

(This letter was updated on July 1, 2020)

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Greetings to you all. We hope this letter finds you all safe and hopeful for the joy that coming back together in person will give.

Your Session has been meeting every two weeks to ensure the church continues to serve the purpose God has given to us here in North Bend/Coos Bay. As such we continue to discern and pray for God's guidance while we weigh the decision to come back together in person. As of today, we still do not feel comfortable having everyone return to in-person worship. Here are the three main reasons that have guided this decision. First, the complicated nature of not knowing for sure that we could keep everyone safe in our building. Because the majority of our membership fits inside the most vulnerable population category, and because there is still much we do not know about this virus, we do not want to risk your health and well-being by returning too early. Second, even in an attempt to create a safe environment, choices for who can and cannot come to worship would have to be made, and no one on Session wants to be the one who has to make those decisions. For additional information contact one of your Elders or the Church office. Finally, your Session wants our eventual return to in-person worship to be as joyful as possible and include as many of us as possible. God's Church here at First Presbyterian is not the building but the people, and we want our homecoming to be reflected in that collection of people that have gathered here year after year to give honor and praise to our God. Waiting for that day is more important to us than rushing back and risking more.

Also, as of July 1, 2020, in accordance with the current mandate by the State of Oregon, and in our best attempt to help stop the transmission of Covid 19, anyone entering our church building to work or volunteer must follow the guidance that mandates wearing face coverings (mask and/or face shield). Follow the link below for more information:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2288K.pdf>

The words of the Apostle Paul ring ever truer to us as we not only look forward to that day, but ultimately to the day of our Lord Jesus Christ's Second Coming... *God has not given us a spirit of fear, instead he has given us a spirit of power and love and good judgement...* (2 Timothy 1:7). It is the Spirit of God who activates these gifts. May they give comfort and understanding to your heart and mind as we wait for the right time to come back together...

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email:

451-756-4155 / [nbpres@nbpresbyterian.org](mailto:nbpres@nbpresbyterian.org) / [eric@nbpresbyterian.org](mailto:eric@nbpresbyterian.org)

Until we return to our regular in-person worship, continue to connect with us in these ways:

**1. Worship.** Each Sunday, at 10:30am, we will continue to live stream our worship and keep it on our website for you to continue to access throughout the week. A big thank you to Jack, Trevor, Anne, and our team of readers, musicians, and Children Sermon givers! You are doing a great job!! Use the links below to access this wonderful time of worship:

**FirstPres Website:**

<https://www.nbpresbyterian.org/sermons>

**FirstPres YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp8ExfWwS3KSzu3tY9tygZQ>

**2. Prayer.** We will continue to offer "Prayers for the People" through Zoom, **every Monday-Thursday** from 12-1pm. Click on the link anytime between 12–1pm, Monday – Thursday for scripture, prayer, and support...

**Link to ZOOM on your Computer/Smartphone:**

<https://zoom.us/j/711245945>

**Link to ZOOM on your Home Phone:** If you don't have a computer, smartphone and/or internet access, you can use your cell phone or home-phone to dial in to the meeting, no computer or smartphone required...

Follow these instructions to DIAL IN WITH YOUR PHONE: Use one of these dial-in numbers: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-346-248-7799. Zoom message will first ask for Meeting ID plus the “pound” button, so when prompted dial - 711245945#. Zoom message will then ask for Participant ID plus the “pound” button. There is no Participant ID, so when prompted just dial - #. Then you are in :)

Our Prayer Team will also be available for personal Prayer. Here are individuals you can call during the week if you need someone to pray for you:

Jack	541-404-2627	Mary Jo	541-297-1913
Tricia	541-808-2789	Jody	541-404-1788
Andy & Sandy	541-756-6114		

**3. Youth Group.** Our Youth Director, Cynthia Baley, has been leading Youth Group every Wednesday for our young people 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and above on ZOOM. Cynthia has also been leading our younger Sunday School aged kids on Thursday on ZOOM. If you or someone you know would like to be included in this wonderful time of fellowship, learning, support, and prayer please contact the office and we will forward you all the information you need. Thank you Cynthia for this powerful ministry!

**4. Bible Study.** Our Women’s Bible Study group has started meeting every Saturday morning through ZOOM. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office and we will forward you all the information you need.

**5. Food Cupboard.** Our Food Cupboard remains open. We are very thankful to all of you who continue to give to our Food Cupboard. If you have any items you would like to donate, please drive up to the patio on Monday or Wednesday between 9-12 and we will receive your donation. We currently always need canned foods, mac and cheese, pasta, and pasta sauce. For more information, contact the office.

**6. Staying Connected.** In an attempt to keep us all connected during this time of uncertainty, we have assigned one of our Elders or Deacons to stay connected to each and every one of you. Please let us know if you haven’t heard from one of us. These Elders and Deacons will continue to call you

to check in, answer any questions you might have, and offer any help they can. We hope this has been helpful. In addition to these phone calls, please continue to stay connected to each other through phone, text, email, regular mail, etc...

**7. Giving.** Thank you so much for your continued giving to God's ministry here at FirstPres. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity and faith. Please continue to give in the way that is most comfortable to you. We will soon be adding a PayPal link on our website for those who prefer to give in this way.

**8. Stay Tuned & Stay Safe.** Stay tuned for all possible communications via email, website, or phone, which will contain important announcements, plans, and tools. For more information, continue to use these websites to stay informed:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

<https://www.cascadespresbytery.org/covid-19-resources/>

We know emotions can be high in this current pandemic, and understandably so. So, we leave you with the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

**Matthew 11:28-30**

The Session and Staff of First Presbyterian Church, North Bend.