

# First Presbyterian Church

*Rooted in Scripture,  
United in Christ,  
Reaching Out in Faith*

Dear Church,

I have **two announcements** for you today; one is more significant than the other.

Let us start with the easier of the two: **this past Sunday, we experienced difficulty streaming our worship service.** After looking more closely at the issue, it was discovered that a power failure at the church the previous week had interfered with our internet signal. Once we located the problem, the solution was an easy fix, and **we do not anticipate having trouble streaming worship services in the future.**

The second point is that **our elders have decided to suspend in-person worship and gathering for, at least, the rest of January.** While our protective measures, social distancing, and masking have worked thus far, we see increased Covid infection numbers among those gathered in the sanctuary. **The increased Covid numbers are not a result of our meeting.** We have not identified any Covid spreading where gathering at the church has been the precipitating event. But just as numbers of Covid positive cases have increased dramatically in our community, we have also seen increases in Covid positive cases in our membership.

However, **the session decided to move to virtual worship and gathering out of an abundance of caution and a desire to show our support to a beleaguered medical community here in Huntsville.** Our hospital facilities and healthcare workers are all operating at or near capacity. For the next few weeks, our closing of the church is an effort to ease the burden felt in Huntsville and the surrounding communities.

**So, from now until the end of January, we will worship together virtually. Our Sunday school classes and other groups will meet via zoom.** We are also postponing our annual congregational meeting and the service that installs and ordains new officers. We will schedule those events as soon as we can meet again. Our session will meet at the end of January to determine if we are comfortable meeting in February or if we need to stay the course.

**A last reminder, the church may be meeting virtually, but the church still meets. Please attend worship services and participate in what the church has to offer. The Church of Jesus Christ is needed now more than ever.**

With love to you all,  
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

