

Dear Covenant Partners and Friends of First Pres,

Jace is here!

Our transitional pastor, Rev. Dr. Jace Broadhurst, has fully embraced his role at First Presbyterian and is attending committee meetings, meeting with staff and acclimating to the life of our church. We are grateful so many in our church family were able to join us on March 13 to welcome Jace after the worship service. As those who attended the reception will surely attest, Jace has an energy and warmth that has us excited for his first sermon on Palm Sunday, April 10.

### **Sunday morning schedule**

Session continues to wrestle with the Sunday morning schedule decision.

In mid-February, the Encounter and Equip Task Force summarized the themes discovered through the Congregation Conversations and outlined the criteria to be used when deciding the future Sunday morning schedule. The Session fully recognizes the significant work that contributed to this process, and we are grateful for the time, energy and prayer the Task Force continues to invest in helping us discern the path forward.

After considering and analyzing multiple Sunday morning schedule options and gathering input from Worship and Discipleship Committees and church staff, the Task Force presented two options to Session at our regular February meeting and Session called a special meeting in early March devoted to this topic. We were grateful that Jace was available to listen to the meeting via Zoom and later offer feedback that the Task Force incorporated into the options under consideration. In our regular March Session meeting, the Task Force presented a motion for their Sunday morning schedule recommendation.

### **Discernment continues**

After lengthy discussion, Session voted to table a decision about our Sunday morning schedule until the April meeting. Our goals remain:

- To honor and value the primacy and centrality of Encountering God in Worship in all aspects of our lives.
- To be future-oriented with our Sunday morning schedule, anticipating growth in number, growth in engagement and growth in spiritual formation.
- To value diversity in worship style offerings and to value the intergenerational makeup of our congregation
- To create time and space on Sunday mornings for community-building through casual interaction and position the church to warmly welcome visitors every week.
- To Equip One Another in Discipleship through adult, youth, and elementary Sunday school options along with children's church and through service within our church community.

- To encourage and invite greater participation and engagement on Sunday mornings from our whole church body.
- To be unified as a Session in wholeheartedly endorsing a Sunday morning schedule that best satisfies these goals, while mitigating the risks and challenges associated with any new schedule.

### What Can We Share Now

Ultimately, our regular Sunday schedule will return to two services, one traditional in style and one modern, using the sanctuary and the worship center, respectively. Periodically – and intentionally – we will have single all-church services to help build community through worship.

We are excited to hear and learn from Jace and he has much to share and preach. Therefore, we are going to extend our worship time to 75 minutes starting on Palm Sunday, April 10, when we will begin worshipping from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Our adopted future schedule will support 75-minute worship services as well.

We will have two worship services on Easter Sunday. The details are below.

We welcome your prayers, we appreciate your patience and we trust you will embrace and support the schedule and its implementation plan once it's decided and announced.

### Health Advisory Team

Please join us in thanking doctors Dave Anderson, Bill Satterwhite, and Matt Cline for serving nearly two years on our Health Advisory Team. These individuals helped the church's senior leadership team and Session understand the ever-changing pandemic situation and offered valuable information and counsel as we made decisions to navigate Covid for First Pres. We also want to welcome and thank Debby Pollock, Sheri McVay, and David Rainey who have agreed to serve as the Health Advisory Team for the next year.

### Holy Week Services Reminder

- Palm Sunday, April 10 in the Worship Center, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday, April 14, in the Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 17, in the Sanctuary, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. and in the Worship Center at 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Sunday School classes will not meet during the Equipping Hour. We hope you will join us during extended gathering time in the Fellowship Hall between services.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Christ,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

#### **Class of 2022**

Leigh Askew  
Brett Eaton  
Eric Hoyle  
Debbie Hunter  
Julie Lanford  
Todd Rabold

#### **Class of 2023**

Rob Boone  
Lisa Dull  
Ellen Gibbs  
David Satterwhite  
Kathy Shields  
Rick Wesley

#### **Class of 2024**

Mike Ford  
Margery Lewis  
Molly Lineberger  
Tim Lynde  
Debby Pollock  
Carter Sturkie