

## Addendum to the 2019 Mission Study of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara

This document attempts to describe the steps taken by the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara in response to the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020/2021 and how that modifies many of the comments made in the Mission Study of 2019. The team generating this addendum are: Lee & Diane Kirkpatrick, Beth Preston and Beth Hassenplug.

When restrictions were first put in place in early 2020 to control the spread of the virus, the churches initial response was to form a Covid-19 Task Force to study the issues and make recommendations on how best to proceed.

The team members are; ECC (Early Childhood Center) Director Beth Hassenplug, Brian Slattery, Pastor Charles Svendsen, Business Manager Denise Rodman, Pastor Erik Wiebe, Elder Fred Marsh, Parish Nurse Sharon Head, and Warren Myers. The team meets weekly to stay up to date with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and California guidelines.

The first steps were to stop all three on site worship services, and notify all of the outside community groups that use our facilities that our campus was closed. The church staff was directed to work from home and to follow all CDC recommendations to mitigate the spread of the virus.

We applied for and received funds under the PPP program (Paycheck Protection Program) to safe guard our employees. The Task Force began the process of planning how to continue the functions of the church as best as possible with concern for the safety of all involved. One of our first actions was to record a single service and stream it from a link on our web site, for at home worship. We have since started a drive-in worship service on Sunday, where people stay in their cars and listen to the service broadcast to their car radios.

All church team meetings, including session, are now done through the Zoom virtual meeting tool.

Choir rehearsals and other on site music programs have stopped.

Distributed material sits for three days between printing and distribution.

Calling lists and note cards are being used to stay in touch with people who are home bound.

All on site activities require face masks, temperature checks, and available hand sanitizer.

The Church's van ministry is on hold.

Beth Hassenplug, Director of the Early Childhood Center Reports the following: The Early Childhood Center has managed to stay open and adapt to the changes that COVID has thrust upon us. The majority of our families have at least one essential worker and the ECC is a safe and comfortable place for their children to be while they work.

We have had to reduce our capacity by a little over ten students. This has mostly impacted our preschool classes that would typically have 16 students but with public health guidelines requiring smaller group sizes, these classes are at 10 or 11 students. We have also shortened our daily hours of operation by 30 minutes in order to meet the additional guidelines for health and safety. All of these changes have resulted in less income each month but steady or sometimes even increased operational costs. Thankful the foresight of our Ministry team and Church Elders has provided us with a financial and spiritual reserve that is supporting us through this year.

Beth Preston reports on our children's programs: Presbycamp is one of our long standing programs that runs in the summer for children from 1st through 5th grade. This year, due to the pandemic many modifications were made. With the work and support of the Task Force we were able to have a modified program.

Presbycamp went from a full day camp to a half day. The camp ran for 5 weeks from July 6th to August 7th.

There were 2 to 3 pods of up to 14, which included CITs (Counselors in Training) and Counselors. Students were in separate pods with no cross over.

## Addendum to the 2019 Mission Study of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara

There were no off campus trips and activity centers were set up for students with time for cleaning before the next rotation.

Families expressed gratitude for the ability to have their children participate.

PresbyCare is a new program that was started out of the need for school age children to have support with distance learning due to schools being closed. Again, with the support and guidance of the Task Force we were able to start the program on August 31st.

20 children were accepted into the program. Two pods were created and the students learning centers were set up in the CFC.

Staffing consists of a director and 4 counselors that support the children during their online classes. Afternoon activities and enrichment classes are provided.

The program runs from 8:00-3:30.

This program has given families a safe place for their children to be cared for while they are working. The gratitude from parents and grandparents has been expressed on a daily basis.

With the financial generosity and support from church members and friends, this ministry continues to support this much needed program for children with scholarships for those who need them and a caring environment during these difficult times.

Sunday School has gone through several changes. We had several weeks of Zoom after our online service during the summer months.

Susan Crowshaw, our Director of Children's Ministry, provides a weekly children's sermon during the online service. Materials that connect with the lesson can be downloaded if families desire.

Amanda Hur continues with a restructured youth program. One of their programs are preparing communion bread, first for at home communion with the streamed service, and now for the drive-in service. Another program is making and selling cloth face masks.

Many of our other programs have paused or been greatly modified since Covid. In the midst of all of these changes, we continue to seek ways to reach out and stay connected with our children and families.