



ZOOM!

Worship is now
online or by phone

10:15 am Coffee & Chat
10:30 am Service Begins

You can join with video and audio from your computer, tablet, or smartphone; however, our online worship is also accessible via phone for just the audio. Our online worship isn't just watching a video on your computer. It is interactive and community building with a chat area and video conference setup that lets us participate in worship. We have coffee hour time before and after the service where we will chat, wave, and visit online. Here are the instructions for getting on...

Join with video and audio by
using this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/299269153>

If this is your first time using Zoom, there may be a prompt for a few setup steps.

OR

Join with just audio by dialing this
number on any phone: (312) 626-6799
and then Meeting ID 299 269 153

If you have any problems, please
contact the office during the week.

Contact the Church

Phone calls and emails
are being forwarded.

Mail is picked up daily.

(618) 233-0295

church@firstunitedpres.org

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving

We are faithful. I have never seen our church family waiver in its commitments to one another, to the church, or to the community during this pandemic. So many new ways of worshipping God and discipling others have emerged. Our church-wide mission of support to nearly 50 families through Children's Home & Aid has been beautiful, with critical needs for those families in crisis being addressed month after month. I have heard many testimonies of faith blossoming within these unusual days. We are faithful.

We are hopeful. With every turn of this pandemic and every stage of safety precautions, the people of FUPC have remained hopeful. I remember six months ago sitting in Cornell Commons for an emergency staff meeting about how we will possibly move to online worship in nine days. And then the governor announced the closing of schools, and we suddenly had two days to create online worship. The staff was hopeful and excellent. As the months have progressed, that hope has grown with new midweek gatherings (literally called "Hope in the Word") and new

group ministries being launched. I have also experienced hopefulness in the new faces and voices that have joined our church's worship and missions since March. People are seeing something here. We are hopeful.

We are loving. I have a virtual stack of stories detailing a multitude of ways that FUPC is loving towards each other through these times. I hear of meals delivered. I hear of special helps with technology and physical repairs. I hear of weekly phone calls between people. I hear of special ministry kits dropped off at doorsteps. I have witnessed tearful confessions of struggle met with an immediate moment of prayer in the midst of a Zoom meeting call. I have seen love, so much love. We are loving. This is who we are. And in October, we will worship, pray, and reflect on what it means to be faithful, hopeful, and loving together. Bless you all for being the church God has called us to be right now and forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob



World Communion Sunday

Do you have a friend or relative who lives in another country? Would you invite them to join our Zoom worship service on October 4? We hope to make **October 4, World Communion Sunday**, a truly international worship event. Contact Pastor Rob, rdyer@firstunitedpres.org, or Worship Elder Kristen Link, kristenlink03@yahoo.com,

to let us know you will be inviting someone from around the world to join us. We also hope to expand our attendees from around the USA. If you have an out-of-state friend you would especially like to invite on this day, please let us know about them, too!



COVID-19 Update

We are preparing for our eventual return to in-person services. Until then, we still have online worship *only*. However, we are gathering supplies and recruiting special volunteers for the time Session decides to begin in-person worship. It is not likely that childcare or Children's Chapel will be offered when we first resume, but children of God of all ages are always welcome at all Sunday worship services. **If you would be willing to be an usher or health screener for in-person worship, please contact Pastor Rob or a member of the Worship Committee.**

The church remains in the implementation of our Remote Plan following guidance from local health officials, local civic/education leaders, our Coronavirus Task Force, and the Session. In this Remote

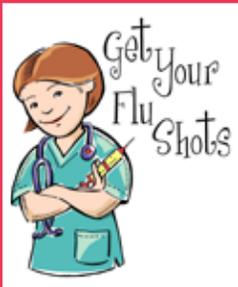
Plan, we will not have any in-person gatherings, but we will continue to be an active congregation. Worship, mission, teaching, caring, and other works of ministry continue in meaningful ways. There have been unique opportunities to offer our parking lot for drive-thru food relief efforts. We are also in close conversations with local schools to find the best way to support the children of our area.

If you have a need during this time, please contact one of the pastors. In the meantime, we continue to make the necessary preparations to safely resume in-person gatherings in the future. The church has a written plan that was distributed to members. Any updates to our plans will be communicated in a variety of ways.

#myfaithin20

One of our goals this year is for congregation members to put together their #myfaithin20. You may be wondering, "what is a #myfaithin20?" It is a faith-sharing project where you share your faith in a 20 second video, 20 written words, or 20 pictures. The goal is for people of all ages and abilities to share their faith in the way that best fits them! We have already had a variety of creative #myfaithin20 projects; we share them periodically during worship and put them on social media. Don't

know where to start? How would you share your faith with a friend or family member using 20 words, 20 pictures, or a 20 second video? What would you focus on? Our #myfaithin20 campaign is a great way to spend time reflecting on your relationship with God during this interesting and challenging time! Need help? Reach out to Pastor Alex, alysdahl@firstunitedpres.org, or anyone on the Evangelism Committee: Keely Giles, keely.giles@gmail.com, or Ken Stange, kennethstange@mac.com. They can help!



Share love, kindness and compassion, but avoid sharing germs. Remember to wash hands often.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation		Non-Profit Church Newsletter	
The Steeple, 03-01-2020		The Steeple, 03-01-2020	
1. Total number of copies (net press run)	240	1. Total number of copies (net press run)	240
2. Total number of copies (gross press run)	35	2. Total number of copies (gross press run)	35
3. Total number of copies (net press run)	205	3. Total number of copies (net press run)	205
4. Total number of copies (gross press run)	0	4. Total number of copies (gross press run)	0
5. Total number of copies (net press run)	0	5. Total number of copies (net press run)	0
6. Total number of copies (gross press run)	240	6. Total number of copies (gross press run)	243
7. Total number of copies (net press run)	0	7. Total number of copies (net press run)	0
8. Total number of copies (gross press run)	0	8. Total number of copies (gross press run)	0
9. Total number of copies (net press run)	0	9. Total number of copies (net press run)	0
10. Total number of copies (gross press run)	240	10. Total number of copies (gross press run)	243
11. Total number of copies (net press run)	40	11. Total number of copies (net press run)	40
12. Total number of copies (gross press run)	280	12. Total number of copies (gross press run)	283

Forms are published to meet postal requirements, not to read.

Adult Fellowship

Life Groups

• October 9: Merry Mates

Merry Mates will meet via Zoom on Friday, October 9, at 6:30 pm. Contact Carol Purviance, 250-5688, to join in this time of fellowship. All are welcome!

• Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will not meet until further notice. If you need a shawl, and the church is closed, call Betty McRoberts, 235-3197. She has shawls available at her house.

FUPC Women's Circles via Zoom

Two women's groups are meeting monthly via Zoom with the purpose to nurture women's faith through prayer and Bible study. All women are invited to attend either of these circles. More details about the studies and log-on information can be obtained by contacting the leaders.

• **Lydia Circle** studying *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, Lesson 2; October 8, 7:00 pm; contact Shirley Samples, 624-3340.

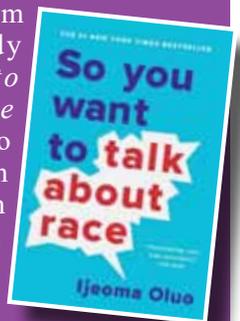
• **Hannah Circle** studying *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, Lesson 2; October 21, 11:30 am; contact Carol Purviance, 250-5688.

Streaming Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. You can join by computer, iPad, or by phone. For information, contact Danny Halel, 213-7888.

Honest Conversation on Race

The focus on racism through the study of *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo continues through October. The Zoom discussion is on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm.



The Zoom link is sent out each Friday in the eWeekly or is available on the church website <https://www.firstunitedpres.org>. You are invited to join weekly or as you can. If you need assistance in purchasing the book, contact Stephanie Foltz, sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org.

Announcements

November 1: All Saints' Sunday

The Faithful of every generation: An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)



All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

We will recognize our faithful servants on All Saints' Sunday, November 1. We have the names of many who have died this past year. However, if you want to confirm that your loved one is already on the list, or if you have someone to add, please call the Church Office before **October 23**.

November 8: 4th Annual Veterans' Day Sunday

On Sunday, November 8, we will honor our church veterans and active duty military members immediately following the 10:30 am Zoom service. This year we will honor **Korean War Veterans**, anyone who serviced in Korea or elsewhere in support of the Korean War effort. This unique Zoom celebration will acknowledge these patriots and heroes by name as well as displaying their photos on our Zoom Honor Roll. Watch for a survey information request form coming your way for you to complete and submit your names. Also, for the fourth consecutive year, *Quilts of Honor* will be given to those church veterans who have not previously received this special quilt. Finally, there may be a few additional surprises to celebrate this important day!

Please put November 8 on your calendar now, for this special recognition following the 10:30 service. Our Veterans' Life Group appreciates your continued support, and we look forward to celebrating this important day with each of you. ~ Blessings, Ken Stange, (317) 791-5371, or Shawn Lankford, 407-9174.

New Look for the Vista Room!

Thanks to the efforts of the Trustees, the Vista Room has a fresh, new look with new paint, new blinds, and new carpeting inside and in the hallway outside. When the building reopens, be sure to check it out!



ZOOM!

Adult Discipleship Information

Hope in the Word with the Pastors

Our pastors are offering online times for prayer, Bible reading, and connecting with others

Mondays, 6:00 pm, with Pastor Rob

Join Zoom Meeting with video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/474086446>
OR Join by phone: (312) 626-6799
then Meeting ID: 474-086-446

Thursdays, 4:00 pm, with Pastor Alex

Join Zoom Meeting with video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/822505113>
OR Join by phone: (312) 626-6799
then Meeting ID: 822-505-113

Thoughtful Christian Gathering

During October, this class will continue to meet via Zoom at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings. This month's study focuses on **A Brief Statement of Faith**, which in 1991 became part of our denomination's *Book of Confessions*. The *Book of Confessions* provides Presbyterians with "historic and contemporary statements of Christian faith that the Presbyterian Church (USA) accepts as our guide for understanding Scripture and as confessional standards for our church...The eighty lines of A Brief Statement of Faith mark the church's belief today and open doors to look back at earlier confessions of faith. They also invite us to look ahead in anticipation of new directions the church may speak about in the future."

Teachers for this study are Roger Doll, Danny Halel, and Jim Nicholas. Zoom log-on information will be updated each Friday in the eWeekly. To receive any study materials in advance, contact Stephanie Foltz, sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org.

Adulting

Adulting meets on Sunday mornings via Zoom at 9:45 am. For Zoom log-on information, contact Stephanie Foltz, sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org.

Children & Youth Life

Children's Ministry

1) Wednesday evenings via Zoom

GFF and PYC are back on Wednesdays!

- **GFF (God's Faithful Friends)** is for children age 4 through 2nd grade. GFF via Zoom is 5:00-5:30 pm. Leaders are Connie Darnell, Karen Mear, and Stephanie Foltz.



- **PYC (Presbyterian Youth Club)** is for children in grades 3-5. PYC via Zoom is 6:45-7:30 pm. Leaders are Amy Abernathy, Joy Baltz,

and Stephanie Foltz.

For more information, contact Stephanie Foltz, sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org.



2) Children's Chapel on YouTube

Children's Chapel Worship Leaders have begun videotaping Children's Chapel stories to put on the FUPC YouTube channel. This will be an option for families to use for their children during worship or at other times during the week. Families, look for an email with details!

Youth Ministry

Wednesday evenings via Zoom

- **KIX (Kids in Christ)** is for youth in grades 6-8. KIX via Zoom is 6:00-7:00 pm. Leaders are Brandon Michalke, Sue Perez, and Kaitie Kautz. There will be guest appearances by Pastor Rob.



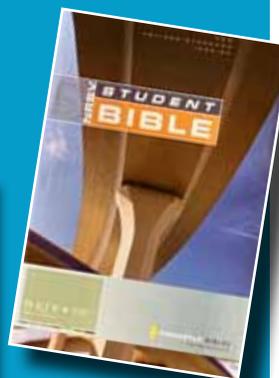
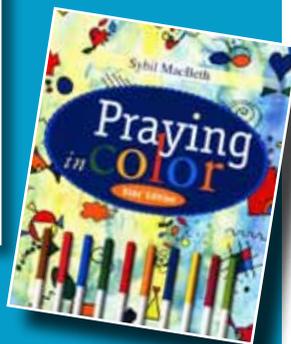
- **TIM (Teens in Ministry)** is for youth in grades 9-12. TIM via Zoom is 7:30-8:30 pm. Leaders are Mat Conway, Brenda and Joe Fedak, Kevin Meder, and Kaitie Kautz. There will be guest appearances by Pastor Rob.



For more information, contact Kaitie Kautz, kkautz@firstunitedpres.org. Follow us on Instagram @fupcouth.

Books and Bibles

Pictured here are some of the FUPC students who transitioned into the next group in Children's Ministry and Youth Ministries. The 3rd graders who entered PYC (Presbyterian Youth Club) received the book *Praying in Color*. The 6th graders who entered KIX (Kids in Christ) received their own NRSV study Bible.



Our Mission

Financial Support to Employees and Our Continued Mission

Although the church building is closed, FUPC remains committed to our employees and mission. All staff (salaried and hourly) will continue to receive their normal pay even though we are not gathering. In addition, we are committed to continuing all of our ministries to the local community and beyond. You can continue to provide offerings and support by mailing contributions to the church or by giving online at www.firstunitedpres.org/give

November 1: Fall Back Daylight Savings Ends