

Dear Church Family –

Our March office hours are next Sunday, March 26, during the Sunday school hour. Come see us in the office building; we'd love to hear from you, to pray with you, to answer your questions. As you consider visiting us, perhaps you can respond to the questions, "What do you think makes FPC distinct? How do you see our church body reflect our values and priorities?" As we meet with candidates, we tell them as much about us as we ask about them.

We are encouraged that we are seeing a number of seasoned candidates and we are in various stages of review and interview. There are many different avenues of experience that might be the best fit for our church as we look towards the future. We continue to remind ourselves of the job description priorities, that we are looking for candidates who demonstrate skills and history in Worship/Preaching/Teaching, in Discipleship/Shepherding, and in Leadership Development. It is a good thing when we see these connect in a candidate, too! The recent Sunday school series on being Presbyterian and the work of the Care Teams reminds us that it is essential to care for the flock. To that end, we desire a pastor that shows demonstrable measures to make sure that our elders know each person in the congregation. We are looking for a pastor to equip us and to lead us in knowing and loving each other.

Please keep praying for our discernment, energy, and perseverance; and most of all, pray that we would trust that God is doing a good work among us even as we wait on his timing to provide us with the lead pastor of his choosing. While we actively seek patience and wisdom in discerning the right fit for our new pastor, we want you to know we share the sense of urgency that you might also be feeling. We are thankful for the blessings God is giving to us as a church body in this interim period, and we are more than eager to see what awaits us with a new lead pastor.

Please feel free to speak to anyone on the committee. We don't mind when people ask us, "how are things going?" And we appreciate hearing that you're praying for us and for the search. Please know that we are praying for all of you, too.

In Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee (Dave Burbridge, Cindy Fitzgerald, Sarah Jones, Rob Joss, Russ Queen, Nina Walters, and Becki Whetsel)

firstpresmasearch@gmail.com