



April 29, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of all the pastors and staff, we wish you all God's blessings and hope and pray you are well. We also miss being with you all very much.

This letter is my attempt to update you on several things regarding our ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Our campus has been closed since March 15th, and we have been working very hard to keep things going and stay connected with you. Here are some ways we are doing that.

- The buildings continue to be well maintained and repaired and improved as needed.
- We are still serving Hot Dish & Hope as take-out meals every Tuesday and Thursday to about 100 guests. Many thanks to our loyal volunteers.
- The Finance Staff is still working collecting mail, paying bills, receiving contributions, and taking care of all our finance needs.
- All our program and pastoral staff are very busy providing online spiritual opportunities, making videos and phone calls.
- Our IT and Communications staff are very busy with the website and all our many communication needs and outreach.
- The Giving Back Garden on the corner of Fisher and Greene is thriving with Spring vegetables to feed the poor and hungry.
- We are spending a great deal of time now working on ways to improve and enhance our Livestreaming services.
- The Pastoral Care team under the leadership of Dolly Jacobs is busy reaching out to as many people as possible and providing strong pastoral support in many ways.

I want to thank all of you who were able to pay your 2020 pledges early and increase your pledges when possible. This has put us for now in a very good position financially. Thank you also to those who have contributed to the pastors' discretionary fund to help our families and members with critical needs – we have more than \$10,000 ready to help. We are very grateful. Also the church received a payroll protection loan from the federal government for \$479,115. This becomes a forgivable loan as we use it according to the loan guidelines. This will help us over an eight-week period with our payroll costs and building utilities.

The big question of when we will be open again and back worshipping together is still unknown. We must continue to be patient, cautious, wise, and flexible even as we have grown weary during this very difficult time.

If there are questions or issues I have not addressed, I warmly invite you to call me on my cell phone at 336-601-7757.

I wish you all God's Peace and Strength for the days ahead.

In Christ Together,

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