



**First Presbyterian Church**  
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March 17, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Just over a year ago I wrote to you with the sad news that we were closing in person worship due to Covid-19. At the time, I was sure it would be a short-term solution and we'd be back after a few weeks. One year later, even as we have had some outdoor and in person opportunities, we have been apart for far longer than I could have imagined. This pandemic has taken quite the toll in many ways, but we are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel. With vaccines much more readily available and community spread of Covid dropping off to much more sustainable levels, the Session has determined that it is time to re-open our sanctuary. The first worship service in the sanctuary will be March 28 – Palm Sunday.

We are very excited for the ability to worship together in our sanctuary again, but we do not want our gathering to be a risk to our community or increase the spread of Covid. As such, we will continue to follow CDC guidelines in our gathering, including asking everyone to wear a mask while indoors and maintaining distance within the sanctuary. For the time being we will also refrain from congregational singing and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. However, as more and more members of our congregation receive a Covid-19 vaccine, we'll reassess what we can safely do, and broaden the scope of our worship service. If you are still uncomfortable and would prefer to remain at home for now, that's okay, too. Online worship will continue indefinitely, so whether it's due to the pandemic or a vacation, if you are unable to attend worship in person, you can tune in via our YouTube channel.

I hope you share in my excitement and are looking forward to being together again. As we prepare for our first in person worship service, I invite you to join me to bless our sanctuary. On Friday, March 26 at 6:00pm, we'll have a short service of rededication. It's been a hard year for us all, so it's appropriate to celebrate the gift we have in our beautiful sanctuary and seek God's blessing and guidance as we return to a more normal pattern of worship. If you have any questions or concerns about our plans, please reach out to Wes or any of the elders. I look forward to seeing you all again!

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Wes Pitts