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February 5, 2018

Dear FPC Family,

As you may have heard announced in yesterday's worship services, after several months of prayer, fasting, listening and discussing, your Session has decided to offer a worship service at 9:40 on Sunday mornings. This will be in addition to current services being offered at 8:30, 10:45 and 11:05am.

During this time we have learned a number of things about how you feel we should structure our worship schedule. We know that many people have enjoyed the pace of having only three services, the energy of having more people in each service, and the recent emphasis on including children in our 8:30 service. However, we also have come to understand that the suspension of the 9:30 service created a hardship on many, especially parents of young children, for whom that service was their only worship option on Sunday mornings. We also learned that the absence of that service actually made it *harder* to invite visitors, especially those with younger children, which is the last thing we want to do as we seek to share the gospel with our friends, our families and our surrounding community!

At the same time, we do need to be honest about a couple of realities facing First Pres at this season in our life together. First to continue to hold a service at 8:30 (which has not only made it easier for parents of younger children to attend but has also garnered favor with many other members) makes it very difficult to start a service at 9:30.

We also need to recognize that, at least at present, we are a smaller worshipping community with a smaller Chancel Choir than we were a few years ago. As we shared at the outset of our experiment last fall, our beloved choir is finding it harder to offer a full choir ensemble at two traditional worship services.

In addressing these two realities, Session has decided to offer the following Sunday morning worship schedule beginning on **Sunday, March 4**:

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| 8:30-9:30am | Praise & Worship in the Sanctuary (led by the Sanctuary Singers) |
| 9:40-10:30am | Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (led by Rhonda Furr, accompanied by various soloists, duets and small vocal and instrumental ensembles, except on special Sundays) |
| 10:45-11:45am | Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (led by the Chancel Choir) |
| 11:05am-12:15pm | Contemporary Worship in the Grand Hall (led by the Praise Team) |

Friends, there is much more to share regarding the opportunities we have to grow into these four worship services; to continue strengthening our discipleship options for adults, youth and children; and to talk together about who we are as a church in 2018 and who we want to become as we live into our vision of being a sending (and a *going*) church.

In the meantime, we thank you for your feedback, for your prayers, and for your patience.

Yours in Christ,

David Calkins
Clerk of Session 2018

Cindy Cook
Clerk of Session 2019

Robert Moore
Clerk of Session 2020