

May 8, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

When we headed into 2020, who would have imagined that in just a few months we would find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic? Who would have imagined that COVID-19 would bring our normal routines to a screeching halt, or that May 3rd would mark our seventh Sunday worshipping online? We never expected to be wearing face masks in public, or become "experts" on Zoom. So much has changed in a short amount of time, and we have all been impacted in some way.

The purpose of this letter is to update you on some of the ways First Presbyterian Church has been impacted, to share how we are responding to needs in our community, and to let you know what our life together and apart might look like moving forward.

1. **Gathering in person** – Until further notice, we will continue to suspend all in-person meetings and worship services, in compliance with state and local guidelines.
2. **Gathering online** – We have been delighted by how many of you have joined our online worship services and taken advantage of video conferencing for church meetings. If you need assistance getting set up with Zoom (video and/or phone), please call Pastor John (206-604-0942) or Roger Johnson (707-762-8269) for assistance. We'd be happy to help you.
3. **Church office** – The office will continue to remain closed, though the mail is being received and checks are being processed on a daily basis. Roger Johnson will be working from home, and Pastor John will be in and out as needed. If you call the church office (707-762-8269) your call will be automatically forwarded to Roger's phone at home.
4. **Finances** – We are so very grateful for the financial generosity you have shown through your monthly donations of tithes and offerings. It has helped us track our financial situation through these first couple of months. Where we are seeing the most loss is in our revenue generated from outside groups who rent portions of our campus. A rough projection through the end of the year, shows an approximate \$16,000 loss of rental income. On the other hand, we were offered and have received relief of three months of payments due for the pastor pension fund, which will save us about \$5,500! It is anticipated that there could be a reduction of around \$6,000 in utility expenses. We also have some savings and other funds to help us with any shortfalls. In addition, there is a possibility that we will receive an SBA loan/grant. The Budget and Finance Commission and Session will continue to look into ways to increase revenues and cut back on expenses, if necessary, to keep our church in a sustainable financial position through this time.
5. **Staff** – Our wonderful staff members have been working behind the scenes to keep things going, and make the necessary transitions to being online. Daniel Weidlich, our Janitor/Custodian, has been working extra hard to disinfect and give the entire campus a

much-needed deep cleaning. Because those tasks are completed, and the campus is no longer being used as it once was, the Session has made the very difficult decision to eliminate the Janitor/Custodian position effective May 8. I can't say enough about how much we all love and appreciate Daniel. And I can't emphasize enough how difficult these conversations have been for the Session, and may continue to be, as we monitor and balance our financial circumstances with our staffing needs.

6. **How can we help?** – We're all in this together. I know you hear it a lot, but it's true. We are here for you. Our well-organized deacons are ready to offer whatever assistance they can. Volunteers are standing by to pick up and deliver groceries, prescriptions, or run other errands as needed. Grocery cards are also available (contact Pastor John).
7. **Request a virtual visit** – If you would like to request a phone call or a video call from Pastor John click on this [link](#) to send Pastor John an email to schedule a chat. If you'd like to schedule a phone or video chat with one of our Deacons, click on this [link](#) to send an email request. We'd love to hear how you are doing, learn how we can support you, and pray with you.
8. **Looking ahead** – There is simply no way of knowing how long all this will last, but we will do our best to keep you informed, and to provide you with as much spiritual, physical, and emotional support as we can. Please feel free to reach out to Pastor John or any of our Deacons and Elders with suggestions on how we can do this better. We don't always know what the needs are, and we appreciate your help and grace as we fumble our way along on this unfamiliar path.

Stay connected, stay safe, and please keep our FPCP leadership in your prayers, as you remain in ours.

Praying God's peace, health, and very best for you all.

Pastor John

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", written in a cursive style.

Shawn Dooley, Budget & Finance Elder

Diane Olson, Student & Family Ministries Elder

Mark Sturges, Personnel Elder