



The worship space in Fellowship Hall is prepared for worship indoors.



Blankets are accumulating in the Chapel. Keep them coming!

Update from Session

To our beloved First Presbyterian Church:

Session has developed a plan at our September meeting that includes indoor worship. We remain committed to mitigating as much risk as possible from COVID-19.

Beginning October 4, we will have both an indoor service in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. and an outdoor service at 11:00 a.m. (with an exception for October 11). Fellowship Hall will allow us to create cross-ventilation in our worship space. In the meantime, we are modifying our HVAC system in the sanctuary with ionization technology. Session will consider in-person worship in the sanctuary when that modification is complete.

(See the next page)

Update from Session (cont.)

New Worship Schedule beginning October 4

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Outdoors in Parking Lot

On October 11, there will only be one service (outdoors at 10:00.) It is our annual Kirking of the Tartan service, and we will welcome guest preacher the Rev. Charles Hardwick, Ph.D., who is the Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant.

Indoor worship will require diligence in wearing masks and physical distancing. We can seat about 70 people in Fellowship Hall. Once capacity is reached, people will be invited to the 11:00 a.m. outdoor service. Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to worship on the live-stream, as well as anyone who has recently traveled to a state with a high advisory level from the state of Ohio. Temperatures will be taken with an infrared thermometer before entering the worship space.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns as we proceed. We thank everyone for their diligence, support, and prayer. Let's continue to work and pray for healing and wholeness for all people during this challenging time.

In Christ,
Session

Mission Notes

Blanket Drive

COVID-19 is reducing our community's capacity to serve people who are homeless this winter. Some agencies are predicting that there will be 200-300 homeless families sleeping outside this winter in Middletown. We will be accepting new or gently used blankets. These will be given to Access Counseling, who is trying to collect 1,000 blankets community-wide by November 1.

You can drop off blankets in the bins by the Circle Drive Door (Door C) or the front steps of the sanctuary. The Mission Committee will also be purchasing some blankets in bulk.

Christmas Baskets

First Presbyterian Church is providing Christmas Baskets for 30 families through the Salvation Army. If you would like to sign up to provide toys for one of the baskets, please call the church office or e-mail sandy@fpcmiddletown.com.

Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Program

The Pre-K Readiness Program will be starting at the beginning of October. We are still in need of one more substitute teacher. Please contact Tina Newlin in you are interested.

Christian Education Notes

Join the Purple Table online!

The Purple Table online community includes articles, discussion starters, devotional materials, online gatherings, and much more! The hope is to engage together regularly in dialogue, faith practices, and FUN. This month, we are exploring what it means to slow down and practice Sabbath and restfulness. Children and youth will be receiving materials to use at home. Additional kits will be available Sunday mornings for others who might like to play, too, and/or share the materials with family and friends. We'll gather online via Zoom on Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m. to check-in and share our experiences as we continue to learn about creating Sabbath rhythms in daily living.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study will be focusing on "Slowing Down, Sabbath, and Restfulness" this October. If you are not already a "regular" and would like to join the discussion, please e-mail Michael or call the office.

Worship Notes

Upcoming Worship

We are currently following the Revised Common Lectionary in worship. Here are the weekly readings for October.

October 4 - *World Communion Sunday* - Exodus 20:1-20, Psalm 19, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-36

October 11 - *Kirking of the Tartan* - Guest preacher Rev. Charles Hardwick, Ph.D. - Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 - Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99:1-9, I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 - Lisa Kaufer preaching

Guest Preacher on October 11

We will welcome the **Rev. Charles Hardwick, Ph.D.** to our pulpit. He is the Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant, and has recently served as director of the Theology, Formation and Evangelism ministry in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Synod of the Covenant seeks to inspire, equip, and connect the Presbyterian congregations and organizations which compose it to join Christ's mission to the world with increasing love, joy, and faithfulness. The Synod includes 11 presbyteries and nearly 700 congregations throughout Michigan and Ohio. Ministry within the Presbyterian Church (USA) is located primarily in local churches, which are supported by presbyteries (seven in Ohio and four in Michigan), which are in turn supported by Synods (sixteen across the United States).

In Memoriam

We give thanks to God for the life of...

Gene Spaulding, who died on September 20.

Tom Wiley, who died on September 20.

Fearn Gerber, who died on September 30.