



Arms of Faith

July
2020

Faith Presbyterian Church
"To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people"

The Next, Faithful Step

Sunday, June 21, my sermon was about The Exile, the moment in history when the Judeans were uprooted from their beloved homeland and taken to a place where they had never been before. Perhaps more importantly, taken away from the one place where they went to encounter and worship the Living God. While Faith Church has not been forced to sing our beloved songs in a foreign land, we have had to make *major* adjustments to worship safely and faithfully under the shadow of COVID-19. I have enjoyed leading worship over livestreaming and conference call. These measures have helped us stay connected as a community when it has been unsafe and unwise to gather in person.

There are, however, a substantial number of people who are simply not being fed by remote worship. They are *hungry* for worship that will feed them in their walk with Christ. For them remote worship has been a famine. Or perhaps a better analogy is they have not been getting a vitamin that is essential for healthy living. The first day one doesn't get enough Vitamin C isn't a big deal. After four weeks of limited Vitamin C intake symptoms of scurvy begin to appear.

At June's Session meeting your Session heard from a long-standing member of the church who simply is not getting anything out of remote worship. His and other voices prompted the Session to get ready to worship again in person.

At this point the expectation is that we will have an outdoor service on Sunday, July 26 at which physical distancing will be required. The following Sunday we will have an in-person worship service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., with *substantial* adjustments due to the pandemic. Seating will be limited, mask wearing and physical distancing will be enforced and we will not pass communion elements or offering plates. There will be no Time with the Children and passing the peace will be an exercise in remote connection.

When we started live streaming worship—and stopped in-person worship—in March, I imagined that by July at the latest we'd be back to normal, and we'd pull out all the Easter hymns and celebrate the Resurrection with all the joy and vitality that we would have felt April 12. I see now that was overly optimistic; COVID-19 is a marathon and I was expecting a sprint.

Every Sunday at the end of the Prayers of the People, when we segue into the Lord's Prayer, I feel the absence of the congregation keenly. A few weeks ago I mentioned before worship that I feel exposed at that moment. I was delighted that those who were singing that morning turned on their microphones for the Lord's Prayer; I experienced a little of the community, the personal connection that I had missed terribly.

Watch for more details as August 2 approaches.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Tom



July 2 Echo Madler
 July 6 Norma Selk
 July 11 Matt Ziegler
 July 12 Marlin DeBoer
 July 12 Jimette Hoham
 July 13 Ginger Norman
 July 14 Mark Rezek
 July 16 Jared Bogenhagen
 July 19 Richard Essi
 July 20 Michael Shafer
 July 26 Gina Black

N	A	L	W	O	A	K	Y	U	W	T
S	<p>Here's a super fun Bible word game!</p> <p>We've hidden a verse from Proverbs in this shape.</p> <p>To find it, you'll need to start at the correct letter and then read every second letter, going in a clockwise direction.</p> <p>How long will it take you to uncover the wisdom of this proverb?</p>									R
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Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda
 Fellowship Carolyn Ernst
 Facilities Rod Bosserdet
 Mission & Ev Lexie Stephenson
 Debbie Kippley
 Discipleship Peter Svoboda
 Support Marc Wagoner
 Chuck Shafer
 Worship Debbie Eggers
 Human Res Scott Jamieson

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