



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 63, Number 14

July 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

Q.1 When will we be allowed to come back to church!?

A.1. I wish I knew!

As I write this, SC (and Richland County in particular) is still experiencing what DHEC calls “widespread transmission” of the COVID-19 virus. And, the number of infections in the zip codes surrounding our physical church building continue to be very high. The Staff, Elders, and Leadership Team of the Board of Deacons have spent much time in the last months figuring out how we might take the first steps towards re-opening our congregational activities.

Currently, the church and office are essentially closed, except for essential business. If you need to see a staff person, we ask that you make an appointment. And we have scheduled staff to answer the phones during the week from 8:30-1pm each day. This will continue unless a staff person is diagnosed or has a primary exposure to the virus. Of course, staff are able to work remotely and are always available by email. We have been allowing meetings of small groups (10 or fewer folks) as long as basic safety protocols are followed (masks, physical distancing, etc.), but only the worship leaders have been in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We have also been experimenting with drive-in worship and will be doing that again and holding two drive-in hymn sings on Wednesdays in July (stay tuned for details).

The next steps, which we have called “Stage 2”, will allow for groups of 50 or fewer folks to gather, as long as physical distance is kept and masks are worn. We defined protocols that will be sent out to anyone who registers to attend worship, asking those who come to abide by the regulations. We made decisions, based on what we know now, about what we could and could not do. For example, based on the research and recommendation of Dr. Beth Mears, we will not allow congregational or choral singing in worship for now, as singing (even with masks on) is a potential “super-spreader” activity. And Andrea Paschal and the Education Ministry is carefully keeping up with the flood of research about keeping children safe before reopening our nurseries and children’s Sunday school classes. The reality is that we have made a plan, even though there is much we do not yet know about COVID-19. At the Session Meeting on June 28th, Session approved that plan. But they also declined to set a date to implement those plans to reopen.

They did ask that the Staff send out a congregational survey to ask you both what you would like to see happen and how you feel about coming back to worship in person. Please keep an eye out on your email for that survey and answer it quickly when you get it. And if you do not use an email to receive church news, then PLEASE call the church office during the hours of 8:30-1 during the week when staff are scheduled to be present. We would like to know how you feel.

In the meantime, please make prayer a routine part of your daily schedule (if it isn’t already). And in those prayers, make time to pray for those who make decisions, as well as those who pay the costs and/or reap the benefits of those decisions. May God know us to be a faithful, wise, courageous and loving Church – spread throughout this city so that others may be blessed by us. I covet your prayers.

Love, Peace and Grace,

Ellen F. Skidmore

*Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
6500 North Trenholm Road
Columbia, SC 29206
(803) 787-5672
www.flpc.org
Office Hours: M-F; 8:30—1:00*

*Proclaiming the good news of God's love in
Jesus Christ, to build a fellowship of
Christian Love, and to serve this
community and the world in the spirit
of the Servant Christ.*

Please Pray For . . .

Mission Co-Workers

- * Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar- Mexico
- * Rev. Shelvis & Rev. Nancy Smith- Mather - Uganda
- * Ministry of Hope- Lesotho

PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

Ellen Skidmore - 803-463-7586 (cell)
E-Mail: ellenskidmore@flpc.org

Eric Skidmore - 803-543-9859 (cell)
E-mail: zacchaeus@sc.rr.com

Ed Black - 803-240-0192 (cell)
Email: edblack@flpc.org

Church office hours are temporarily changed to: Monday—Friday, 8:30am—1:00pm, for essential business only.

Church staff can be reached by email. (see website for those addresses)

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation!

If you feel like you or someone you know could benefit from a one-to-one, confidential, caring Christian relationship, please contact:

Wayne Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1187 or
wcharris1973@gmail.com

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1477 or
mmck1950@gmail.com

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or Cell 530-6018 or
bettianned@sc.rr.com



Sympathies of the Congregation are extended to:

- ◆ Janet Meyers, Tania & Mark Johnson & family, and the rest of Janet's family, on the death of her friend, Joe Muscillo.
- ◆ Friends and family of Julia Robinson Langford, who passed away on July 4, 2020.



Prayer Request?

If you know of someone who needs to be lifted up in prayer, let us know! Please visit <https://flpc.org/contact-us/prayer/> to fill out our new online prayer request form. On this form, you have the option to let us know if you would like for your prayer request to be added to the church's weekly prayer list.

To my Forest Lake Family,

As many of you know, I have retired and have moved to Portland, OR, where my daughter Stacy and her family live. I had planned to have an opportunity to share my news with others when I saw them at worship during the month of May, Needless to say, that was impossible due to Covid. I will miss you all and it will be hard to find a church family that will even come close to Forest Lake! Thank you all for your prayers, fellowship, love and support through the years. And a special thank you to the "angels" that came to my house and helped load the truck. for my move. YOU WERE AWESOME!

Blessings,
Sherry Beck
16750 SW Royalty Parkway
King City, OR 97224
sherryjbeck@gmail.com

May 2020 Financial Update

Annual Budget	\$ 811,062
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 337,943
YTD Actual Income	\$ 353,025
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 287,092
Budget details are available in the downstairs lobby.	

Memorial Gifts made in May

Sandi Bush
Buford Goff

Honorarium made in May

Juda Reinhardt

Weekly Devotionals Have Started

Check your email every Monday for a weekly devotional. For the next few weeks, our devotionals will focus on Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Strength to Love*. If you are ever interested in writing a weekly devotional, please email Ed Black at edblack@flpc.org.

Children's Ministry Driveway Visits

Spend time with Ms. Andrea in YOUR driveway! Share fun time with stories, riddles, tongue twisters, or just conversation. Visits will also include delivery of Summer Family Faith Formation Information. Looking forward to seeing "my kids!"

Make sure to find a time or contact Andrea to set up a time that works better for your family.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E49ADAA2CA57-childrens>

Time for Young Disciples Continues

Join Ms. Andrea every Sunday at 9:00am via Zoom

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87914698542?pwd=ZmsrWWRJZUhocFBnUDF3akNvdkN4UT09>

Shoe collection Update

FLPC collected over 500 pairs of shoes for the Keep the Midlands Beautiful recycling event. KMB works with a partner organization (Soles4Souls) that provides the shoes to people in developing countries as a source of income. Specifically, their nonprofit partners provide training and support for people in low-opportunity areas to start small businesses selling these shoes in their local communities, as a way to climb out of poverty. Great job FLPC!

Help Our Church Family

Do you have an interest in helping our members with projects around the house? Yard work? Moving items to a storage facility? Do you like to write notes to people? If so, join the HOPE (Helping Other Presbyterians Everyday) ministry! If you are interested, please contact Ed Black at edblack@flpc.org.

Purchasing Café Justo Just Got Easier!

What is Café Justo? Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. It began as a means to provide living opportunities to the coffee growers of Salvador Urbina. Café Justo protects the coffee farmer by eliminating the middle man, who exploited the Mexican farmers, and sells directly to consumers. By returning the money to the farmers, Café Justo changes the lives of Mexican families. It even returns more money to the coffee farmer than Fair Trade. This coffee cooperative was co-founded by our mission partners at Frontera de Cristo.

FLPC is partnering with Shandon Presbyterian to sell this delicious coffee to our congregation. The 16oz organic bags are sold for \$10, your choice of 1) 100% Pure Arabica 2) 50% Arabica/50% Robusta 3) 100% Robusta or 4) decaf. All orders are handled by Rowena Nylund, rnylund@sc.rr.com, 803-252-7752. Contact Jodibeckham@flpc.org with any questions. Try a bag today!

Jam, Jelly and More

Our church donates our monthly collection of jam and jelly and our produce from our garden to Rehoboth UMC Food Pantry. Their food resources are running low with their increased number of people seeking food assistance. We are still collecting jam and jelly for their food pantry but if you would like to donate other food, they would welcome that. They are especially We have moved a food collection box to the covered breezeway downstairs. That will be checked regularly and brought inside. Please stop by and drop off you food to be donated to Rehoboth UMC Food Pantry and help feed those living in food insecurity in our community!



FAMILY PROMISE OF THE MIDLANDS

needs our help. They are still serving families but are doing so very differently given our current situation. Families are being housed in hotels or apartments. They are asking their partner churches for some help please with gift cards for gas, groceries, restaurants, etc.

If you can help, please mail the gift card(s) directly to Family Promise of the Midlands; 1333 Omarest Drive; Columbia, SC 29210. Please indicate your name and mention Forest Lake Presbyterian Church.



Gleaning

What is gleaning? It is gathering the leftover produce after a harvest and donated to those living in food insecurity. The Society of St. Andrew is a grassroots, faith-based, hunger relief nonprofit working with all denominations to bridge the hunger gap between 96 billion pounds of food wasted every year in the United States and the nearly 40 million Americans who live in poverty. They connect with local farmers who let them know when they have a crop that can be gleaned. Then they notify us as one of their volunteer groups. It is amazing how much one person can pick in just an hour! If you would like to volunteer in future gleanings, please contact Jodibeckham@flpc.org.

ORDERING PW STUDY BOOKS FOR 2020-2021

The Horizons Bible study for 2020-2021 is *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by Lynn Miller. In this study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

The cost for a study book is \$11.00. If you have not already ordered a copy, simply send your payment in cash or check to Marje Warner, 7 Coopersmith, Columbia, SC 29229 by July 24, 2020. Checks should be payable to Forest Lake Presbyterian Women. Only books ordered and paid for in advance will be available at or before the September circle meetings

If you have questions, call Marje Warner at 699-6907.





Hey Gang!

Let's watch a movie! Movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at the church.

Middle School: July 12 Sunday 5:30

High School: July 13 Monday 5:30

We will watch Remember the Titans (follow up discussion/questions after the movie)

Here are the details! No More than 8 youth and 2 Adults. You are asked to sit at separate tables that will be set up over six feet apart. Anything closer than that, you will have to wear a mask. Bring your own food and drink. Please let me know if you can come or if you have questions!

Thanks, Bill

A graphic of several musical notes, including a large black note and smaller purple and black notes.

Save the Dates!

Wednesday, July 15 at 7pm - Drive-In Gospel Sing-A-Long
Rockbridge Rd parking lot

Wednesday, July 29 at 7pm - Drive-In Hymn Sing
Rockbridge Rd parking lot

H3 Groups - Next Chapter

As we continue to adjust to these unusual days, we realize H3 (Head, Heart, and Hands) Groups are needed now more than ever before. H3 Groups are small groups (12 or fewer) who connect regularly to share life experiences, fellowship and study Scripture or a book together. Adult Education for the fall will be incorporated into H3 groups. Groups will be given the option to meet in-person socially distanced, online via Zoom, or a hybrid of both. When and how the group meets will be up to the group to decide. Care and Connections and Education are working together to create curriculum and guidelines so these groups can continue to connect people in a safe way. Sign up for H3 Groups will begin in August. More information to come soon.

Help Our Church Family

Do you have an interest in helping our members with projects around the house? Yard work? Moving items to a storage facility? Do you like to write notes to people? If so, join the HOPE (Helping Other Presbyterians Everyday) ministry! If you are interested, please contact Ed Black at edblack@flpc.org.

Worship Survey

The Session and staff of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church are currently evaluating all options for a staged reopening of traditional, in-person worship using proper social distancing guidelines. In order to make the most informed decision, we ask you to complete this anonymous short survey by **Friday, July 17**.

Click on the link below to access the survey, and thank you in advance for willingness to assist us.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YT2BRR>

If you are unable to complete the survey online, you are welcome to call the church office (803-787-5672) to give us your feedback. A preview of the questions is below:

1. Tell us when you and your family will return to church.
 - a. First opportunity
 - b. Wait several weeks
 - c. It will be quite a while
2. Are you currently watching our online (live stream) worship services?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
3. My age range is:
 - a. 15-20
 - b. 21-40
 - c. 50-74
 - d. 75+
4. Do you have children or grandchildren who need nursery care during worship?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Which in-person service do you and/or your family regularly attend?
 - a. 9 AM
 - b. 11 AM
6. Please share any additional thoughts you may have about a staged reopening of traditional, in-person worship.

Thank you!

Notes from the Stated Session Meeting – Sunday, June 28, 2020

- ◆ The Session spent a lot of time discussing both the proposed descriptions for how to re-open worship and other activities safely and slowly and when to begin this process. The descriptions of “Stage 2” proposes that groups of 50 or fewer be allowed to come to worship and do other things provided that physical distancing is observed along with other measures. The Session approved the proposal for the description of how to open. But, they could not come to a decision about when to open back up. Largely because the number of new cases appears to be spiking and the fears that we would expose our most vulnerable members, Session declined to set a date to move to allow people back into the sanctuary. They asked Staff to conduct a survey to gauge the interest and feelings of the congregation with regards to returning to in-person worship. When that information is obtained, and we can further evaluate the spread of the virus, then Session agreed to reconsider setting a date.
- ◆ Session learned from Property that someone vandalized our church bus by cutting off the muffler system in order to steal the catalytic converter. An insurance claim and a police report were filed, but the bus has now been parked in a more visible spot in our parking lot to try to prevent further vandalism.
- ◆ Service and Benevolence asked Session’s permission to publicize to our congregation the sale of coffee that has been sustainably grown and produced by our mission partners in Mexico – Frontera de Cristo. Café Justo is the brand of coffee that we use now at church functions, but this will allow members to purchase this same coffee for their use at home. Rowena Nyland, a Shandon Presbyterian Church member, is going to coordinate the orders. Contact Jodi Beckham or watch your newsletter for more information.
- ◆ All ministries reported on their work on safety planning and procedures. This work ranges from procedures used to train ushers, greeters and connecting point volunteers in the case of an active shooter in the sanctuary to guarding against credit card fraud and misuse and Internet security and firewall issues. Each Ministry of Session has distinct duties defined in our Manual of Administrative Operations and was required to make a report to Session each May on their work. This report was delayed a month this year because of the COVID-19 disruptions.
- ◆ Session approved letters that will be sent out to the congregation to provide an update on the Capital Campaign that Session approved, but then has put on hold because of uncertainty. The Session remains committed to the needs, but is evaluating when might be an appropriate time officially to launch such a campaign when we do not yet know the full effects of this pandemic on our congregation.
- ◆ The Session called a Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, August 23rd for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2023. The following people have agreed to serve as Deacons if elected by the congregation in August: Rebecca Williams Agee, Peggy Ann Burr, Melissa DiSilvestro and Sissy Ervin. The following people have agreed to serve as Elders if elected by the congregation in August: Craig Collins, Marshall Brown, Wayne Harris and Anita Poole. This meeting will need to be held via zoom/ virtually unless we can have people in the sanctuary by then. If, by that time, worshippers can be allowed back into the sanctuary, then we would hold a meeting using both the in person votes and also inviting members to join online via zoom. We must have 62 active members to hold a congregational meeting. Please stay tuned for more information.
- ◆ The Session elected Anne Fowler and Dave Precht to represent FLPC at the August 8th Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery. William Hunter was elected as an alternate. This meeting will be held online.
- ◆ Ellen Skidmore presented a possible statement addressing both the unrest of the pandemic and the racial divides and protests that have rocked our nation, asking the Session to consider issuing some statement to the congregation. The Session debated the possibility of issuing a statement, and decided to ask a smaller group of Elders to talk further and see if they could craft a statement that would be representative of and acceptable to the whole Session.