

FAQ In-Person Worship (beginning June 20, 2021)

As you arrive:

Q – Where should I park?

A – There are several parking options:

- 1) Handicapped/mobility-limited parking – there are several marked handicapped spaces in the lot behind the church (access this lot from Liberty Street near the new county library) – some parallel to the sidewalk and some in the middle parking section closest to the church building. On Sundays, the area marked for “staff parking” is also reserved for anyone with mobility issues.
- 2) The parking lot behind the church also has many other parking spaces. Please enter this lot only from Liberty Street. The exit is onto Roxboro St (right turn onto Roxboro only).
- 3) Overflow parking is available in the lot to the east of the church lot. Enter this lot from Liberty Street, just beyond the church parking lot entry and the playground.
- 4) Overflow parking is available at the public library off Liberty Street.
- 5) Overflow parking is also available off Main Street, across from the church in the county owned lot (this lot is restricted during the week, but not on Sunday).
- 6) Parking is available on Parrish Street, should you wish to park there.

Note: The county lot between Liberty Street and Main Street is unavailable as construction for the parking deck and new affordable housing units is in progress.

Q – Now that I have parked, how do I find the sanctuary?

A -

- 1) If you parked in the back of the church, off Liberty Street, please enter through the set of six glass doors at the end of the broad walkway lined with benches and crepe myrtles. The sanctuary is down the stairs and to the right. An elevator is available in an alcove on the right, before you reach the stairs.
- 2) If you parked in the front of the church, off Main Street, you have two options: You may enter up the stairs and through the large main doors, or you may use the sidewalk to the right of the sanctuary and enter the foyer through a glass door. The sanctuary will be to your left as you enter.

Q – Do I need to wear a mask before I enter the building/sanctuary?

A – If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. If not, we join the CDC in requesting that you keep it on, at least when you are inside the building. If you feel more comfortable with a mask, regardless of your vaccination status, you are very welcome to wear your mask. If you forgot your mask and would like to wear one, extra masks are available as you enter.

Q – What should I expect when I enter?

A –

- 1) **Nametag table** – as we regather, we want to be able to easily call one another by name. Nametags help in this process! As you enter the narthex (Main Street side of the sanctuary) or foyer (Liberty Street side of the sanctuary), you will find nametags available for you – either a printed one in a plastic cover (if you left yours at the church before the pandemic!) or peel and stick nametags that you can make for yourself.
- 2) **Nametag dots** – Once you have your plastic or peel and stick nametag, we encourage you to put a colored dot on your nametag – the dots will indicate your comfort level with physical contact (red dot means “I’m not quite ready to be in close proximity with others,” yellow means, “I’m still figuring out what I am comfortable with – please ask before handshakes or hugs,” and green means, “I have missed handshakes and hugs and feel safe enough to share them.”) Please find your comfort color and wear it so that others can respect your boundaries.
- 3) **Pronoun pins** – As we welcome all, we recognize the gender fluidity of our family of faith. We invite you to choose your pronoun pin so that we might be able to speak to you using pronouns that best reflect your gender identity. Though you might believe your gender is obvious and therefore don’t need a pin, wearing a pin with your pronouns unites you with the community and shows that you respect the gender identity of others. Thank you for wearing your pronoun pin on or near your nametag!
- 4) **Bulletin** – Bulletins (regular print, large print, and children’s) are available on a stand near the entrance to the sanctuary, both in the foyer and in the narthex. Ushers will be standing by to help you with any questions you might have.
- 5) **Hearing assistance devices** – Please ask an usher to direct you to the sound booth and John Fricks where you may pick up a hearing assistance device. You will also be given an alcohol wipe to use before wearing. These devices are placed in your ears so that you might have a better sound experience during worship. Note the label on the device saying “this side toward chest” to make sure it is oriented correctly.
- 6) **Hand sanitizer** – A hand sanitizing station will be available in the foyer and hand sanitizer will be available in numerous locations in and around the sanctuary for your use.
- 7) **Spacing** – Pews will not be specifically marked. We trust you to keep space between family groups and pods. Please note the color of the dot on nametags as you chose your pew. If someone has a red dot, please make sure there is space on either side of them, as well as in front of and behind. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable in worship!

Q – Is childcare available during worship?

A – Yes. From 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Two providers, fully vaccinated and masked, will be upstairs on the second floor of the education wing/nursery.

Q – Where is childcare located?

A – After you enter the foyer from the parking lot behind the church (through the glass doors), turn right, go through the door and up the stairs. Alternatively, the elevator is located to the right of the steps in the foyer. The nursery is down the hall and on your right.

Q – Are children welcome in worship?

A – Absolutely! Infants and children of all ages are welcome in worship. *Changing tables* are in the bathroom on the east side of the narthex (through the doors at the back of the sanctuary and to the left). *Children’s worship bags* are available at either entrance to the sanctuary (colored bags hanging in the foyer or on a pew in the narthex). *Children’s bulletins* can be found with other bulletins as you enter the sanctuary.

Q – Are large print bulletins available?

A – Yes. These are available in the bulletin stand near the sanctuary entrances. Please ask an usher if you need help finding one.

Q – Where are bathrooms located?

A – Non-gendered, handicapped accessible bathrooms are located on the west side of the narthex in the back of the sanctuary (Main Street side) and off the foyer (down the walkway by the bulletin board, turn left and left again). Gendered bathrooms are located on the second floor of the education wing across from the nursery (see directions to childcare above). *[Note: Out of respect for the day school and their tighter cleaning restrictions, we ask that you not use the bathrooms on the first floor of the education wing, where the First Presbyterian Church Day School gathers during the week.]*

Q – Will we be able to sing in worship?

A – At this time, as we ease back into what we hope will soon be “normal,” we will not sing as a congregation. We are invited to worship God as our fully vaccinated choir sings and instrumentalists play. We know that congregational singing is something deeply missed by many of us, and we hope to be able to return to that soon.

Q – Will worship leaders be masked?

A – No. Our worship leaders are all fully vaccinated and will speak from the chancel unmasked and using a microphone.

Q - How can we share our offering?

A – A large basket will be on the steps at the front of the sanctuary. You are invited to leave your offering in this basket as you come into worship or as you leave. You may also continue to give online or mail in your gift, if that is your custom.

If you give online, go to the website (www.firstpres-durham.org) and click on the “donate” button. If you give by check, mail it to the church:

First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Tom Bloom
305 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701.

Q – During the pandemic, I would sign in on the website. Is there a way to sign in now?

A – We will not be sharing friendship pads (as we have done in the past), rather you are invited to use your phone to scan the QR code in your bulletin that will take you to the website sign-in page. If you are visiting with us, we hope you will leave contact information so we can reach out to you. Please also feel free to share any prayer concerns or other notes in this space.

Q - Will we pass the peace?

A - Not at this time. As we ease back into worship together, we will consider ways to share the peace with one another in safe and meaningful ways.

Q - Will we celebrate the sacrament of communion?

A - Not at this time, but we are making plans to do this in a way that is safe for all.

Q – Will we have baptisms?

A – Yes. As parents/guardians feel comfortable, we will celebrate this sacrament together.

Q - Will those who want/need to stay at home be able to worship with us?

A - Yes. We will be live-streaming through our YouTube channel using a new camera that has recently been installed for this purpose. See separate sheet for information on watching worship live-streamed.