



## First Presbyterian Church PC(USA) Starkville, MS



Members of First Presbyterian Church, we know many of you are concerned with the spread of COVID-19 and we share your concern. At this time it is important for us to remain calm, not panic, and remember that ultimately our Lord and Savior is in charge. As Presbyterians, we also recognize that our Lord gave us good minds and common sense to use in times of need. So, while we continue to pray and put our trust in God, out of concern for your safety, the Session has decided to cancel worship services until at least April 5, 2020. Worship remains an important part of our lives and we are working on ways we can worship virtually. We will disseminate information on accessing worship services on-line in the near future.

We believe that appropriate action at this time can slow and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. By cancelling in-person worship services, we can reduce the spread of the virus should any of us contract it unknowingly. We also want to make you aware of the following information for your protection.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Wash your hands frequently using soap and water. Wash them for at least 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Sneeze or cough into a tissue and then dispose of the tissue in the trash. Then wash your hands.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. These include door knobs, faucets, keyboards, handles, phones, light switches, toilets, etc.
5. Avoid contact with others if you think you are sick or have been exposed to someone who is.
6. Limit your exposure to others who may have the virus. Minimize any time spent with large groups of people. This may mean buying groceries at times when fewer people are shopping.
7. Limit travel. If you do travel outside of the local area, especially if it is to an area known to have people infected with the virus, self-quarantine yourself upon return.
8. Maintain social distancing. Maintain three-feet between yourself and anyone coughing and sneezing. Avoid shaking hands, bumping fists, or touching elbows.
9. If you feel ill, stay at home. But, if you have a fever, difficulty breathing, and cough, please seek medical attention and call your health provider before arriving at their office.

We also need to care for our neighbors. If you are going shopping and can help purchase items for someone else, please do. We will need to check on each other, especially those who are not able to get out on their own. If any of you need help, please reach out and let us know.

We also recommend that you keep up to date with the latest information on COVID-19. Things are changing quickly and some sources of additional information you can consult for information are:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

### **Worship Resources**

Information will be forthcoming on FPC PC(USA) on-line worship services. Until then, and in addition to those, here are some other resources for you to consider.

- Jill Duffield, author of *Lent in Plain Sight* and editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook* is posting 10-minute weekly Lenten reflections. The first video is available at <https://pres-outlook.org/2020/03/lenten-devotion-video-the-symbol-of-the-cross/>.
- First Presbyterian Church in Tupelo, pastored by Olin McBride will be having their services on YouTube. Consult <http://www.firstprestupelo.org>.