

Faith Presbyterian Church
Session Update of May 6, 2020

The Session has extended the cessation of in person activities through at least JUNE 15, 2020.

Our first priority is to seek to care for the health and safety of all involved in and with the life of the congregation. The Session will monitor the cessation on a weekly basis and provide further updates as needed.

The Session affirms its intention to continue to provide online access to weekly worship regardless of the ability or inability to provide in-person Services of Worship.

Faith Presbyterian Church
Session Update of April 23, 2020

The Session of Faith Presbyterian Church has been meeting weekly over the recent weeks and offers this Update following its meeting of April 22, 2020.

The Session affirms its intention and determination to discern, plan and prepare for the time ahead prayerfully, faithfully, thoughtfully, and cautiously. By virtue of age or other factors, most of those who share in the life of our congregation are within that group of people at **higher risk for serious illness if exposed to the covid19 virus.**

We will be guided by facts, using reliable scientific, medical, and health-related information. We invite all our members and friends to be and stay informed.
(See pages 3-8 in this document for some very helpful information.)

Our cessation of in-person activities through, at least May 13, remains in place.
The Session is very aware that this cessation may be further extended and will continue to monitor the situation and communicate accordingly.

In serving God, we will continue to have a close focus upon the health and well-being of everyone who shares in the life of our church and/or is touched by our ministries. Every action that is taken to help nurture the life of Faith Presbyterian Church, at this exciting and encouraging time in its story, will reflect God's care, and our care, for every person who shares in our life and work.

In the days, weeks, months and years ahead we ask everyone to continue to join together as we face the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

The words of the hymn, "Lord of all hopefulness" are offered to all as a resource. They can be a prayer or a statement of intention for each of us and for our life as a church at this time.

In each day, in each part of each day, in everything that happens to us or around us, we can seek to affirm God's hopefulness, eagerness, kindliness, and gentleness:

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Faith Presbyterian Church is open – very much open - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

We are worshiping God together, sharing Communion, welcoming new members, connecting with and praying for those who share their needs and hurts, planning for our future, welcoming a new staff member, checking in with one another, reaching out to our mission partners, attending to items required for the operations of the church, participating in learning opportunities, progressing on our new building, anticipating what changes may arise in the coming weeks, assessing how to best use technology, listening to each other supporting one another as leaders, members and neighbors as best we can..... and other things we could add to this list.....

Faith Presbyterian Church has concern – deep concern – for our members, friends and local participants in our shared life - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

This concern is expressed by all modes and manner of connection and communication to enable worship, learning, fellowship, care and service to others, by the decision to cease all in-person activities, by the encouragement to everyone to “shelter in place”, by acting out of our understanding that we are facing a very serious situation as a people and a society.

Such concern will continue when and as we move toward, into and through every stage of our ongoing response to the impact of covid19 in our corporate life as a church.

This concern requires that we pay the closest attention to the nature of our congregation. Close to 100% of our members, friends and participants are, for a variety of reasons, people at higher risk of serious illness if exposed to covid19.

Our normal vibrancy and energy obscure this reality! In normal times we don't see ourselves as “older adults” – but we are. And we are also blessed to be a congregation containing many senior seniors and people who have or have had, significant medical challenges noted as increasing the severity of covid19-related illness.

How we are facing the current situation and how we will face future stages of this challenge can help others navigate these very same challenges.

Faith Presbyterian Church has concern – deep concern – for our neighbors – near and far – and for our participation in God’s mission to and for the least and the last - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

This concern is expressed by our prayers for people in need, by people helping where they can in acts of practical service to our neighbors, by gifts given and shared for needs and causes, by working to understand ways we will need to adapt what has been done in the past to reflect the new, evolving and difficult situation we are all facing.

Such concern will continue as we assess the impact of covid19 upon our neighbors and how our response will also have to take on new forms and different methods.

Faith Presbyterian Church Session Update of April 23, 2020

The Session of Faith Presbyterian Church has been meeting weekly over the recent weeks and offers this Update following its meeting of April 22, 2020.

Faith Presbyterian Church is open – very much open - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

We are worshiping God together,
sharing Communion,
welcoming new members,
connecting with and praying for those who share their needs and hurts,
planning for our future,
welcoming a new staff member,
checking in with one another,
reaching out to our mission partners,
attending to items required for the operations of the church,
participating in learning opportunities,
progressing on our new building,
anticipating what changes may arise in the coming weeks,
assessing how to best use technology,
listening to each other supporting one another as leaders,
members and neighbors as best we can.....
and other things we could add to this list.....

Faith Presbyterian Church has concern – deep concern – for our members, friends and local participants in our shared life - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

This concern is expressed by all modes and manner of connection and communication to enable worship, learning, fellowship, care and service to others,
by the decision to cease all in-person activities,
by the encouragement to everyone to “shelter in place”,
by acting out of our understanding that we are facing a very serious situation as a people and a society.

Such concern will continue when and as we move toward, into and through every stage of our ongoing response to the impact of covid19 in our corporate life as a church.

This concern requires that we pay the closest attention to the nature of our congregation. Close to 100% of our members, friends and participants are, for a variety of reasons, people at higher risk of serious illness if exposed to covid19.

Our normal vibrancy and energy obscure this reality! In normal times we don't see ourselves as “older adults” – but we are. And we are also blessed to be a congregation containing many senior seniors and people who have or have had, significant medical challenges noted as increasing the severity of covid19-related illness.

How we are facing the current situation and how we will face future stages of this challenge can help others navigate these very same challenges.

Faith Presbyterian Church has concern – deep concern – for our neighbors – near and far – and for our participation in God’s mission to and for the least and the last - even while the building is closed and we are choosing to cease all in-person activities.....

This concern is expressed by our prayers for people in need, by people helping where they can in acts of practical service to our neighbors,

by gifts given and shared for needs and causes,
by working to understand ways we will need to adapt what has been done in the past to reflect the new, evolving and difficult situation we are all facing.

Such concern will continue as we assess the impact of covid19 upon our neighbors and how our response will also have to take on new forms and different methods.

The Session affirms its intention and determination to discern, plan and prepare for the time ahead prayerfully, faithfully, thoughtfully, and cautiously. By virtue of age or other factors, most of those who share in the life of our congregation are within that group of people at **higher risk for serious illness if exposed to the covid19 virus**.

We will be guided by facts, using reliable scientific, medical, and health-related information. We invite all our members and friends to be and stay informed.

(See pages 3-8 in this document for some very helpful information.)

Our cessation of in-person activities through, at least May 13, remains in place.

The Session is very aware that this cessation may be further extended and will continue to monitor the situation and communicate accordingly.

In serving God, we will continue to have a close focus upon the health and well-being of everyone who shares in the life of our church and/or is touched by our ministries. Every action that is taken to help nurture the life of Faith Presbyterian Church, at this exciting and encouraging time in its story, will reflect God's care, and our care, for every person who shares in our life and work.

In the days, weeks, months and years ahead we ask everyone to continue to join together as we face the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

If you need to contact us for any reason:
office@faithpresbyterianusa.org

Worship Connection on zoom, this Sunday and continuing, 10 a.m. for gathering; Program at 10:30 a.m. Hopefully on Facebook Live but best way to connect is via zoom.

The words of the hymn, “Lord of all hopefulness” are offered to all as a resource.

They can be a prayer or a statement of intention for each of us and for our life as a church at this time.

In each day, in each part of each day, in everything that happens to us or around us, we can seek to affirm God’s hopefulness, eagerness, kindness, and gentleness:

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.