

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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April 22, 2020

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church,

The unfolding effects of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) global pandemic have touched millions of people directly and indirectly, and we have each felt the impact of changes asked of us to keep one another safe. While it is deeply troubling to witness illness, death, market instability, and anxiety in our world, our call as the church is to shine Christ's light and hope, trusting in God's steadfast love and mercy to sustain us. We are grateful for the ways that you have been at work as the body of Christ, even as we are physically apart. Our Covid Response Task Force is recommending to Session that we continue distance-only worship through the month of May.

In a called meeting in April, the Session of First Presbyterian Church affirmed its intention to continue salaries and pay for all regular employees of First Presbyterian Church; the Presbyterian Preschool Advisory Board took similar action. This continuance includes clergy, full and part-time staff, stipend employees, hourly workers, and salaried staff of Presbyterian Preschool.

Desiring to be a faithful and responsible employer and a good steward of your tithes and offerings, the Session of First Presbyterian Church recently applied for a Paycheck Protection Plan forgivable loan from the Small Business Administration through the newly-approved federal *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. First Presbyterian Church was awarded a loan sized to cover about two and a half months of employee pay. This loan is forgivable so long as we maintain our current employment levels.

Through plague, wars, depressions, and economic stagnation, the church of Jesus Christ has survived. With the help of God's Spirit, we find renewed focus on Christ's call for us. We have already responded to greater needs in food security, utility payments, and other assistance requests. We will share the pain of this pandemic with one another, and we will share the blessings of this gain, which will allow us to continue strong in our commitment to respond with the love and justice of Jesus in our community. You can continue your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church by mailing in your donations, visiting [www.stillwaterfpc.org/giving](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org/giving), or you can text GIVE to (580)-823-8264.

With this federal assistance and your continued faithfulness, we can be even more responsive to the physical, spiritual, emotional, and economic needs of our neighbors in these times, including church members. And, if you find yourself in need, please let us know. We are here to help.

In Christ,

Leah R. Hrachovec  
Pastor

Cathy Fairbanks  
Treasurer

Casey W. Campbell  
Chair, Stewardship & Finance