



Friday, June 26, 2020

**The Voice of FPCP**

Hey, where is everybody?

I am the voice of FPCP, and it's been pretty lonely here the past few months. I understand there has been a lot going on out there that is keeping all of you away. This virus thing is really serious. I miss you all but want you to be safe; even if it means we do not get to see each other for a while longer.

There are some very busy people working on what's next for us. There is a task force consisting of various members specifically working on how, when, and what will be required for us to get back together. Sounds like a pretty complicated challenge but they are working hard to figure it out. There is the challenge of working within the guidelines established by our Governor, all the various activities that we do together like worship, bible studies, committee meetings, youth groups and even Thrift Shop in my annex. It gets complex! What I can tell you is everyone has our good health as the number one priority. As usual, the Session takes in all the information and suggestions and then makes the best decisions. I feel very well taken care of by all these people.

During this quiet time there are many changes going on with me. They are adding all sorts of hand sanitizer stations, cleaning me from top to bottom and even repairing my roof. There will be new processes for entering my doors, moving around the hallways and even a special process for leaving. I feel very special with all this attention and I will be ready to welcome you back when everyone says it is safe. Of course, while we are together, it will be different than before as well. There will be limits as to how many people can be in the sanctuary, wearing masks, and even the recommended length of the service.

When you do start to come back, it will be in phases. We cannot just go back to life as it was before. The staff come in occasionally to stay with me and do some of their work. Most of the time they are still working remotely from the safety of their homes. All this new technology helps keep us close together. I know one of the phases of getting back together will have a limited number of people here with me in the sanctuary or the upper room, while many others will still participate in the on-line service from their homes. I look forward to making an appearance in all of our on-line services. Lots more information on these phases will be communicated to you as they are worked out. We just need to be patient and trust that our Father will guide us.

Like you, I really miss Dr. Jerry Smith and our Chancel Choir! It is way too quiet without them. I also miss hearing Sharon Smith on the piano, Sue Scott on the organ, and Geff Phillips on the guitar! What a joyful noise they can make! Everyone is working to figure out how our people and our music can return in a safe and healthy manner. It is a challenge.

Well, enough of my rambling. I wanted you to know that I miss you and our time spent together. I know we are being watched over and guided by our Lord. I am learning that patience and trust are so important for us all. I also know that our ministers and church staff are working hard to insure our care, our protection, and peace.

I hope that we see each other soon.

Until then, remember, you are the body of the church wherever you are today.