

March 31, 2020

Beloved Friends:

**“I am longing to see you...so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”** (*Romans 1.11-12*)

As we are well into our third week of “stay at home,” the world continues to move and circumstances seem to change every day. It appears as if we will be worshiping via the internet for at least the short term, and while we can get better at overcoming technical challenges, I am longing for the day when we can all be together in the same place again.

But until that time, all of you remain in my prayers – and I ask that you keep me in yours. And even though we cannot see one another and exchange hugs and signs of peace, **we can continue to keep up with one another**. If you need greeting cards, or stamps, let me know and I will make sure you get some. If you need a current copy of the Annual Report to have addresses and phone numbers we can either e mail you a copy or put one in the mail.

Since we cannot be together for Palm Sunday, if you would like to have the materials and pattern to **make your own palm frond for worship** on Sunday, I have materials to do that. Just let me know if you’d like to be “crafty” and I will even make sure you have the glue. I also have **coloring sheets** I can print and send to you, or I can e mail the file to you to print out and color on your own. If you hang on to those coloring sheets, **we can post them** on our bulletin board when we are able to be together.

If you are wondering what in the world those strips of paper are that are in the envelope with this letter, here’s the answer: **use these strips to write down your prayers** of intercession and/or thanksgiving and hang on to them. When we are all back together, we are going to make a paper chain of all of our prayers to celebrate the fact that we have been connected and are one in the Spirit. You can also mail back those strips and I’ll add them to the chain I’m putting together.

In this letter you will also find an envelope for the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. Our congregation has been faithful for many years to participate in this offering, and traditionally, we collect both fish banks and offering envelopes on Palm Sunday. Even though that is not possible this year, the needs that OGHS addresses will be greater than ever. I ask you to prayerfully consider your gift to this offering, and support the program. There is no critical deadline for receiving this offering – and we will likely make another plea once we can worship together, but I do ask that you remember the good work this offering does worldwide.

You can utilize our **on-line giving system** to continue to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, or you can mail your gifts/pledges directly to our post office box: **POB**

**132, Palestine, IL 62451.** If you are among those that have faithfully continued to financially support our ministry and work, **THANK YOU.**

At the end of this letter, I am again posting the information on how to **access our Facebook Live broadcasts, even without a Facebook account.** All you need is an internet connection. In addition to **Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am each week,** you can join us **each weekday morning at 10 am for a short (15 minutes) time of morning prayer, and each Friday mornings at 10:30 am for a 30-minute Bible Study.** Currently we are working our way through the book of Philippians.

**If you are not currently subscribed to our e mail list, please consider signing up** today – you can do that through our web page (see information below on how to access that). E mail is the most reliable way to stay in contact. If you are interested in **joining our text group,** text me (618.562.0367) and I will add you to our group. One note about that – I am looking for a less clunky way to group text than our current app.

And finally, **continue to pray for one another, stay in contact with one another, and lift up one another.** Until such time as we can fellowship in person, we will continue to reach out in as many ways as possible to remind you that you are children of God, beloved, cherished, and missed.

Peace, blessings, and comfort to you,

Pastor Karen

## Helpful Information

(updated March 31, 2020)

### Church Contact Information

POB 132

Palestine, IL 62451

Phone: 618-586-5321

E mail: [1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com](mailto:1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com)

### Pastor Karen Contact Information

Cell phone (call or text): 618-562-0367

E mail: [karen1stpresby@gmail.com](mailto:karen1stpresby@gmail.com)

### Accessing the church website:

Go to <https://www.firstprespalestine.com/>

The first page you will see is a cover page – to get to the Home page, click on the button “return to homepage.” Bulletins and other documents are found on the “resources” page (click on the “resources” tab at the top of the page) can be opened by clicking on the title. You can subscribe to our e mail list from the bottom of the homepage. You can e mail the church office from the footer of any of the pages. You can access our Facebook Page from the link on the left side of the homepage.

### Accessing First Presbyterian Facebook Page without a Facebook account:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/1stPresbyChurch/>

OR – click the link on the left side of the church website

When asked if you want to log in or set up an account click on “not now”

You should be able to scroll through our page and get to the live feed.

*\*if you have a Facebook account, if you “follow” our public page, you will get notifications as we “go live” with broadcasts*