
Ministry Updates

WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, JULY 19: Two separate worship services will be offered online and onsite at the church at 9 am (Classic in the Sanctuary) and 11 am (Convergent in King Hall). Rev. Jeff Chadwick will be preaching both services this week, using Psalm 122 as his text.

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated at both services today.

To access the service online directly, go to www.facebook.com/fpcrome or click the button you'll find on our church web page, www.fpcrome.org. You do not need to be a Facebook user to access the service.

To view or download the Order of Worship for Sunday's service, go to the home page of the website, as well, and follow instructions there. Using this Order of Worship, you'll not only be able to follow along in the service, but can participate actively as it includes words to songs and other elements we'll be asked to join in speaking, praying, or singing. You can also download the provided sermon guides for children and middle schoolers. *If attending in-person, please print and bring with you the order of worship for the service you plan to attend as our services will be touch-less (no bulletins, hymnals, friendship pads).*

VISITOR WELCOME – Thank you for worshiping with us today. Whether you are worshiping in-person or viewing our livestream, we want to welcome you into our midst. We would love to have the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about our ministries. Please visit www.fpcrome.org and click on the Connect Form link at the top of the home page. Our Connections team will contact you. We look forward to connecting with you!

VOLUNTEER GREETERS – Would you like to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ? We will need greeters for both services the next few weeks. Greeters will meet 45 minutes before the service starts for instructions, then greet folks as they enter with a pump of hand sanitizer and a reminder to wear a mask when singing and to maintain 6-foot distance between others. If you are interested in serving as a greeter, please call the church office at 706.291.6033 or email Tracy at tracyd@fpcrome.org.

BAPTISM – We are excited to invite you to the baptism of Mr. Matthew Lassiter on Sunday, August 2 at 1:30pm at Calvary Baptist Church. All church members are warmly encouraged to not only witness but also participate in this momentous occasion of worship and celebration of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP – Dear parents, please be encouraged to know that we are actively discussing the best ways to resume children's worship and other children's ministries, along with nursery ministry, doing so in a way that is timely, safe, and prudent. We ask for your grace and patience and prayer as we try to discern the best course of action. In the meantime, we do want to offer whatever help we can to those parents who are able to bring their children to worship with them. We know this is not an easy time for any of us, especially those with young children; however, this is also a great opportunity to teach our children how to worship, not only in family worship at home but in corporate worship at church. Please visit our FPC website for a couple of resources we think will be beneficial. The first is a recording of a seminar conducted last year by Pastor Jonathan and Children's Director Andrea Sartorato. In it, we laid out the biblical rationale for the value of children being in corporate worship with adults, along with some practical suggestions for how to effectively parent in the pew. The second is a short resource entitled "8 Tips for Helping Your Child Worship." We encourage you to listen and/or read for your edification. Also, don't forget that each Sunday we provide a "busy bag" along with a Children's Guide to help your child stay engaged in worship. Finally, please do not hesitate to speak with Jonathan or Andrea about ways we can serve you and equip you in these unusual but potentially rewarding times. - Pastor Jonathan

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL "TAKE HOME" PACKETS – Just a reminder... we have added new lessons to the Sunday School "take home" packets. We wanted to still provide you and your children with the lesson materials. They are great resources to use at home! The packets will be located on a table in the foyer right before you go into the church office.

MOVING FORWARD IN CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS IN WORSHIP

At its recent meeting, your Session approved a plan to move forward in returning to the celebration of the sacraments as a regular part of our worship. The sacraments are an integral part of fulfilling our commitment to “worship God with Gospel-driven passion and integrity” so we are grateful to be able to see their return. Of course, we are seeking to take wise precautions so that in doing so we are also seeking to be wise and safe to shepherd and protect our body well.

As our first step, communion will be served in both on site worship services today using sealed, pre-packaged communion sets that include the communion wafer and juice. These individual element sets will be distributed to us in our seats prior to the beginning of the service by elders who will be taking precautions by wearing face coverings and gloves, and we will remain in our seats in both services to partake of the elements. Other than these modifications to the format of the communion elements and the method of distribution, the service with all its richness and meaning will remain the same and, as always, will emphasize both the vertical element of communion with our God, and the horizontal element of fellowship with the church body, which are both essential to the meaning of the sacrament.

For those of our body who at this time are unable to, or do not feel comfortable attending on site worship, we would love to have a Ruling Elder representing the church body, together with one of our pastors, come to your home to serve you there at your request. We encourage those receiving communion at home to participate in our streaming worship service on Sunday, if possible, as the foundation for receiving the sacrament from the elder and pastor when they come to your home. If you would like to request communion be served to you in your home, please call or email the church office, or go to the form on the church website at www.fpcrome.org to request that we schedule a time in the next two weeks following Sunday’s communion to allow you to share in the sacrament as well.

Also, we will once again be scheduling baptisms as requested by congregants, with whatever precautions seem to be appropriate based on current information at time of baptism. To request that a baptism be scheduled, you may find the Baptism Request Form on our website under the Resources tab, or simply call or email the church office to be directed to or emailed the form.

The sacraments are an integral part of our worship of God and we are grateful to be able to once again include them. We are doing all that we can to maintain their integrity and richness, while working within the wise precautions that are necessary at this time. We ask for your patience and understanding as we take these steps forward.

CONTINUING OUR GENEROSITY – “The Lord loves a cheerful giver.” Since today’s service will be touch-less (no bulletins, hymnals, friendship pads), we will have plexiglass drop boxes at the entrance and exit areas of each service in which you may place your tithes and offerings. There are many other ways you can make your offering to the Lord— by giving through the mail, dropping off in a sealed envelope in the secure black mailbox outside the church office, or electronically by following this link: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/firs101214> or through the ShelbyNext Membership App on your mobile device. If you have not been connected through the ShelbyNext Membership app on your mobile device, contact Tracy at tracyd@fpcrome.org or leave a message with the church office and she will help you get set up.

PRAYER REQUESTS – If you would like to be kept informed of the church’s prayer needs, email Tracy at tracyd@fpcrome.org to receive updated prayer requests. If you would like to submit a Prayer Request for you or someone you know that is in need, you may do so on our website at <http://www.fpcrome.org/resources/personal-prayer-requests/>.



TIP OF THE MONTH – Thank you for praying for your student throughout the school year, and now please continue to pray for your student during these summer months. Even this summer, as unique as it is, still provides many opportunities for your student to enjoy time with family and friends, and to engage in safe summer time activities. In particular, lots of our students have been participating in our FPC student ministries. Please pray for the numerous Bible studies, service projects, field days, outings, and relational ministries provided by our student ministries staff. Pray for your student to thrive this summer and to grow as disciples throughout the remainder of the summer. Also, please check to see if your student has a birthday coming up and reach out to them. Or, if they graduated this year, or reached some other milestone, let them know how proud of them you are.

Our worship services are broadcast weekly on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/fpcrome, and at 11 am on WLAQ FM 96.9 and AM 1410. Sermons may also be accessed on our web site at www.fpcrome.org.