



## Chancel Update #4

March 21, 2024

Greetings First Presbyterian Church Family,

All has been a little quiet on the Chancel Update process the last two weeks as we have been waiting for a few things to be completed and information to be processed. We thank you for your patience and sitting in the space of the unknown with us! This week, we have a few updates to share:

- **Sunday, March 17, Session held its stated meeting to review where we were in the process and review the initial architectural concepts of the rebuild.** The Session was able to narrow down to one specific concept to be shared with the architect later in the week.
- **Monday, March 18, we received the official air quality assessment report.** The report expressed no concerns about the air quality in the Sanctuary or the remainder of the building.
- **Tuesday, March 19, Peter, Jody, the Jamerson-Lewis leaders, and the architect met to review the chosen concept and discuss next steps including a potential timeline for reconstruction.** The architect will take the chosen concept and move forward with developing more detailed architectural drawings and plans. We are prayerful and hopeful that construction can begin after the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Chancel Choir concert.
- **As a result of a potential start date after April 23, we will move forward with plans to open the Sanctuary for worship starting THIS Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday) and continuing at least through Sunday, April 20.** Here is what has been completed to open the Sanctuary back up safely.
  - The Jamerson-Lewis team was here the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> to build temporary stairs and rails and lay down temporary flooring in the front floor area to help make the Sanctuary a safe and usable space for worship.
  - A team of church members rallied together on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to help wipe down the pews, clean the pew cushions, vacuum the floor, and do a few other things to prepare the Sanctuary space.
  - Our organ support team was here on March 20<sup>th</sup> to unbox the organ console and open the organ pipes up. Cory has already been practicing again; notes could be heard throughout the workday.
  - The video, sound, and radio equipment has all been tested and is ready to host in-person, livestream, and radio worship during this next window of time. Due to the connectivity of speaker cords, the speaker on the right side of the Sanctuary is not currently working. If you are hard of hearing, you are encouraged to sit on the left side of the room.
- **Once a few more meetings take place and the official timeline can be laid out, we will provide another update as to when we will need to transition worship back to the Fellowship Hall and tentatively for how long.**

In just under six weeks, we have been able to successfully assess and inspect the situation in the Chancel, put in place a temporary solution, and make plans toward reconstruction. A lot has been accomplished in such a short time. We are so thankful and grateful for God's provision and guidance in this time, the many hands that have pitched in to help the various transitions, and for your continued patience, support, and understanding through the unwavering change and uncertainty.