



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

One West Harker Road | Fort Oglethorpe, GA | 706.866.2521 | www.FPFO.org

October 22, 2020

Dear First Pres Family,

With the changes in the season come changes to our operations here at FPFO.

I. The Session's Mask Policy

Since this summer, the Session has required masks to be worn inside the buildings on Sundays except by those actively leading some aspect of the service as well as those ages ten and under. This policy exists not because of a fear of death or lack of trust in God's providence, but because God's providence means we are responsible for our choices and stewardship over our own lives and the lives of others.

In crafting the policy, we consulted the medical professionals who are members of this congregation, which included a general practitioner, an emergency room nurse, and a hospitalist. Our goal in all of this is to glorify God by promoting circumstances in worship that enabled the largest number of people to worship together while also trying to limit the spread of an unusually contagious disease.

II. Return to Two Morning Services

Cold and flu season has come and Session desires to do what we can to protect those within the congregation who are particularly vulnerable to respiratory sicknesses. For that reason, **starting this Lord's Day (Oct. 25)**, we will offer an "early service" on Sunday mornings. Adding an additional morning service will also allow us to provide greater space between households as worship attendance continues to rise.

9:15 a.m. Worship Service

The first morning service is primarily for who people consider themselves medically fragile or who are caring for those at increased risk due to respiratory sicknesses.

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

The second morning service is for all those who do not consider themselves at particular risk during cold and flu season.

Session also recognizes there are those who - for the sake of conscience - cannot wear a mask to worship. While Session believes a face covering is merely a circumstance, we have never turned people away from worship simply because their faces are not covered. Going forward, however, those who have a conscientious objection to wearing a mask to worship will need to attend the second morning service.

III. Other Church Activities

In addition to morning worship, evening worship (6:00 p.m.) and Sunday school (9:45 a.m.) continue on the Lord's Day. If you decide to attend the first morning service, you can still watch the Sunday school lesson when you get home via the website: www.FPFO.org/live.

Midweek activities continue on Wednesdays with a prayer meeting followed by two classes for all ages and one class for youngsters. Masks, while recommended, are not required for Midweek activities. One of the classes is live-streamed to watch live or later on the website: www.FPFO.org/live.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to worshipping with you this Lord's day morning and evening!

Your friend,

Ryan Biese