including Christian education classes, small groups, and committee meetings, with the following exceptions:
 - Church staff may continue to work in their offices or remotely. Any physical meetings of church staff will remain limited and practice social distancing.
 - Members have limited access to the church facility from 10 AM – 2 PM, Monday-Friday, and all will be required to wear a mask.
 - The Day School has opened as of June 15 with their written precautions and protections.
 - Children and Youth Ministries will offer limited activities during the summer with written precautions and protections.
 - Prayer Services may be held at least once a week in James Chapel. Reservations, social distancing and masks will be required. There is an occupancy limit with social distancing of 20 people.
 - A worship space may be made available during the day during the week for those seeking a place for prayer, meditation. Social distancing and masks will be required.
 - Private memorial services and private committals will be permitted at the pastors' discretion. Weddings and baptisms may be scheduled at the pastors' discretion.
 - Church staff will continue to work with members and committees to establish alternative means of offering Gracious Invitation, Prayerful Study, Sacrificial Service and Caring Connections. Offerings this summer for adults via Zoom include several Sunday school classes, a pastor-led study, a weekly Bible study for men and a women's circle; digital programming for children; and youth meet weekly via Zoom. Plans for the fall are developing around the theme, "Living Our Values," and will include a fall sermon series, classes led by the pastors, Sunday school classes, Bible study and women's circles for adults. Family Ministry has selected the book, "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible," for its theme this year. Plans are underway to continue digital Children's Sunday school and youth fellowship via Zoom, as well as offering several programs for families in late summer and fall. Congregational Life will host new member classes and expects to offer a fellowship event this fall. These events would be held via Zoom or following the Reopening guidelines.
- All use of the church facilities by outside organizations remains suspended at least through October 31.
- The pastors, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Church Administrator, and Clerk of Session will review the situation and report any changes or recommendations to the Session, by email if necessary.

Even as we lean on God's everlasting arms in this pandemic, we continue to pray for one another, our community, and our world, especially for leaders, governments, first responders, health care workers, grocery store and other front-line workers, the unemployed, and others most affected by it. We have seen the risen Lord in this crisis, and as the Spirit leads we will continue to witness to his presence in our words and by our actions.

Once the decision to reopen the campus is made, FPC will follow the phased reopening plan beginning with Sunday worship services.

