

November 2, 2020

To the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Everett,

Last year, I wrote these words: “in 2020 we are boldly going to embrace a new pattern of being church from Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.” We will be studying scripture together as a congregation. We will be taking time in worship to be still and reflect. We will be learning about prayer and spiritual disciplines for personal growth with Jesus. And we will be taking time to be together.”

Wow, was I being prophetic. Okay, not in the ways we had hoped. Our 2020 vision has turned into the fastest desire for a new year ever. Not everything has been bad.

This year, we have had glimpses of celebration. We faithfully serve over 100 meals a week at Dinner at the Bell. Even though we paused to evaluate for two months, our leaders and volunteers adapted and now serve sack lunches through the alley entrance. Awesome!

From the moment I was called here, we have kicked around a desire and struggle to go digital. Guess what? We are digital. There is a learning curve, but we did not miss a week of worshipping together. Steve Torrence, Gary Norris, and Steve Ulvestad work tirelessly behind the scenes preparing hymns, solos, and tech support. We now livestream worship and this will continue, grow, and improve in the future. We have people checking in from all over the country, my parents included!

We stepped up our giving to support our community. Generous people gave portions of their stimulus check or donated above and beyond their pledge to the deacons to aid with needs in our community. We have kept a faithful stream of donated food for the Volunteers of America Food Bank supporting families in Everett. We donated 519 pounds in October!

We had volunteers work on projects in our building that benefited from time and no one walking on cleaned Westminster carpets. We had our alley wall painted, our stairwells painted, and the wood framing on the Calvin building cleaned, filled, and painted.

We have worked on our discipleship this year. We have learned Zoom. We now have a bible study on Thursdays, we have been learning about different faiths in Sunday school, session checks in weekly, our staff meets virtually, and book club, lunch with the pastor, and other committees are going strong.

In 2021, we are going to celebrate together! We are going to laugh, encourage each other, share good news, worship joyfully, and use our time, talents, and treasures to honor God gladly. We are not going to ignore life's pain and suffering, but we are going to celebrate this gift of life.

On Christ the King Sunday, on November 22nd, we will dedicate our pledges for the upcoming year. Loyal donors like you provide the consistent annual support to help sustain our ministry. Please use the included form to consider your contribution for 2021. These can be mailed into the office or dropped off through the end of the year.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway
And the 2020 FPCE Session