IN-HOUSE WORSHIP SUSPENDED FOR JUNE

Dear Church,

I’m sending this email with a very heavy heart as I have loved being able to meet together over the past 5 weeks. We always knew that we needed to stay flexible and that if we began to see rising numbers we would need to change directions. This week we had an alarming rise in the number of Covid-19 infections in Jackson County and even more specifically here in Pascagoula. It seems that we are beginning to experience what some of the larger urban areas are experiencing as well. The question for us becomes, what should *we*do? How should *our* church respond in a way that both walks in faith while at the same time operates in a wise manner?

I know I have heard from several churches who have had infections of their staff members which has in essence shut them down for 2 weeks as everyone quarantines. While this is a situation we would like to avoid here at the church, our greater concern is the health and well-being of our church members and community. The Session has been in contact with each other and has decided, along with the pastoral staff, to suspend in-house worship for at least the month of July as a means of helping us to stay safe. The plan will be to have our services livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 10:00am Sunday morning. That service would then be available for viewing any time thereafter on our YouTube channel. The main thing we need each of you to do is to click on this link ([FPC YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXABouKDVeKMOUUBj3sXQw)) and go to our YouTube channel. If you will “subscribe” to it then the channel will send you emails every time we post a video to it. The reason we are not doing the service on Facebook live is because the quality is so poor. Many of you know from watching last week that it was having troubles buffering and has a very poor sound quality to it. Several times during the broadcast it simply stopped streaming. By using YouTube we will have much better quality and you will have a much better worship experience.

Church, this is the last thing that I want in terms of worshipping together. I love our services and love being in worship with you all. Jason and I will be working on ways that we might still be able to meet in small groups that are a little easier to control in terms of social distancing, but for now we feel that this is the most prudent plan. Callie will be communicating all of this through our Facebook page and I encourage you to be looking there for all updates. Thank you for your prayers and your consideration.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt