



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

June 18, 2020

Dear First Family,

We are now four weeks into the exciting reopening of the church. Our “come back” to live worship on Pentecost Sunday, was a thrilling success, made possible by the providence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the prayers of our congregation and the hard work of our volunteers and staff. I especially want to thank you for your thoughtful communications of encouragement as we have taken yet another step forward in the broadcasting of our services through live streaming. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through both technical difficulties and the many challenges of producing a high-quality service remotely.

Like you, I have been keeping up with the state of the pandemic. I was discouraged to hear that on Tuesday, 436 new cases were reported in Bexar county, with 212 new hospitalizations this week.

With this in mind, I want to make a sincere appeal to you about taking precautions on our campus. The success and continuation of our reopening process is based on the implementation of certain health related precautions. The two most important of those precautions are mask wearing and the maintenance of social distance.

I will be the first to confess that I do not enjoy wearing a mask at any time, much less at church. And yet, the leadership of the church, both the pastors and the session, believe that mask wearing is in the best interest of our most vulnerable members and the health of our congregation.

Although current civil orders do not require the wearing of masks in public, guidelines and recommendations from the federal to the local level strongly recommend it as a critical if not necessary element of public health at this time.

As the leadership of the church, we do not pretend to have any knowledge beyond the publicly released information, but we believe that consideration for the health of our seniors and those with health risks is important. We wear masks out of an abundance of compassion for one another. The second part of our motto is to “love one another” as Christ loved the church.

Our highest desire is to protect one another’s health so that we can accelerate the return of our normal face to face fellowship. If you plan to attend a church service or to be present at Fourth and Alamo, we highly recommend and sincerely ask that you would wear a mask. Please wear it for your own safety and for the health of others.

We do not want to go back to our status of just a few weeks ago. To move forward, however, we must be thoughtful. As Paul wrote in Philippians:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ...Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Php 2:1-2,4)

Usually, we think of masks as a way to hide identity. But, in this season, wearing your mask for the sake of another's health reveals the love we have for one another as a sign of our identity in Christ. Thank you for your love for Christ, your love for One Another and your love for our City.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Fuller