



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS

Dear Church Family,

These last months have brought unexpected changes to every aspect of our lives. Yet through the hope of Christ, we continue to gather throughout this pandemic, although in different ways.

Psalm 150 says, "Praise God in his sanctuary". As we prepare for **in-person worship to begin on Sunday, July 19**, the Session would like to share with you the safety measures we are putting in place. **Online services will continue indefinitely, even as we hold in-person services.**

Included in this letter is a brochure describing a measured and mindful plan to keep worshipers and our worship leaders safe. The plan was developed by the Re-Entry Task Force who is comprised of elders, members, medical personnel, and church staff. If you choose to attend in-person worship, please be familiar with all the guidelines before arriving.

I would like to highlight a few important points from our policy:

- Only use the door on the north side (automatic door) to enter and exit the building.
- Masks are required; however, you may choose to remove your mask while seated.
- Upon entering your temperature will be checked, by a one-second optical IR sensor.
- Occupancy will be limited to 100 people (25% of maximum capacity)
- There will be no congregational singing. We can listen, hum, and "sing from the heart," but even with masks on, health experts say singing is like extended coughing.

Personally, I'm excited to gather in our sanctuary to worship together; however, I also know there are many different comfort levels concerning what "safe" means, even in my own household. I thank you for your help in keeping our church and community safe as we "*praise God in his sanctuary.*" Let us be kind to one another as we continue to worship together in these new and different ways.

Blessings,
Rev. Jonathan Warren, Pastor

870 W College
Jacksonville, IL 62650
Phone: 217-245-4189



As we gather again ...

Praise God in His Sanctuary
Psalm 150

As we re-open the doors to our church building for in-person worship on **Sunday, July 19, 2020**, these guidelines are intended to protect, as best we can, the members of our congregation, our clergy and worship team, our church and daycare staff/children. In order to do this, First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville will practice measured and mindful protocols in accordance with PCUSA and CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of virus spread within our church building. Trusting in God's guidance, the task force will continue to update protocols as seems fitting. We trust our members to do their part to ensure the greatest safety for themselves and others.

The most common way the COVID-19 virus is transmitted from person to person is through expelled droplets, and our policy is designed to reduce the possibility of this transmission method. The secondary method is touching common surfaces where "shed" virus might still be active. Online services will continue indefinitely, even as we hold in-person services. For our Level A of in-person worship, occupancy of the building will be limited to 25% of maximum capacity (about 100 people). If this number is reached, no more people will be allowed to enter the building. We ask all who come to follow social distancing of 6 feet. We will observe the guidelines on the back of this page.

Online services will continue indefinitely, even as we hold in-person services.

Bring Christ's hope
every hour, every day.

In-Person Worship Policy (Level A)
Presented to the Session and Congregation
from the Re-Entry Task Force
June 2020

Re-Entry Task Force Team:

Julie Bruninga, Janet Chipman, Barb Harris, Steve Holt, Pastoral Assistant John Nelson, Chuck Sheaff, Lynne Sheaff, Christine Smith, Stephanie Soltermann, Dan Thompson, Pastor Jonathan Warren

Members of Session:

Amy Albers, Larry Bork, Janet Chipman, Tim Chipman, Linda Feleky, Mary Ferguson, Barb Harris, Julie Hester, Phyllis Lape, Amy McCombs, Mark Scott, Lynne Sheaff, Allen Stare, Frannie Suhre, Dave Truesdell

First Prebyterian Church

870 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650

217-245-4189 • office@firstpresjax.org
firstpresjax.org • @firstpresjax on Facebook

Welcome

“In God’s Sanctuary” (LEVEL A)

- Worship Time:** One service will continue on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. beginning on the date determined by the Session. **Virtual services** will continue online via Facebook and at www.firstpresjax.org/live
- Entrance:** Enter the building via the handicapped entrance on the north side; this door will open at 9:30 a.m. Outside the entrance, a volunteer will check your temperature, a one-second measurement by optical IR sensor. If your temperature is above 100.0 F, we will ask you (and your family) not to enter, in order to protect the most vulnerable. *A mask will be required upon entering; please provide your own, but some will be available if needed. Hand sanitizers will be located near the entrance and other locations.*

While Worshipping

“In God’s Sanctuary” (LEVEL A)

- Seating:** Ushers will seat worshippers as individuals and family/household units in strategically-spaced pews. The lounge may be used for seating if needed; the balcony will be closed in Level A. Please do not move about the sanctuary unless necessary; avoid handshakes and hugs for now.
- Bulletins:** Bulletins will be located on a convenient table or handed to you by a gloved usher; please take the bulletin home with you.
- Bibles:** Bibles, hymnals and friendship pads will be removed from pews during Level A. You may bring your own Bible, but the Scripture passages will continue to be printed in the bulletin.
- “Heart” Sing:** To prevent the spread of the virus, there will be no congregational singing of hymns. Singing will be led by a song leader who will be 25 ft. from the nearest occupied pew, suggested by health experts. Words for the hymns will be printed in the bulletin for “singing from the heart”.
- Masks:** As previously stated, masks are to be worn entering the building. Once seated, worshippers may choose to remove their masks, but please wear your mask if you leave your seat during the service. Masks are to be worn as each worshiper exits the sanctuary and building.
- Offering:** The offering plates will not be passed but located at the rear of the sanctuary. Please share your offering as you exit.
- Children:** Let the children come! Bring your own activity bag. Children will not move forward for children’s time, and child care will not be provided.
- Communion:** On the first Sunday of the month, pre-packaged, individual communion elements will be available on a table in the rear of the sanctuary; please pick up the elements before being seated.
- Dismissal:** Ushers will dismiss worshippers from back to front of the sanctuary; please maintain proper distancing. Use the north exit. Safely socialize outdoors as you are comfortable.
- Fellowship:** We will not have fellowship after the service.
- Facilities:** To assist in providing a clean and safe environment, we will not use the east wing of Goltra Hall, kitchen, downstairs or upstairs rooms, library, or the church office. Restrooms, if needed, will be the one by the elevator and those across from the office. Avoid use of the drinking fountain. Commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected prior to the service.
- Other Activities:** All activities such as youth group, church school, men’s group, choir will not meet in the church building, but continue to connect as deemed appropriate; First Presbyterian Daycare continues, as per their specific rules and regulations.

Wonderment in the World

“In God’s Sanctuary” (Now and Forever!)

Whether worshipping physically in our sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church, or whether worshipping remotely in view of our sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church, wherever and whenever, come before the Lord – in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication – and be renewed with wonderment in the Presence of God. “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

Thank you, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, for supporting and following the Level A protocols. These guidelines have been developed under the Session’s directive, with data collected from the congregation. Know that the Re-entry Task Force, along with the Session, will continue to monitor our response to COVID-19.

Please continue to connect with one another - encouraging one another and strengthening one another – and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.