



# Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 64, Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064 7400 Mount Holly Road, Charlotte, NC 28214-1701

I was glad when they said unto me:

“Let us go into the house of the LORD!” – Psalm 122

Dear Friends and Members of Paw Creek Presbyterian Church,

Like all of us here at Paw Creek, the members of our church session have been waiting anxiously to be able to gather again for worship, to greet one another in person, and to give God praise for protecting us through these last hard months. When we began in March, none of us could have anticipated that we would have to wait so long!

The session has been carefully monitoring safety guidance throughout this time. We began to consider some possible plans in the early summer, and then infection, hospitalization and even death rates started to rise again rapidly in Mecklenburg County, and we had to back off for awhile. Since early August a session Task Force has been meeting to come up with a plan, and the session adopted their recommendations on September 17. Under that plan (assuming, God willing, that community infections continue to be in check), we will be able to have a limited number of members and friends partaking of Sunday worship in the sanctuary beginning October 11.

This plan is based on many assumptions:

- **In the beginning, we will have a cap on the number of people in the sanctuary**, and will carefully monitor to see when it will be safe to gradually increase that number. In order to maintain a safe number each week, we will need to know in advance who is coming, and how large each family unit will be.
- At the same time, we don't think it's fair to simply give seats to the first families that call each week to register. Therefore our plan is to get a list of all those who wish to attend worship and then invite those families and individuals to come to the sanctuary on a rotating basis. We expect that you would never have more than one or two weeks in between an invitation to come. (Rest assured, if you do not feel you are ready to come into the sanctuary right away, you can always add your name to the list at any later date.)

- Since Covid-19 will remain part of our world for the foreseeable future, we will come back together at a joyful distance, with our greetings outdoors, our hugs and handshakes in the air, and a safe distance between seats indoors.
- We will use all of the tools available to keep us safe, including masks, social distances, and protective equipment such as hand sanitizer and temperature checks.
- Live-stream worship will continue to be our pattern. When we are at home, we will always be able to worship as we have done since March, and when we are in the sanctuary we will be there to partake of live worship in person. But for now, even in the sanctuary we will not participate with singing, speaking, passing of plates or communion elements, etc.
- Finally, and with great joy, we are delighted to know that our live-stream worship has reached many folks in the community who are not members of Paw Creek. We hope and pray that you, too will want to join us in the sanctuary, at least every now and then. Our system of registration and invitations is designed for everyone!

This may sound complicated - and we all wish we didn't have to think so hard just to come to church! But for each person or family that wants to come, it's really pretty simple: (1) put your name on the list (you just have to do that once); (2) wait for a phone call or email (of course if you can't come that week, we'll happily recycle your invitation to the following week); and, (3) come to church on Sunday morning.

We can do this, and it will be wonderful when we get started. At the same time, we know that at first some will choose to worship on-line, to protect themselves and vulnerable loved ones. We understand that too, and support you fully in making the best decision for you and your family. We will continue to be bound up in the Holy Spirit as we have been throughout these months, and will look for ways to connect with you throughout the fall.

Thanks to everyone for helping us to remain safe. Please don't hesitate to contact Elliott or any member of the Session with questions and comments.

God's blessings to all,

The Session, Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

This system is planned to begin Sunday, October 11. It will continue to be adapted as needed to reflect changes in the public health situation in the coming months (as the virus continues to come under control, we can add more worshippers; if there is a new virus flareup or other danger such as a flu outbreak, or if worshippers become sick, it is possible we would slow down or suspend in-person worship). Here are the details about how the system will work:

1. We especially want to reach those who have not had ready access to on-line worship. We hope everyone will help to spread the word and assist those who need support to get them signed up.
2. There is now a simple form that can be accessed from the home page of the church web site – [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org). Just click to pull it up, and enter basic information (such as name and contact information, and number of people in your household). There are also printed copies of the form included for those who receiving this information by postal mail.
3. Church members and friends can expect a phone call this week from one of our elders. If you cannot access the sign-up on-line form, you can give the information to the elder who calls. Or, you can call a worship committee member (names and numbers listed below), who will take down the information and log it in for you.
4. The closing date for completing the form is Wednesday, September 30. (This is the deadline to be included in the first sorting of invitations - if you choose to wait at first, you can still add you name to the list for a later invitation.)
5. Once we have a list, a member of the worship committee will call or email each week to invite enough people to fill up the number of seats we have available (again, that number will change and grow). If you cannot come that week, please let the contact person know - if we have unused seats we plan to give extra priority to those who have not been able to access on-line worship.
6. On Sunday morning, before you leave home to attend worship, please be certain you are feeling well. Stay home if you have a fever or any symptoms of illness of any kind.
7. Please arrive at church between 10:15 and 10:30 am. Once you get out of your car, and throughout the morning, please remain with the members of your household, wear a mask and practice social distancing. Masks are required for everyone.
8. Greet others from a distance, without hugs or hand shakes – waving and bowing make great substitutes! You can visit outdoors while waiting to enter the sanctuary. If we have a rainy Sunday morning, a waiting line will be set up indoors.
9. Enter the sanctuary through the main front doors. There will be greeters on the front porch to run temperature checks. A table in the narthex will have masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and other protective equipment; there are additional hand sanitizer stations throughout the building.

10. If ramp access is needed, let the greeters know and use the ramp and entrance by the East Wing.
11. During the morning the rest rooms in the East Wing will be available. Please limit to one person at a time in the rest room and maintain a six foot distance while waiting. After using the rest room, return to the front porch to enter the sanctuary (unless using the ramp).
12. Enter the sanctuary one household group at a time. Ushers will direct you to your seats, filling the sanctuary from front to back. Pews are marked to maintain empty spaces between seating areas. Please sit in household groups and be sure to leave a minimum of six feet between groups.
13. The sanctuary will be closed at 10:45 and all worshipers should be seated by that time, so that our live-stream can begin on time.
14. As partakers of worship, we will listen and observe, but will not stand, sing, or recite prayers. Please do not handle the hymnals and other items in the pew racks.
15. The order of service will continue to be available with the weekly letter. If you would like a copy during the service, please bring it with you, if possible.
16. Collection baskets for offerings will be available near the entrances.
17. At the end of the service, please remain seated. Ushers will dismiss by rows, starting at the front of the church, and we will exit through the doors on either side of the choir loft. Continue to mask and distance on the way back to the parking lots.
18. These plans are designed for Sunday morning worship. We hope to offer some special, distanced events during the fall, but regular activities such as Sunday School and group meetings will not yet start back. The Sunday Morning prayer group will continue via Zoom, but will take place at 9:45 beginning October 11.
19. These details will certainly be adapted and updated as we gain experience. Ushers and greeters will be able to direct you for the latest procedures each week.

## HOW TO SIGN UP TO BE INVITED TO WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY:

- COMPLETE THE FORM AT [PAWCREEKPC.ORG](http://PAWCREEKPC.ORG)  
OR
- GIVE YOUR INFORMATION WHEN AN ELDER CALLS  
OR
- CONTACT A WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:  
DEBBIE TAYLOR 704-651-3524  
SAM McCORD 980-322-8512

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL OR PHONE CALL (PER YOUR CHOICE) ON THE TUESDAY PRIOR TO EACH SUNDAY WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SANCTUARY

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THAT WEEK, PLEASE BE SURE TO RESPOND TO THE EMAIL OR PHONE CALL SO THAT WE CAN ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO ATTEND, AND RESCHEDULE YOU FOR A LATER WEEK

# Invitation to Attend Live Sunday Service at Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Please let us know if you would like to be invited to attend a Live Sunday Service at Paw Creek starting in October. Attendance will be by Invitation Only. Please fill out the following:

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL *OPTIONAL*

PHONE NUMBER *OPTIONAL*

Circle one of the following:    *Accepts numbers only*                      *Accepts numbers and texts*

PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT (CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING)

**EMAIL**

**PHONE**

**TEXT**

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WHO WILL NORMALLY SIT TOGETHER IN WORSHIP?

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS ON-LINE WORSHIP SERVICE, PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX THAT WE CAN OFFER YOU PRIORITY FOR COMING INTO THE SANCTUARY. *OPTIONAL*

**PRIORITY**

**ALSO:**

**“Sermon by Phone” – available Mondays by 11:00 a.m.:**

**(704) 312 1343**

IF YOU HAD NOT WORSHIPPED WITH US IN PERSON BEFORE MARCH, WE ARE GLAD YOU WANT TO COME! FEEL FREE TO TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF AND HOW YOU FOUND YOUR WAY TO PAW CREEK. *OPTIONAL*

# Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

This is going on a LOT longer than we expected!

We need help to stay in touch with  
Church Friends,  
So the Congregational Care Committee now offers:

## “Phone Buddies”



Sign up, and every week you will get the name of someone to call for  
quick check-in

OR

You will receive a Call

OR

You can do both - give one person a call and receive a call from  
someone else

It's easy - just sign up at [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org)  
or tell your assigned elder when he or she calls