

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor
Gary Collins, Maintenance
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary/Treas.
Thom Ogilvie, Choir Director



From the Pastor's Desk

Friend in Christ,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has voted to return to in-sanctuary worship June 13th @ 11am. What a joy returning to the sanctuary will be. Yet, our return to the sanctuary will not be a return to normal. We cannot go back to worship within the building without making prudent changes that keep everyone safer. There is no way of guaranteeing complete safety. When we decide to gather, we are taking on a greater risk of spreading COVID-19. The following spells out how the church will function and how Sunday service will be different for the time being.

Please hear me when I say that this is a fluid situation. As the circumstances change, so will the guidelines and expectations. I expect some of these practices to change quickly and others might last a while.

The Adult Elective class will continue to meet at 9:15am. The Adult Elective Class will meet in Fellowship Hall, adhering to safe social distancing practices. The class will also continue to be available through Zoom. This way you have a choice in the way you participate.

The sanctuary service will then take place at 11am. Everyone is welcome to come into the sanctuary. If you remain uncomfortable with in-person, indoor worship, you can still enjoy the service in your car. The 11am service will also be transmitted via FM radio. You can hear the service from either parking lot or from 3rd street. This is also a very good option for some Sunday that you are feeling ill or have a fever but still want to come to worship.

It is Key that We Do Not Come to Church Sick!

- Individuals who are sick or who show symptoms of illness must stay home. You can still take part in the Zoom portion of the Adult Elective or listen to the service in your car; but please do not come inside.
- Staff, including the pastor, must follow the same rule. They should not come to the church property if they are sick or showing symptoms of illness.
- If someone shows up sick, or with symptoms of illness they will be asked to leave.
- If someone becomes sick during a church event. One qualified person will check on them, everyone else will be asked to move away from the location. If the person needs an ambulance or paramedics the event or service will be canceled.
- Anyone who is ill should alert the church office so that other church members can be made aware. This alert will be anonymous unless the individual who is ill specifically wishes themselves to be identified.
- Anyone who has become ill should stay away from the church property for the amount of time recommended by the CDC.

The following section spells out how things will be for the near term based on building location.

Fellowship Hall

- No typical Coffee Hour or coffee station.
- No standard fellowship events.
- The Church Life Committee will attempt to plan appropriate fellowship events.
- No typical meals or dinners.

- Food and drinks may be brought in by individuals but not shared with others.
- A limit of 30 people at a time in Fellowship Hall.
- Any event will be properly spaced for social distancing.
- Social distancing is expected to be maintained.
- A sanitation station is located in Fellowship Hall.
- Masks are requested and available.

Sanctuary

- There is a limit of 70 people at a time in the sanctuary. This includes, but is not limited to: worship, weddings, funerals and concerts.
- There will be collection boxes at the corners of the sanctuary for offerings. We will not be passing around offering plates.
- All items have been removed from the pew racks.
- There will be no paper bulletins or handouts.
- Pews have been marked for social distancing.
- Masks are requested and available. (Note: REQUESTED, not REQUIRED)
- Sanitizer stations are present in the corners of the sanctuary.
- There is signage listing expectations.
- We will spend time in service explaining expectations.
- The Worship Committee is preparing for the continuation of worship if staff or volunteers leading the service are unable.
- The Cry room is limited to 1 family.
- A second location, the nursery, is available for a second family with small children. The nursery is equipped for hearing the service.
- Communion will utilize individual pre-made communion cups.
- There will be no children's programming that takes the children away from the care of their families.

Bathrooms

- All bathrooms are open to insure that there is adequate access for all people.
- All bathrooms are marked for use by 1 person or family at a time.
- Sanitizer station to be located outside of each bathroom.
- A special seat sanitizer is available in the bathroom stalls.

Building Use General

- In planning, we are attempting to use as little of the building as possible. This makes it easier to keep the building clean and keeps us from smaller rooms that make social distancing impossible.
- Rooms and spaces within the building that are not needed will be closed.
- At least 2 days must take place between the use of a particular location within the building in order to give the necessary time to clean and prepare the space.
- Social distancing is expected to be maintained in all locations.
- All interior doors in locations that are being used will be propped open if able.
- Any and all usage of the building must follow the guidelines of this policy.
- All usage of the building must be approved by Session or Pastor.

Cleaning

- The Sanctuary will be cleaned each week, but no earlier in the week than Wednesday. This helps reduce transmission to those cleaning.
- High touch areas will be cleaned frequently.
- At least 2 days will take place between usages of a given area. This excludes the office area.

-The use of the building will be limited in area and frequency to aid in cleaning.

Thoughts

-Everyone needs to follow these rules. We need to assume that people want us to maintain proper social distancing. Yet, we know that church is different and we know that we all have different levels of comfort. If you want to give someone a hug, ask them, without pressuring them. If you want to sit by someone in the pews, ask them without pressuring them. If they say that it is OK, then it is OK. If not, we must follow their wishes without being hurt or judgmental. If we go around standing too close, giving high fives, handing out hugs and assuming that other people are OK with it; we will damage relationships and we will make people think twice about attending worship.

-I hope that everyone sees some of the positives that are happening around church. Drive-in service has really been a special time. Using technology has given people a chance to participate, who never could before. All of us have had a chance to reconsider what it means to worship.

-I look forward to this new stage in mission and I pray for the day we can leave this pandemic behind us while carrying the lessons learned with us.

In Christ,



Rev Steven Brand

WORSHIP



We will be observing Communion on June 6, 2021 during our Worship service at Rotary Park.



SERMONS

June 6 - Can Satan Drive out Satan? - Mark 3
June 13 - The Kingdom of the Seed - Mark 4
June 20 - A Peaceful Presence - Mark 4
June 27 - Just Believe - Mark 5

OFFICE HOURS UPDATE

~Summer Hours for the Church Secretary are~
Monday - Thursday 9:00-12:00pm



June 13, 2021

11:00am Worship

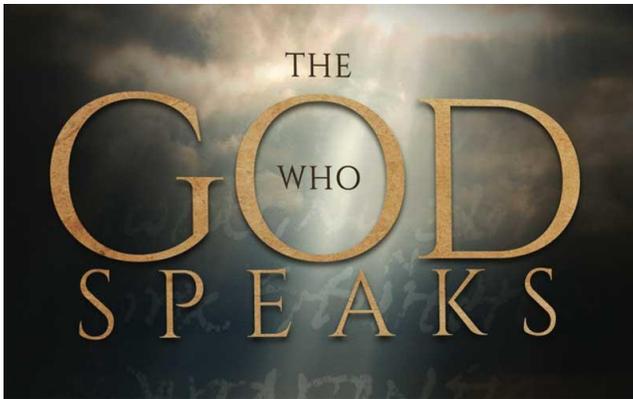
inside the Sanctuary

plus 88.7 will be available if you prefer to stay in Drive-in Church or aren't feeling well that day.

Sunday School will still be on zoom at 9:15am and in person in the Fellowship Hall

ADULT ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH



The Adult Sunday School class began the summer on May 30th with an 8-week DVD-based study called “*The God Who Speaks*”. We will be exploring the topics of biblical authority and reliability. This study traces the evidence of the Bible’s authority through interviews with some of the most respected experts, apologists, scholars and pastors in the evangelical world. This study answers common objections about the Bible’s reliability and equips believers to confidently base their lives on the power of God’s Word. There are no books or study guides for this study. Carolyn Durr will be leading this study.

New Zoom link for Adult SS for May & June

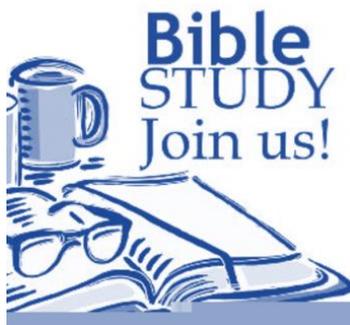
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87303204052?pwd=U2JzaXlnT0REQUJmbitMSXR1NFZlZjUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 0320 4052
Passcode: 384294

or join by phone (cell or landline): 646-558-8656

On Zoon and In person Sunday School also begins on June 13, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am

Good Morning Bible study is being held on



Thursdays at 10am in the **Fellowship Hall** They are studying 2 Samuel. If you haven’t been a part of this Bible study but would like to, request the study guide from Linda

Smith. Come enjoy some fellowship, Bible study and prayer time.



2021 Virtual

Bottles for Life Campaign

Mother’s Day to Father’s Day

May 9th to June 20th

Each year, Heartbeats partners with local churches in Licking, Muskingum, and Perry counties to raise funds for the life-saving services provided through Heartbeats to abortion-vulnerable women and families. Many families desperately need the resources and support Heartbeats provides! Because of the ongoing generosity of our communities, Heartbeats has been able to offer services at NO COST for over 50 years!

“Bottles for Life” helps to teach and promote the sanctity of human life and provides a meaningful and practical opportunity for individuals and families to demonstrate their compassion for the unborn and for families who have no one else to help them through their pregnancy and child rearing journey.

Be a part of her story by giving today and help us to continue to provide all of our services at NO COST! You can “fill up” a virtual bottle and help us reach our goal of \$99,000! This will cover all medical services for 2021.

We can’t thank you enough for helping us spread the word and for helping us get people excited about offering solutions to abortion through this campaign!

Thank you for helping her say YES!

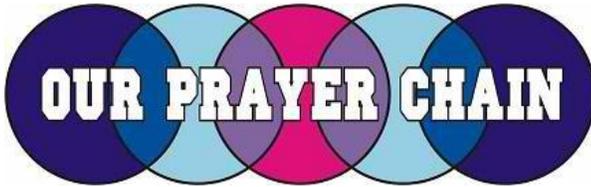
You can mark your check or envelope as Heartbeats and it will get to the correct place.



SCRIP SUNDAY is June 6th! Please give your orders to Peggy at Rotary Park or email it to her on or before the 6th. Gift cards will be available the following Sunday --- just in time for Father's Day on June 20th!

Thanks for your continued support of the SCRIP program! In the first 2 months of this year, we have raised \$200 for unbudgeted church improvements!!

A complete list of retailers can be found at www.shopwithscrip.com/brand



Prayer Chain Updates – Please send all prayer requests to Kim Dershem at kdershem@windstream.net. Please state whether requests are for Prayer Chain Only or should also be distributed to the church body.



Worship Service and annual meeting/brown bag picnic will be **June 6 at Rotary Park.**
Service starts at 11:00 a.m.
We will be having communion
 Bring your lawn chairs, your lunch and don't forget your annual reports.

June Birthdays

Forrest Smythe	06/09
Ken Keck	06/11
James Peiffer	06/20
Linda Smith	06/22
Annie Cain	06/25
Mona Clark	06/27

June Anniversaries

Dan and Lois Spangler	06/11
Keith and Priscilla Hare	06/18
Dick and Karen Birtcher	06/20
John and Kim Frick	06/20

Our Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew his masterpiece was complete,
 And so, he called it Dad. Anonymous

Important Information Recap and a note from the Property Committee

The Last Drive-In Service

May 30th will be our last drive-in service. I know how excited everyone is to go back into the sanctuary, but I hope we can all take a moment to appreciate the drive-in service. This service served us well for the better part of a year. When it looked like we could not worship in person, the drive-in service allowed us to worship in person. Imagine, the past year without it. Many congregations spent the past 12 months with no in person meetings at all. Many congregations rushed their reopening for that very reason.

In fact, I think the drive-in service was kind of fun. It might even be something we would want to do in the future a few times a year for a nice change of pace. I keep imagining how fun it would be to do a drive-in Easter morning service or at some alternative sight with a great view of nature. If I was back home in Elyria, I would want to do a drive-in up on Lake Erie at one of the beach or cliff parking lots overlooking the water.

We always say that we can worship God anywhere, the drive-in service proved that to be true. Let's all enjoy our last drive-in service and if you have never been, give it a try.

Radio Option for All Future Services

Into the future, the church will still be taking advantage of our radio transmitter. If you are not comfortable with the prospects of having in-person indoor worship, you can still worship in the parking lot over your car radio. The church will be broadcasting its service using its radio transmitter. So, you can pull into the parking lot or park in front of the church and turn your radio to 88.7 in order to hear the whole service from your car. This is also a great option if you wake up on a Sunday not feeling great or with a fever but still would like to worship that day. Sometimes, people feel uncomfortable with the prospects of getting up and leaving church early if you have plans that day. Maybe, this option would work well for you.

Worship in the Park

Sunday worship will be at Rotary Park on June 6th at 11am. Bring a lawn chair and a brown bag lunch as we enjoy worship at the park. The car radio option will also be available this day. Worship will start at 11am with lunch to follow.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be June 6th at Noon at the pavilion of Rotary Park. Please bring your 2020 Annual Report. This report as well as the 2019 Annual Report and a new church directory were all mailed out in April. We will not be going over the 2019 Annual Report, only the 2020 Annual Report. We will be carrying out all business that is typical to the Annual Congregational Meeting as well as the election of elders that we traditionally do at a separate congregational meeting in January. There are three elder positions up for election. Elder Keith Hare and Elder Sandy Noland have agreed to serve a second term. There are no nominations for the third open position coming from the Nominating Committee.

Roof Repair Needed:

Dear FPC Family,

I am writing to you to let you know that we have a major roof leak. It is around the chimney. After much investigation it has been determined that we have several problems. The chimney needs repair and a flue liner put in. There are rafters that need to be replaced. The organ parts are only a few feet away and need protection plus the bellows need new leather. The roof on the outside around the chimney needs to be replaced; so, the quotes that we have, come to just under \$30,000.00.

I am asking that you prayerfully consider what you can contribute towards the *roof repair*.

Please make your check to First Presbyterian Church and put "Roof Repair Fund" in the memo line.

Thank You.

In Christ,
FPC Property Chairman
Linda L. Smith