

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM
"Downtown by history and by choice"
**FPC Announces Decision
to Regather in person for Worship**

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord." -Psalm 122:1*



Letter from Pastor/Head of Staff:

Dear friends,

It is with great joy that I announce the Session's decision to regather in person for worship on **Sunday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m.!** Worship will also continue to be livestreamed for those who do not yet feel comfortable joining us in person. This comes following guidelines recommended by the COVID-19 team and approved by Session this week.

We are *very* excited to begin to see each other in person again. Many of us are fully vaccinated and the news about the protection that comes with the vaccine continues to be extremely positive. While we celebrate this, we also remember that our whole community has not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated, as children under 12 are not yet eligible. Because of this, and because of varying degrees of comfort people have with indoor

gatherings, individuals and families will need to weigh what is best for them as they consider returning to in-person worship.

In light of how challenging it's been to understand and manage our risk during this pandemic, we are going to ease back into our life together. Therefore, we won't be doing some things at first, such as congregational singing, passing the peace, celebrating communion, or serving juice in the lobby. These will be added back in time.

As we gather for worship, if you are vaccinated, please feel free to take off your 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 (for example, parents of kids who are not old enough for vaccination may decide to continue to wear a mask, as a way of supporting their kids' wearing of masks).

Because the choir is fully vaccinated and at a safe distance from the congregation, the choir will be providing the singing for us at this time.

Childcare will be provided during worship. NC requires masks for all in schools and daycares, so our fully vaccinated childcare providers will wear a mask.

Other classes, committees, and groups may consider the needs of their group as they make decisions regarding how to gather. We will not yet be open to outside groups but are working toward that.

It has been a long season of separation, friends. How excited we are to be able to gather for worship in our sanctuary again soon.

Mindy Douglas, Moderator
The Session of FPC

COVID-19 team members:

Art Baker

Kathy Colville

Lesley Curtis

Howard Eisenson

Karen Romines