

September 1, 2020

Hello!

We have exciting news at First Presbyterian Church! Based on a decision by the Session, we will begin having worship in the sanctuary on Sept 13 at 10:30 AM. It will be so wonderful see everyone again!

It has been a long difficult time and the decision to go back to physical worship took a lot of thought and prayer by each session member and others. As a member of our Worship Committee mentioned, "my stomach hurts to think about going back to church, but my stomach hurts as much missing and connecting with our church family!"

Things will be different. You'll find enclosed with this letter our guidelines for safe and comfortable worship. Please read through them carefully and do call me with ANY questions or concerns. Of course, if you don't feel well on any Sunday, stay home. And, if you're just not comfortable yet coming to church for any reason, it's ok. The services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook Sunday mornings or recorded for later viewing. We've got you covered!

The Session and our Pastor will continue to monitor the COVID19 situation in our community and make decisions based on any new information as needed. But now, as mentioned in the guidelines, with the help of the CDC and the Presbyterian Church USA, we are ready to once again open our doors. The health and safety of each person in our congregation is our first priority. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday, Sept 13!

In Christ's Love,

*Dedi LaRue*

Co--Moderator, Worship Committee

## Worship Guidelines

Exciting news! Our first “in sanctuary” service will be held at 10:30 AM on Sept 13! We look forward to seeing you and each other! Please consider the following:

- Plan to enter thru the front door. All side doors of the church will be locked to entry from the outside.
- For the benefit of others, wear a mask and ensure that all members of your family wear a mask; if you don't have one, a mask will be provided you upon entry. Thank you.
- Maintain 6 feet physical distancing at all times. Families that live in the same household are exempt from maintaining that distance with their family members
- There will be no nursery care provided but the nursery will be open as needed
- Bulletin information will be either emailed or mailed to you as requested. “Paper” bulletins will not be available at the church on Sunday morning. We will be able to follow the service from the video monitors in the church.
- An offering plate will be located at the entry into the sanctuary; please drop off your offering as you enter or as you leave the church.
- An usher will guide you to your seat. Please don't be disappointed if you cannot sit in your “usual” spot, but special needs will certainly be considered.
- There will be no singing or responsive reading during the service.
- Unfortunately, there will no physical greeting (shaking hands, hugging, etc.).
- At the end of the service, please remain seated until an usher lets you know when it's time to exit the sanctuary.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- There will be no coffee and socialization at the end of the service.

We are all working thru a very difficult time, but with the help of the CDC guidelines, the Presbyterian Church USA guidelines and all the members of our church, we will get through this. Our emphasis will be on the safety and health of every member of our congregation and your suggestions and assistance are welcome! Services will continue to be broadcast online for viewing at home. Please...stay safe and stay healthy!

## From our Christian Education Moderator

September 4, 2020

Dear Family and Students,

Fall is in the air and it is time to start thinking about Sunday school and Underground Squad youth group. Our leadership team has been working to prepare a curriculum that will allow us to continue meeting as we begin this year.

As we begin the year we are aware that due to COVID-19 our education and youth program will look a little different. However, our team is excited and has been planning to work around this situation.

At this time our team is planning a virtual program for Sunday School youth and Underground Squad youth program. Please be watching for future emails, posts on the church Facebook page, and text messages to keep you informed of how we will be presenting and sharing the message from the beatitudes. Our teachers are working to create an interactive program that parents and youth can access from our website.

The Underground Squad is hoping to start on Wednesday, September 16, in the City Park in Sturgis. Students will be contacted as to location and should plan to bring their own sack lunch for a meal. Please be watching emails and text messages that will communicate our plan.

In Christ,

*Michele*

Michele Loobey-Gertsch  
Christian Education

On the following pages you will find Registration and Permission Form for Sunday School and Underground Squad. If your child plans on participating in activities, please fill these out and return to the church. You can either mail them to First Presbyterian Church, 1319 Junction Ave, Sturgis SD 57785. Or you can drop them off at the church office.



First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday School & Underground Squad  
Registration & Permission Form

**Check one or both for Sunday School and/or youth group**

Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School  Youth Group

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparent or Guardian who may bring to program: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact the parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday and Year \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism date and Year \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church you attend if other than 1st Presbyterian \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact (other than parent) and who may pick the child up from Sunday School or youth group**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

List any allergies or medical conditions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please initial—I give permission for my child to have his/her photo taken and posted to the First Presbyterian Facebook page and website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature Parent/Guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday School & Underground Squad  
Registration & Permission Form

PARENTAL PERMISSION

I give permission for my child to be transported to by church volunteer driver/s.  Yes  No

I give permission for my child's name and photos to be used on the church website, print media, social media, and church bulletin board in church.  Yes  No

I give permission for church leaders/teachers to seek medical help if the parent/guardian is not available.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Parent or Legal Guardian