



First Presbyterian Church

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May 2, 2020

Dear FPC Family and Friends,

With Governor Abbott's announcement of a plan to reopen Texas, we now know that returning to church will happen in phases. In phase 1, gatherings of 25 percent of a building's capacity can occur. As much as we may have envisioned the "reopening" of church with a big celebration and all of us together, it will be a more gradual process. The way forward depends not only on the behavior of the virus, but on the actions of people – on individuals, churches, and communities. Here at FPC, we are eager to gather again, but we do not want this to be a matter of following a timetable as much as a matter of discernment, wisdom, and patience.

Your session will continue to look at many aspects and concerns of gathering for worship and using our building: What social distancing precautions are wise? What about those within our church who are still at high risk? Our session agreed that it is best to delay the resumption of Sunday services until our state and local governments announce phase 2 of reopening which will allow for 50 percent capacity. Governor Abbott hopes to announce this on May 18, though of course that depends on how phase 1 progresses. The Session will review the situation again based on the results or outcome of phase 1 and make the decision of when it is safe to resume worship in person.

I have seen that smaller groups have begun to resume group meetings at some churches, but most are holding off on full worship services. Due to the number of older members in our congregation and many of them having underlying health issues, we need to proceed with much caution.

With that being said, Bible study can continue but it must be held in the Fellowship Hall where social distancing can take place and masks must be worn.

NO SUNDAY SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Jan has devotional material that can be mailed to members until we can meet again.

Blessings to all