



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS

April 22, 2021

Dear Church Family,

With vaccination rates rising and things moving in a positive direction, we feel God is calling our church to make the following changes as we continue both in-person and online worship, and I encourage you to review our revised protocol and procedures below.

The following COVID protocol and procedures for in-person worship will be implemented beginning Sunday, April 25:

- **No more taking temperatures upon entry.**
- **Two entrances are open – North entrance (Handicap) and East Entrance (near choir room).**
- **Bibles and hymnals will return to the pews.**
- **Children can come up for Children's Time – all wearing masks and spaced 3 feet apart.**
- **The AC fan in the Sanctuary will be continuously powered on during worship.**
- **Following guidelines, small church groups can meet during nights and weekends.**
- **On May 2, Fellowship will follow worship outdoors. Drinks will be served.**

If you have any questions or concerns, joys or laments, please know that I am only a phone call away or I would love to meet with you. I am praying for each one of you.

Blessings,

Rev. Jonathan Warren
Pastor



As we gather again ...

Praise God in His Sanctuary
Psalm 150

We feel God is calling our church to make the following changes as we continue both in-person and online worship, these guidelines are intended to protect, as best we can, the members of our congregation, our clergy and worship team, our church and the day care. 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. Online services will continue indefinitely, even as we hold in-person services. For this updated level of in-person worship, occupancy of the building will continue to 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
Presented to the Session and Congregation
from the Task Force**

Janet Chipman, Barb Harris, Steve Holt, John Nelson, Chuck Sheaff, Lynne Sheaff, Christine Smith, Stephanie Soltermann, Dan Thompson, Pastor Jonathan Warren, Susan Weikert

Members of Session:

Amy Albers, Keith Bradbury, Tim Chipman, Linda Feleky, Mary Ferguson, Barb Harris, Steve Holt, Amy McCombs, Anita Donoho-Ott, Mark Scott, Lynne Sheaff, Annette Simmons, 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. Virtual services will continue online via Facebook.com/firstpresjax, www.firstpresjax.org/live, or YouTube.com/firstpresjax
- Entrance:** Enter the building via the handicapped entrance on the north (handicap) and east (near choir room). No more taking temperatures upon entry. In order to protect the most vulnerable, please do not attend worship if you are feeling ill. *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. 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 and hymnals will now return to pews. Scripture passages and hymns 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 provided if you do not have one. Masks are to be worn while in the building at all times.
- 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 can come up for Children’s Time - all wearing masks and spaced 3 feet apart. 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:** As worship ends, please maintain proper distancing. Safely socialize outdoors as you are comfortable.
- Fellowship:** After May 2, Fellowship will follow worship outdoors. Drinks will be served. Dates to be determined.
- 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. The AC fan in the Sanctuary will be continuously powered on during worship.
- Other Activities:** Following guidelines, Youth Group and other small church groups can meet in the church building, during nights and weekends. 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 updated protocols. These guidelines have been developed under the Session’s directive, with data collected from the congregation. Know that the COVID Task Force, under the directive of 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.