



March 23, 2020

Friends and Members of First Presbyterian Church of Normal,

I think of the apostle Paul's opening words in his letter to the Philippians. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." It has been a dizzying several days. Each of us have had our lives altered by the coronavirus and the necessary measures being put in place to reduce and eliminate its further spreading. Through it all, I have found a great source of comfort and assurance in our church and its leaders. Our session of elders, deacons, staff, and several others have made sacrificial and prayerful decisions and actions so that First Presbyterian Church can continue to function as a sanctuary of hope and a beacon of light in the name of Jesus Christ.

I pray that many of you have been able to join us for worship during the previous live streaming services we have offered. (On the reverse of this letter, please find instructions for joining us during the live streaming worship services.) During the service on March 22, I shared important updates that I want to ensure are heard by all within our family of faith. The following measures were voted upon and approved by your session of elders during a special called meeting on Saturday, March 21:

- Beginning Sunday, March 29, we will be shifting the timing of our live streaming worship service. A single live streaming service will be held at 10am. (Each worship service we stream will continue to be available to be viewed on our website at a later time by any who wish to do so.)
- We will continue with live streaming only worship services through at least April 22 when the session has its next called meeting. This is done with a desire to follow the guidelines offered by several government and health offices including the Center for Disease Control.
- The church building will be closed for groups and meetings until at least April 22. Essential staff and personnel will be on-site sporadically on an as-needed basis.

I cannot help but anticipate that you might be experiencing the same heavy heart I am feeling that inevitably comes with this information. We will not be able to gather in person for worship on Easter Sunday. It is in times like these (and during the days to come) where we must take hold of the truth and ceaseless wonder that is our connection to our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. In that connection, we find we are connected to one another. There will come a time, church, when we are back together and able to embrace, hear each other's voices, and enjoy physical fellowship together. For now, we have the opportunity to be brothers and sisters in faith...to be the church...in a new and equally important fashion. Please know that your leaders and I remain devoted to faithfully serving you in prayer and in deed.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Wilcox".

Pastor Matt Wilcox

Live Streaming Worship Services

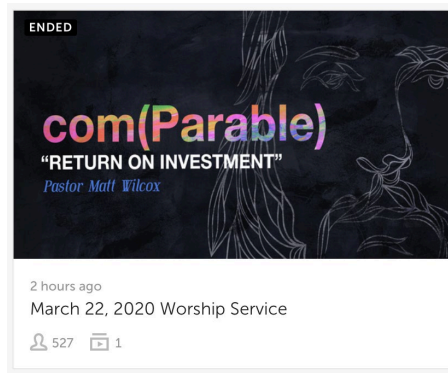
First Presbyterian Church of Normal

How-To Guide

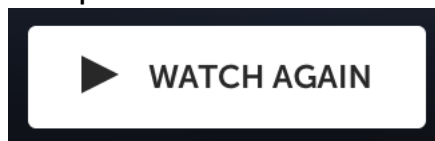
1. Using an internet-connected device (computer, smartphone, tablet, etc.), go to the church homepage: www.firstpresnormal.org
2. Click on the “Live Streaming” image (below)



3. Click on the date of the worship service you wish to view (the image below displays the link for the service held on March 22, 2020)



4. Click the “Play” or “Watch Again” button to either tune into a live stream or watch a previous service video (image below)



7. Ensure the sound for your device is raised and not muted.

8. Enjoy!