



THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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NO. 634

OCTOBER 2020

Friends,

At the September Session meeting, your elders made the decision to resume in-person services once the New River Health District (Pulaski, Radford, Giles, Montgomery, Floyd) has experienced fourteen consecutive days of declining daily COVID-19 case numbers. It is hard to predict when such a decline might occur for us, but we are tentatively making plans to gather in some fashion for Advent worship (which begins November 29).

In the meantime, please know that we *do* allow for up to ten people each week to attend recording sessions, plus 5 worship and a/v participants (for a total of 15 people in the sanctuary). These are typically on Thursday afternoons or Friday mornings, and the precise time is included in your weekly worship mailing.

While those recording sessions are somewhat different than a worship service (sometimes we do stop, start, and test the sound) – it is so nice to see each other's faces, to hear Brenda's beautiful music in real time, and to sit in that space – away from all the distractions – and know God's presence. If you can safely take advantage of this opportunity, I would encourage you to do so. Please give me a call or email if you'd like to attend. I will assign you a seat (to maintain distance), and we have some extra masks if you need one. If you've been watching our worship videos each week, you'll know that I remove my mask to preach, and the soloist removes his/hers to sing.

We'd also love to include more faces and voices in our online services. If you are interested in leading a Scripture reading or musical offering (either from the sanctuary or from your home), please let me know.

Thank you for your flexibility, your grace, and your love for God and neighbor during these challenging times. I am confident that God will do a new thing in the midst of this pain.

Love,

Melissa McNair-King

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Sunday, October 4: Drive-Through World Communion

As weather permits, we will hold a drive-through Communion service on the first Sunday of each month from 11:00 AM – Noon. This will be in addition to our virtual services (Facebook, YouTube, or snail mail).

What to expect:

- Please drive up to the Columbarium area, at any time between 11:00 – Noon.
- Three people will be ready to receive you: Melissa McNair-King, and two elders. One elder will be 'directing traffic' and the other will be assisting in the service.
- Remain in your car until you are invited to enter the garden area. We will serve either one large household (3 or more persons) or two small households (2 or fewer persons) at a time. (If two households, you will be appropriately distanced from one another – and separately received and dismissed)
- The pastor and one elder will lead a simple service of Scripture, prayer, and receiving the elements (about 3 minutes).
- The bread and juice are prepackaged – they are not being prepared in the kitchen by volunteers.
- The pastor, and the two elders assisting, will all be wearing masks the entire time.
- You may remove your mask when you partake of the elements.

At 12:15, we will hold a Communion service on Zoom for those who prefer to participate from home. Be prepared to provide your own bread and juice, and email Melissa in advance for the link to join in (melissa.mcnair@yahoo.com).

Wednesdays with Children and Youth:

Starting in October, our Wednesday afternoons will focus on preparing a Christmas program/play, with leaders Kendall Payne and Keith McCoy of Adaire Theatre. All children in grades K-12 are invited to help us tell the Christmas story for our church family (and beyond). If you have not already done so, please sign up by calling or emailing Melissa. We will meet from **3:00-4:00 each Wednesday afternoon**.

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, October 11, for the purpose of electing new officers for the upcoming year. On October 11, the nominating committee will make a presentation during the online worship service. On Monday, October 12, a "ballot" will be mailed to each household. Please complete the ballot and return them to the church by October 25.

The following persons have been nominated (and agreed to serve) as elders in the class of 2023: Glenn Johnson, Violet Nash, Ronnie Powers, and Phyllis Vice.

The following persons have been nominated (and agreed to serve) on the Nominating Committee for 2021: Gene Holt, Bob Ingram, Connie McMillan, Laura Slaughter (chair), and Dianne Wallace.

You may still make nominations "from the floor." Please do so in advance of the October 12 mailing, and be sure to have the consent of the nominee.

Please Submit Items to the church office for the November newsletter no later than Monday, October 19th.

On Sunday, October 25, we will join with our neighboring Presbyterian Churches throughout the New River Valley for a joint service of worship celebrating Reformation Sunday. Our General Presbyter, Carl Utley, will preach. Other components of the service will be led by a variety of pastors and leaders throughout the NRV. Look forward to a wonderful day of celebrating our unity in Christ.

Supporting the Ministry of First Presbyterian Church: These are trying times, and if you need to make changes to your pledge or intended financial support for this year, we certainly understand. The ministry of our church continues all the more in times of crisis. If you can continue financially supporting the church, the best way to *do* that right now is through snail mail:

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 824
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We are working on setting up a secure, online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation as well. We will let you know when this is available. Thank you for ensuring that our witness to God's grace can continue in the midst of - and beyond - this crisis.

Prayer Teams Continue:

Thank you to the 25 people who volunteered to be on our prayer team. These members have agreed to set aside an extra moment to pray each day for a member of our church. They each received six or seven names from the church directory – everyone is included in the prayers. Know that someone is always praying for you, until we can meet in person again!

Stay in Touch:

There are many ways to stay in touch with our church during these days of challenge. Please sign up for as many avenues as you like:

- **Email** (Worship materials and announcements are sent each Sunday morning, and otherwise as needed): To subscribe, visit: <http://eepurl.com/gVSnKL>
- **Text Message:** To sign up for text alerts, you can text the message: @melissamk to the number: 81010
- **Facebook:** Visit www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski and “like” our page!
- **YouTube:** Visit www.youtube.com. Search for “First Presbyterian Pulaski VA” and click “Subscribe.” You will be notified any time a new video is shared on our page.
- **Snail Mail:** We have attempted to send weekly communications to anyone who may not regularly use email. If you would like to receive a paper copy of each week's sermon and worship announcements, please call the church office.

