



First Presbyterian Church
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

June 1, 2020

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

The Session has approved congregational worship to resume June 7. We reopen our Sanctuary to a very different world than we closed it to following the benediction on March 15.

While some restrictions are being lifted, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 global pandemic will require that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

While some may begin to attend public worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home for some time. We give thanks, then, for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us with believers near and far.

As this congregation begins to resume public worship, please know that we do so after a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in a high-risk category during this time, know that we miss you, we love you, and we want you to think very seriously about staying home for a while longer. The only thing we are absolutely sure of as we return to public worship is that you are safest staying home.

The following temporary guidelines will be in place beginning June 7:

1. If a member, or someone in a member's circle, is or has been ill, please stay home.
2. Masks are required while in the building. Masks will be available for those who do not have one.
3. Service will continue to be livestreamed online and on Facebook for those who are unable to attend.
4. Seating will be limited. Starting with front pews, every third pew will be open for seating. Six feet of distancing in pews is required between individuals or family groups.
5. Family groups living under the same roof are encouraged to sit together.
6. Ushers will help explain social distancing procedures by giving instruction to congregants as they enter the Sanctuary.
7. No food or drink served in the Reception Center on Sunday mornings.
8. During the summer:
 - a. the Passing of the Peace will be a responsive greeting
 - b. the offering will be collected as worshipers exit the Sanctuary
 - c. the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be suspended
9. During the summer, there will be no:
 - a. Choir
 - b. Nursery
 - c. Children's Church

There will be one Sunday service, in the Sanctuary, at 11:00 a.m.

We will make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief with these necessary changes. We will surely have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

But there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful surprises, celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now.

Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we reopen responsibly.

God bless you,

Beverly Brown

Gary Bryant

Rachel Boggess

Madelaine Hawkins

David Ligon

Mary Ann Doolen

Dan MacLemore

Becky Osmond

Larry Nichols

Roane Pittman

Angie Sholar

Jim Tack

Greg Robertson

Erica Taylor

Steve Whaylen

Mickie Smith

John McKinnon

Gayle Cox