



Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

June 2020



Pastor John's Jottings

The session has decided that we will reopen the church for limited gathered worship beginning Sunday, June 7th. We have been much in prayer about this step because there is so much contradictory information coming at us, so many questions that we don't know the full answers to, and so much at risk if we make the wrong decision.

Here are some scriptures that inform our decision.

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

We want our decisions to be powered by the Spirit of God and not driven by our own fears. While we need to take all reasonable precautions, we cannot make coming to church again totally safe. We can only manage the risks and trust God with the rest. On the other hand, we do not want to be driven by the fear that if we don't do something quickly, the church will collapse. We trust that God's Spirit will guide us to the appropriate time to regather and that the Holy Spirit is more than powerful enough to sustain the church while we need to meet virtually.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

The way that Jesus loved us was sacrificially. He laid down his life for us. The key word in our guidelines for reopening has to do with respecting the needs of others to feel safe and cared for. The governor's guidelines say that those who are over 65 or have a compromised immune system should stay home. Since the risk involved for older people coming to church is mostly to themselves, we will lovingly respect and accept the decisions of individuals in regard to staying home or coming to church.

Other guidelines may call for sacrificial love on your part. Staying at least six feet away from those who don't live in your house may

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Ashleigh Burnett

require you to sit in a different pew than the one you normally use. You may not feel it is necessary for you to wear a mask or face shield in public. Yet the purpose of the mask or face shield is not just for your protection, it is also to protect the health of others. Even if you show no symptoms, you may still be a carrier of the virus. So as an act of sacrificial love, we ask that you put up with the discomfort of the mask or face shield so that others will feel safe and cared for. If you can't wear a mask or face shield, we respectfully ask that you stay home and participate virtually until this guideline can be changed. There are two possible exceptions to this rule. Those who are speaking from the pulpit or lectern may not be able to wear a face shield while they are speaking. We will try out the face shields and see if they are workable. Otherwise, and since the worship leaders will be at least 20 feet from anyone else, they may not wear the face shields while they are speaking in the mic. The other possible exception is for children too young to keep a mask on. If the parents feel it is safe, such children may sit with their parents in Westminster Hall. The parents will still need to wear masks.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

One of the early Roman emperors sent a man to gather information on this new Christian faith. The man returned and reported on the Christians, "See how they love one another." May that ever be said about us in all that we do as the family of God.

On the following page, you will see the reopening guidelines as approved by the session.

Hope and Confidence,
Pastor John

Stage One: Reopening the church for gathered worship.

In order to make our worship gatherings as safe as possible and to help everyone feel cared for and respected, we have developed the following guidelines for gathered worship. The responsibility for keeping at least six feet between persons lies with each individual.

It is always difficult to have requirements in a volunteer organization. We can, however, name the norms for our gatherings. Out of mutual respect for one another, we can ask everyone to abide by these health and safety guidelines, and are empowered to thoughtfully request those who cannot honor the practices in place to return when they are able to do so.

Order for Gathered Worship

When? June 7, 2020

Where? Sanctuary, if more than 25 are present we will ask the overflow to sit in Westminster Hall.

Who? Virtual services will continue. If you feel sick, stay home!
If you are at higher risk -- due to age or underlying health concerns --we encourage you to stay home.

How?

1. Masks or face shields are required for everyone. It is possible for someone who shows no symptoms to be a carrier for the virus. So for the sake of others, please wear a mask or face shield! Congregational members are encouraged to bring their own masks. We will also provide masks for those who forget. Children too young to keep masks on will be allowed to sit with their parents in Westminster Hall during worship.
2. Social distancing is to be practiced at all times. Those who live in the same household may sit together. Otherwise please leave at least one pew between groups and at least

- 6 feet of distance.
3. The governor's guidelines call for a limit of 25 people gathered together at this time.
If more than 25 people come to worship, the overflow will be asked to sit in Westminster Hall.
 4. Please clean your hands with hand sanitizer upon entering the sanctuary and when you leave. Sanitizer will be available at the doors or you may bring your own.
 5. No physical greetings. No handshakes or hugs.
 6. We will deep clean all parts of the building between uses paying special attention to Door knobs, Light switches, Pews, Bathrooms, and Railings.
 7. We will continue to use paper bulletins for those who come. The bulletins will also be available on the church website (www.clarksburgfpc.org) so that you can download and print your own bulletin if you wish. We will continue to print the hymns in the bulletin so that hymn books will not need to be handled. Also we will print an attendance sheet in the bulletin for people to sign and drop in the collection plate as they are leaving, so that the fellowship pads will not need to be handled or passed.
 8. We will have congregational singing, solos and duets with masks or face shields being worn during the singing.
 9. Communion will be served on the appropriate Sundays in this way:
Those present will come down center aisle while maintaining social distance. The elements will be placed far enough apart on the table so that you will be able to pick them up without touching the other elements.
 10. So that they will not need to be handled, the offering plates will be placed by the doors. Those who come will be encouraged to drop their offering into the plate either when they come in or leave.
 11. At Exchange of Peace, all will stay in place. No physical contact. Nods, waves, etc., are acceptable.
 12. At the end of service, we will dismiss by pews and domiciled units. We will start with those nearest the door so that people will not have to crowd past each other to leave. Those who want to talk with others are encouraged to do that outside, again so that people will not have to crowd past you. Inside the church building there will be no congregating, no coffee hour or other social gatherings.
 13. Attendance will be taken to provide social tracking if necessary. So please fill out the attendance sheet in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate as you leave.
 14. In good weather, we will leave the church doors standing open so that people do not have to touch the door handle.

As conditions change, we will modify these guidelines in appropriate ways.

Thank you for your help and understanding in following these guidelines so that everyone can feel safe and relaxed

Sunday Worship

Church School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:45

Live on WPDJ Radio, 109.4 FM or 750 AM

Live stream at [facebook.com/fpcclarksburg](https://www.facebook.com/fpcclarksburg)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 5:30 pm

- Received the treasurer's report showing a net income through April of \$18, 278.44.
- Workcamps have been canceled for this year.
- Terra is currently doing Sunday School by Zoom
- Tentative VBS date has been moved to August 2-9.
- Voted to resume gathering for worship on June 7.
- Decided not to get extended warranty plan for new iPad.
- Jeff Strange is in the process of installing new stage curtain.
- We will allow funerals of members to be held at church with same guidelines as Sunday morning worship.
- We have changed internet providers. We are now with Spectrum.
- The yard sale has been postponed until August. We will continue collecting items for the sale.
- We will not open the church up for outside groups to use at this time.
- Beth Allen will be our commissioner to the August 15 meeting of Presbytery at Fayetteville.
- Approved sending a one time gift of \$1000.00 to Bluestone to help them do virtual camps this summer. They are not collecting camping fees this year so their budget is in desperate need of help.

Pastor's Report:

Hospital visits: 6 Other significant Pastoral visits: 41 almost all by phone

Sacrament of Communion: Communion was celebrated on May 10th electronically. Because of the lock-down we have not attempted to serve Home communion in May.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2020 -

Month	requests	completed	Amount pledged	Amount disbursed
January	20	20	1654.65	1654.65
February	16	16	1356.78	1356.78
March	11	11	1150.00	1150.00
April	4	4	427.23	427.23

Announcement

At 46% West Virginia state is now ranked third lowest in response to the census. We are in danger of losing a government seat. Also since much of the federal funding is based on the census count we are in danger of losing funding as well. If you have not already done so, please respond to the census!

June Scriptures and Sermons

June 7, Trinity Sunday (Holy Communion)

Scriptures: *Genesis 1:1-2:4a

*Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon Title: “God Speaks”

Theme: God speaks the world into being. God speaks a nation into being. God speaks by sending his Son to us. God speaks to us and commands how we live. To some people the thought of living under any authority, even God’s authority, sounds like bad news. The reality is that refusing to live under God’s authority places us under the most imperious of lords - me, myself, and mine.

June 14, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor John is on vacation.

Guest preacher: Rev. James A. Harris

June 21, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Father’s Day)

Scriptures Matthew 10:24-29
Romans 6:1-11

Sermon Title: “Dying to Sin for New Life in Christ”

Theme: When we sign on to Christ and his mission, something is gained. Something is also lost. We die to our old ways of sin and our old ways of living. To live in Christ is to die to many of our old habits and infatuations.

June 28, 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures Matthew 10:40-42
* Romans 6:12-23

Sermon Title: “Getting Out of the Trap”

Theme: Many people in our world feel like they are trapped. Some feel like they are trapped in a bad job that they can’t afford to leave. Some feel trapped in a bad marriage. Some are trapped by addiction. Jesus offers not only a way of the trap, but also offers a reward to those who receive him.





Children's Moments
Terra Burnett

Worship Leaders
June 7 -Kandi Atkinson
June 14 -Dick Ogden
June 21 -Loria Cavallo
June 28-Hank Lawrence

Deacon Greeters
June 7- Lori Cavallo
June 14-Sandi & Courtney Nuzum
June 21- Pam Mitchell
June 28-Dottie Rinehart

Acolytes
June 7-Hannah Burnett and Gia Corsini
June 14- Hannah and Ashleigh Burnett
June 21- Amelia and Kierra Harris
June 28- Bradley Burnett



We have openings for flowers in the reredos for
the whole month of June. Call the office: 304-622-
6831.

Reredos



Flowers



Deanna Murlin	June 1
Donna Shiffra	June 7
Tyler Tustin	June 9
David Corsini	June 10
Rita Forsythe	June 10
Jo Eckert	June 11
Rebecca George	June 11
David Wadsworth	June 12
Jody Forinash	June 14
Pam Mitchell	June 16
Karina Atkinson	June 17
Micah Morrison	June 17
Braden Northey	June 20
Nancy Boyles	June 21
Ashley Montgomery	June 21
Jean Craig	June 24
Janice Hardman	June 25
Ashleigh Burnett	June 27
Phillip Clark	June 29

Charles Adkins
Sara Arnold
Eddie Cox
Jeremy F. Cox
Debbie Cunningham
Angie Fowler
Carol Lee Griffin
Yvonne Gump
Derek Hardman
Bob & Janice Hardman
Robbie Hood
Doug Linton
Jerry Lynch
Nora McClean
John Michome
Jillian Mick
Mary Moore (aunt of Sandi Nuzum)
Nickolas Nardone
Kenneth Oldaker
Wilma Oldaker
Susan Orr (Carole's sister)
Jo Plybon
Amy Pack
Donna Pitzer
Joey Rogers
Susie Saunders
Everett Shiffra
Melanie Simmons
Bonnie Smith
Chuck Smith
Donna Smith
Karen Tyson
John Wamsley
JenniferWetzel