



March 8, 2021

Dear Faith Family,

The last year has been quite a journey of faith and stamina. Thank you for your continued prayers as we renew our connections within the Faith Family and seek to journey to the cross and beyond together physically (for some) and remotely (for others) this Lenten season. We recognize that some will be grieved if they don't receive a reservation. Currently the Session has set the in-seat number at 75 (based on 25 % of our total seating Capacity). The Session will continue to be flexible, and is constantly seeking to be both adaptive, and responsible, stewards for the overall health of the church family. All of this is a moving target, if you will. We are striving and doing our best. Thank goodness we worship God foibles and all.

Our church will never be the same. All churches are forever changed by the Pandemic. We have lost friends, we have had disappointments, we have lost the familiar ways that we celebrated and worshipped. While the events of the last year have brought out the lament in our hearts, it has also brought out the innovative and resilience and joy. It has been awe-inspiring to watch as people opened their hearts and resources to one another. It has been motivating to listen to the thoughtful spirit-filled discussions of the Spiritual leaders on the session. We have been humbled by the willingness of Deacons to embrace a 'new thing' and 'new way' of caring for the isolated, lonely, grieving, and homebound.

Now we begin anew! We are here—we are strong—we will celebrate again the risen Lord as we have done every Easter since 1834. Open your hearts and be willing to offer your talents (**we need Middle School and High School teachers, we need Youth Committee members, we need folks willing to learn the Sound and the Livestream technologies, we need a Sunday School volunteer coordinator and willing Youth volunteers**). Our Boy Scout troop, has been displaced from the basement due to the flood. They, too, need our help.

Be not afraid, remember the past but let's not let it dictate our future. We need to share our love of FPC with others. Growth requires it (spiritual and numeric growth both require a willingness for every single person to share their church with others). Growth does not happen with simply opening a door to the physical church building.

We need to prepare ourselves to go out into the world again in 2022, Hungary/Ukraine, Malawi, Nepal, and Peru, all need our continued talents and time and treasures.

I have heard it said 'what does it cost to be a member of FPC JC MO?'. The real answer: discipleship is costly. To have a viable youth program requires volunteers and TIME. To have children in church, and children in the future church, requires fun and memorable activities again. To have the homebound connected requires a willingness for care that extends beyond the pastoral Team, one of whom is retiring in August 2021.

Together we can show God's heart to a hurting world that is still looking for hope.

Onward as journeyers and evangelists together,

Pastor Angela



GOOD NEWS !!

**SANCTUARY IN-SEAT WORSHIP IS RESUMING AT
First Presbyterian Church Jefferson City**

We are excited to welcome YOU back! **March 14** and **March 21** at 9:30 am!
We will have Porch Praise for Palm Sunday, March 28 and Easter Sunday in order for more of the faith family to worship! No reservations needed on 3/28 or Easter. In case of inclement weather, we welcome 50% capacity (150 people) inside at Sunrise at 6:30 and (150 people) at 9:30am. Currently Sunrise is scheduled for the Governor's Garden - bring your own chair.

Come Home to...First Presbyterian Church we are eager to see you and praise God alongside of one another

With every attention to detail, with prayer, and the vision of a volunteer team from the Worship Committee, in collaboration with Marilyn Hoffman representing the Facilities Committee, the following pre-planning has occurred. The guidelines in this suggested protocol were reviewed by the Worship team on March 4, 2021 and presented to Session. We resume in seat worship on Sunday, March 14, 2021. All the following guidelines and the reconvening of Sanctuary in-seat Worship are contingent on Cole County maintaining a yellow or green Covid-19 reporting status.

BEFORE RETURNING TO WORSHIP ON MARCH 14, 2021:

1. Hymnals, Friendship Pads, Bibles, pencils, etc. have been removed from Pews.
2. The Sanctuary has been Cleaned and Sanitized as have the Hallways, Knox Hall, Bathrooms, Elevator and Chapel.
3. A phone call (by a member of Session, Board of Deacons, Worship Committee) to answer any questions Faith Family folks might have about returning to in-seat Worship will happen before March 14th.
4. A Welcome Station will be set up in Knox Hall for arriving Worshipers to check in.
5. **To make a reservation for worship, please call the Church office at 573-636-2149. A 'reservation' phone line has been established for after office hours: call 573-636-2149 extension 6.** Please leave your name and number of attendees.
6. Congregants please call in, by Friday Noon, before the Sunday that you are wanting to attend, from a preset number (limited seating is based on 25% capacity currently 75 including worship leaders). If those Sunday's seats are filled, folks will be put on a first priority list for the next Sunday's Service and will receive a phone call.

Two smiling Deacons will be outside (one at rear parking lot door, the other at the front Knox Hall door), to greet and open doors for worshippers.

ON THE DAY OF WORSHIP:

1. Worshippers enter and exit by either the north parking lot door or Knox Hall front door.
2. All those involved in the Service: those attending, those helping and those leading; must wear a mask, except infants. The new Comfort Room will be available during Worship (for parents and infants). Masks will be provided for those arriving without one. The nursery in the preschool will be open and Miss LeAnne will provide a lesson. Ministers will be unmasked during the Sermon, behind a plastic shield.
3. Ushers will escort Worshippers to their seats, starting at the front and moving to the back with new arrivals, using every other row. Ushers will dismiss Worshippers row by row, from back to front.
4. Worship Services at the beginning of Sanctuary in-seat Worship will be shorter than usual (about 30 minutes) and a brief bulletin provided (please take the bulletin with you).
5. There will be no Congregational Singing or passing of "The Peace" for now (we will have meaningful ways of sharing the peace with our eyes and our voices).
6. Offering baskets will be by the Sanctuary door.
7. We are working on ways to feature (acknowledge) the children during Service.

Fellowship after Worship can occur outside the Church (proper distance). We all look forward to the day when it can occur inside Knox Hall again with coffee and cookies.

There's a Place for YOU at FPC

