

July 24, 2020

Families and Friends of First Presbyterian Church (Lynchburg, VA),

We are on the move in mighty ways at First Presbyterian Church & FPC Weekday School! I pray you and your families have remained safe and healthy during these challenging times. Your Staff and Session at First Presbyterian are constantly exploring ways to be and share God's love to our "neighbors" and we want to thank you for your partnership in what we believe is God's call to us as a church!

Although many church activities have necessarily been on hold or reduced in scope during the last several months of COVID-19, the Session has continued the church's work. Normal Session meetings have occurred as well as special planning meetings by all three Session classes. All have been conducted remotely as well as one social distancing meeting in Fellowship Hall. A key element of the planning meetings has been the church's Strategic Plan approved by Session in 2019. Its crucial emphasis on growth and sustainability has resulted in recognition of the need for a forward-looking blueprint of our church's future. A Mid-Year Report of Session Minutes has been sent out by letter and email and we hope you have had a chance to review and get caught up. If you did not get a copy and would like one, please call the church office (434-384-6231).

God's call has become clear to your Staff and Session that the next three years are to include many different kingdom expanding projects that we believe are an urgent need toward the future.

- We need to make significant progress towards enhancing our endowment. This will greatly enhance our kingdom-expanding potential in the years to come. The health of the endowment is crucial for not only "rainy day needs" but the annual operations of the church. The endowment provides sustainable support to facilities, personnel, special ministry opportunities like Clark Spiritual Growth and Offterdinger-Williamson, and benevolences like Malawi Mission.
- We need to pursue additional support towards various ministries, outreach, and benevolence. Looking inward, the FPC Weekday School is approaching its 75th year and remains one of the most vital and vibrant ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Helping set the school on solid financial ground will allow the FPC Weekday School to sustain its development of young minds in a loving and Christian environment. Looking outward, First Presbyterian Church has a rich history in feeding those who are hungry. We partner with several organizations to help meet those needs and additional support goes a long way in sharing God's love with others.
- We need to renovate the organ, replace the steeple, and perform deferred maintenance projects such as parking lots and sidewalks. People need a Word and Sacrament community, and we want to ensure there is well maintained space for all who would seek a faith community at First Presbyterian Church.

We have various teams of leaders – staff, session, stewardship, finance, capital project team, FPC Weekday School Staff and Board, and others from the church and the school – who have met with architects and funding consultants to chart our final facility improvements, and development on our campus. Now it is time for the entire church family to learn about the process and outcome of this preliminary work. We yearn for your feedback and Holy Spirit driven wisdom.

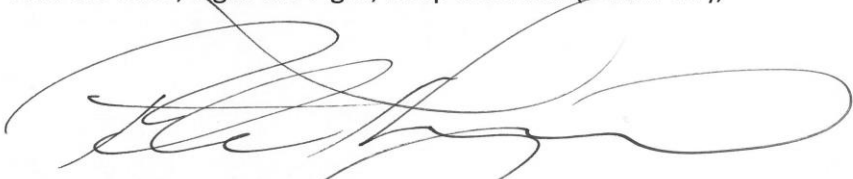
From mid-August till the end of the month, you will have the opportunity to attend one of many "focus group" meetings. These meetings are intended to "further focus" the facilities planning done to this point, confirm ministry needs, view and comment on initial architectural renderings, and answer questions on the process of getting to this point. Each meeting will follow social distancing guidelines and precautions identified in the church's reopening protocols.

As a start to communicate the scheduling, the following is a list of dates and times of the meetings:

- Sunday mornings: **August 16, 23 & 30...** Held immediately after the Parking Lot Service in the Fellowship Hall and on-line after Virtual Worship.
- Additional meetings will be scheduled to fit groups that meet at church throughout these three weeks. These meetings are capped at approximately 25 participants to ensure that everyone's insight can be heard. Scheduled meetings will be posted on the church website, www.fpclly.org, and Facebook, for easy access and sign up. Please make your appointment as soon as it works for your schedule. We will also schedule additional as needed in-person and virtual meetings so that you can be a part of these presentations. Your input is very valuable.

Please mark your calendar for one of these very important meetings. This is a conversation for you as an important asset and advocate of the entire family. Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes. You will then have an opportunity to ask questions and to answer a brief, but important, questionnaire about next steps before the meeting is concluded. In all, the meetings will last about an hour. Childcare will be available for all meetings that are held in person. Please note that meeting size is limited so that participants have plenty of time and space to talk, reflect, advise, and consider. I look forward to celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ with you each day!!!

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith (2 Tim. 4:7),



The Rev. Peter A. Thompson
Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff