



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Early June 2020 e-News

An Update from Pastor Aaron

Greetings, people of FPC,

I am very excited to see many of you this Sunday! This has been a long time coming, but I know it will only make the reunion sweeter.

Before I say much more, let me take a moment to commend our leadership, staff, and worship recording team for their efforts over the last three months. They have truly been an inspiration to me, and because they have allowed themselves to be used by the Lord, we have not only executed well in the meantime, we have actually gained momentum for the cause of the gospel. God's kingdom is reaching more people! Thank you for each person involved in this effort and their collective effort.



As we come back together, I wanted to set the tone for our gathering. I have been in deep prayer about our reunion, and the thing that consistently comes to mind is joyful fellowship based upon other-centered love. Let me explain...

We are not entirely out of the woods yet. The virus that has hit our world so hard has not completely disappeared, but it should not completely limit the way we can express our worship and fellowship with one another. But there are some things we can keep in mind that practically can care for those around us.

First, your leadership and staff have been diligent to prepare for our reunion. Just weeks ago you received a letter that had about ten things to keep in mind. Take comfort that, while there are many things that the staff and leadership are doing behind the scenes to keep the building sanitized before, throughout, and after worship, and other items are being done to stay within the regulations of our state, we have communicated to you the most reasonable and basic steps forward that you need to know. In sum, you received ten things to keep in mind, but many many more things are being done to make this a great reunion!

One item that I want to emphasize is the wearing of masks. I will say that I am NOT a mask

wearer, but I will wear one on Sundays during worship, other than when I am speaking from up front. The reason I have decided to do this, and ask you to join (though do not hear that this is required), is that singing has been shown to cause greater aspiration than talking or breathing. Compounded with all of us being in an indoor, confined space for an hour, this can cause greater spread of germs. I do not want you to hear what I am not saying. I am confident that things are and will be safe and joyful, but this is a moment when we can express other-centered, selfless, and self-controlled love towards those who are most vulnerable — remember, a mask is for others, it is not for you, which sounds an awful lot like the gospel! So please consider joining me, but feel no pressure. When we are in fellowship time outside, feel free to go mask-less.

Also, I want to give you a heads up about chair spacing. The chairs and rows have been appropriately spaced for our worship. Additionally, we will make minor abbreviations to worship to make it shorter.

Ok, that should cover the minor changes we are making to worship. In the end, I want you to know that all of this is done out of love for all. We are caring for the most vulnerable, for all who join worship, and for all who see us worshiping. Remember what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:4-7:

5 Let your reasonableness[a] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

As a church, we want to be known as a Christ-centered, grace-empowered church, but also a reasonable church. Folks are watching us, and the precautions we take now will have an effect on our future, not just concerning health but our future ministry effectiveness. The most disqualifying thing for a minister or ministry is to not be approved of by an unbeliever (1 Timothy 3:7). So let us take this time, as we reenter worship with joy and excitement, to also be a good witness to our watching community and lean on the grace of God to guard our hearts and minds as we trust in Him and thank Him for all good things.

God bless you all!

PA

Just A Reminder

- Service times will be the same, 8:30 am and 11 am.
- We will not be holding Sunday School.
- The nursery will be closed. We know for some that this will be difficult, but we hope that since the service is simulcast to the Fellowship Hall, this may help those of us with energetic kiddos!
- Please BYOC (bring your own coffee).

Worship Service Emails



- We will be going paperless! This is not only great for our trees, but it will also limit how many germs are being passed between each of us. This means that everything will be projected, so no pew Bibles, hymnals, bulletins, etc.
- We will encourage before and after worship fellowship to continue but outside.
- We will also encourage frequent hand washing and sanitizing of hands and touching as little around the building as possible (for instance, all doors will be propped open).
- We strongly encourage you to wear a mask but will not require it. We also suggest vampire cough/sneezes and not standing too closely to one another when chatting.
- We would like to ask that there are three chairs between family units — most already do two chairs (36"), so this should not be a big change.
- We are hoping to record the 8:30 worship service in order to post it on our website by Sunday evening for those electing to stay home.
- Maybe our most important point in this list is that we will not allow the soul to be sucked out of church! We want to come back and rejoice at being able to worship together.

Beginning this Sunday, worship will be recorded Sunday morning during the 8:30 service and will be available on the ["Resources" tab of the website](#) by Sunday evening.

If you are planning to "attend" worship services virtually and would like an email letting you know the service is now ready for viewing, please sign up at the link below. So as not to fill people's inboxes with unneeded emails, worship service emails will no longer be sent out unless you request it.

[Go to Worship Email Sign-up](#)



Final FPC Webinar Tonight at 7pm!

Pastor Aaron & Don
Grigorenko will be
discussing Acts 17.



[Click here beginning at 6:50 pm to join
the Webinar](#)

Announcements

Congratulations to...!

Matt & Stacey L. on the birth of a daughter, Maisey Rae, on May 21.

Dave & Arlene M. on the birth of a granddaughter, Lola Grace, on May 21 to Lauren & Mike.

Memorial Service

A memorial service is being held for Ginny Roberts on Saturday, June 20th at the church. Time TBA.

Kroger

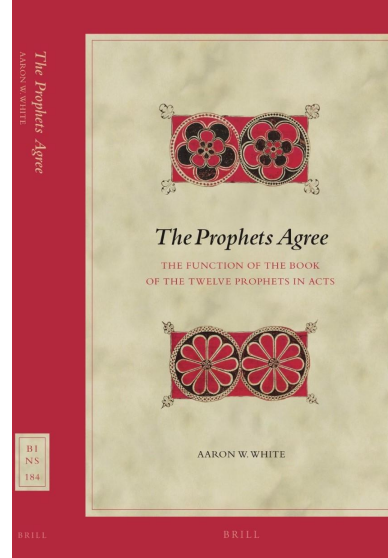
Thank you to everyone who participated in this quarter's Kroger Community Rewards fundraiser! We had 16 supporters who shopped at **Kroger** between **Feb. 1** and **Apr. 30** and who have helped contribute to our **\$44.53** donation from Kroger. All monies donated from Kroger through this fundraiser go toward the Building Fund. If you shop at Kroger and would like to participate but don't know how, just follow [these instructions](#).

Our Annual Father's Day Service

The Father's Day service this year will be held at the church. Specifics will be announced soon.

Sign Up to Mow

We are looking for volunteers who would like



Our Pastor-Scholar

We are extremely proud to announce the publication of Pastor Aaron's dissertation this past week entitled, *The Prophets Agree: The Function of the Book of the Twelve Prophets in Acts*. Pastor Aaron takes the four quotations in Acts from the minor prophets, Joel, Amos, & Habakkuk, and shows how vital they are to the plot line of Acts when taken as a single unit.

[More information](#)

Pastor Aaron's next book, *Who Created Christianity?*, of which he was an editor comes out later this year and can be pre-ordered now. [Take a look!](#)

A collage of four promotional graphics for church events. The top-left graphic is green with the text 'FISH FRY' and a small illustration of a fish. The top-right graphic is yellow with the text 'PASTOR AARON'S' in red. The bottom-left graphic is green with the text 'BOOK LAUNCH PARTY' in white. The bottom-right graphic is red with an illustration of a person reading a stack of books. Below this graphic is a green box with the text 'DON & PEGGY G'S HOUSE' in yellow and white, and '2306 STEWART RD. SOUTH CHARLESTON' in white. Below that is a red box with the text 'JUNE 20' and '7:00 PM' in white. At the bottom right of the collage is a green box with the text 'BYO CHAIRS & BEVERAGES' in white.

to mow the church yard this summer. Contact [Fred B.](#) to sign up for a week or two.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

First Presbyterian Church
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