

May 1, 2020

To the First Presbyterian Church of Everett,

Our session and I want to keep you informed and updated. We are anxious and motivated to see our lives gradually reopen. As we begin to expand our network and pay attention to social distancing in efforts to respect and care for others, this process may seem arduous. Yet, we have been patient, and our governmental authorities and our presbytery ask us to extend that patience to our churches.

Today, churches in the Northwest Coast Presbytery are not allowed to meet for face-to-face worship. The Executive Committee for the Presbytery will be meeting on May 13th to evaluate and update plans for reopening, a check list for congregations to answer, and strategies for re-welcoming everyone to corporate worship. We will be praying for them.

Our session supports the presbytery and I am in weekly contact with peers in the presbytery as we learn, share, and pray for this process and our congregations.

Therefore, until further notice, we will not be meeting for face-to-face worship. Our session and our presbytery leadership will be listening to our governor, county executive, and mayor as we move forward. We are being flexible and open to the Holy Spirit.

According to our federal government, “all vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place and vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or *other environments* where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.” Please know we will be making sure our facility adheres to these guidelines and is as safe as possible for our congregation, friends, and visitors.

Many of our members have asked, what can I do to help? Part of the stimulus package from our federal government includes checks to households. If you are fortunate enough not to suffer income loss and will be in a financial position to get by without the government funds, in these uncertain times, please consider the following options. Support our local food bank with a donation. Support Tall Timber Camp as they have had to cancel all summer programs. Support a cause near to your heart. You might also wish to consider using that money, or at least a portion of it, to help those in our community. We have created an extra giving option where our deacons with session direction will use this money to support our community. Just mail in a check with ‘Deacons’ on the memo line.

Lastly, our leadership and staff continue to work and pray for you daily. I appreciate the calm and consistent weekly check-in with session. Our deacons (and many others) are working hard to reach out and connect with our members. Our staff is dedicated to keeping our facility and operations running. Sondra Santos, our Communications Director, has redesigned our web site and created a FPCE app for your smart phone. These are both great ways to stay connected to the church and will be a place to gather current information as we begin to reopen.

As I said in my sermon on April 26th, you are loved. Just as you are, God loves you completely. You are loved by our leaders deeply. We cannot do or see ministry without you. I love you as well.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

The 2020 Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Everett