



**Parkview Baptist Church**  
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**THE JOURNEY**

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**The Pastor's Letter**



“Location, Location, Location”

The realtors' maxim for selling a home is, “Location, location, location.” The location of the home often determines its value, its ability to sell, and the attractiveness of the area in which the home is found. Buyers look for the lifestyle, weather conditions, scenic views, and schools that a neighborhood can offer. Sellers stress the low crime, public transportation, traffic, and accessibility of a region. The location of a home can be the key factor in the sale or purchase of a home. It also can be the key factor in determining the importance of a place.

Jesus entered into a conversation about location with a Samaritan woman that came to draw out water from Jacob's well near a town called Sychar. He asked her for a drink and she was surprised that he, a Jew, would talk with a Samaritan woman. Jesus turned the discussion from sectarian matters into a discussion on living water and eternal life. She was intrigued but Jesus took the discussion into deeper spiritual matters and told her to go get her husband. She said “I don't have a husband” and Jesus told her that she was correct since she was living with a man who was not her husband. Sensing he was a prophet and startled that he knew about her darkest secrets, the woman changed the subject. “The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship’” (John 4:19-20). Location, location, location!

Location, location, location, but what if location is not a place?

After correcting her theology, Jesus responded, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24). **Worship is not a place, it's a mindset. Worship does not need a location, it needs people who seek God in spirit and truth no matter where they are.**

The church in America is in a predicament. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way we do church. So much of our understanding of church and worship has centered in buildings, programs, and gatherings. There is nothing wrong with any of those things, but sometimes we need to get back to the “heart of worship” as the song reminds us. “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The place is secondary to the spirit. The traditions are minor in comparison to the truth. The coronavirus crisis has forced us to reconsider how we do church and what worshiping in spirit and truth is all about.

Parkview has not had sanctuary worship since March 15. We have had to adjust the way we do worship and church. Members have had to watch sermons online. We have not had music or songs during these broadcast services. We have had Bible studies and committee meetings through Zoom or teleconferencing. Members have mailed in or dropped off their tithes and offerings or given online on the website. Our main ministries have been slowed down or stopped altogether. Visitation has been pretty much limited to telephone calls, cards, and emails. The groups using our church have not been able to meet. Our children's programs have not been able to operate. Church as we know it has been altered and we have been forced to carry on and worship where we are in “spirit and truth.”

But now there is a push in our nation to return to work and normal routines. There is a cry to gather the church and begin to practice public worship services once again. The competing concerns of public health or the economy are a point of major debate. There are good arguments on both sides as to whether we should go slowly or whether we should get back to normal as quickly as possible. Our Church Council, Deacons, Trustees and Staff have been struggling with these issues. We have done much research and have had several discussions in different settings. We have come to the conclusion that it is time for Parkview to regather as a church body for sanctuary worship. The church will be open for sanctuary worship only on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 10:45 AM. The doors will open at 10:15 AM. There will be no Sunday School classes, Bible Studies or Children's classes. We will continue to offer the worship service online on Facebook and YouTube if you do not feel like you can attend at this time.

We are inserting a list of guidelines for reopening our church for public worship. Be sure you read the guidelines carefully. We are following the recommendations of our Baptist association, the Alachua County Christian Pastor's Association, and Alachua County commissioners under the leadership of UF's pandemic expert Dr. Michael Lauzardo.

I look forward to meeting with you all again in person. Please do not feel pressured to come if you are in a high risk health or age category. You can still worship with us online. My prayer is that we will all seek God's grace and cooperate with one another to make this transition a safe and rewarding time. God bless you!

Pastor Greg

**Motto for Mission 2020: Magnify Jesus as Lord**

**Mission Statement**

The Mission of Parkview Baptist Church is to lift up Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and to obey His Great Commission.  
 Matthew 28:18-20

**Our Purpose Statement**

The purpose of Parkview Baptist Church is raising the family of Jesus Christ by leading every member to:

- .....MAGNIFY HIS LORDSHIP IN WORSHIP
- .....MULTIPLY HIS FAMILY THROUGH EVANGELISM/MISSIONS
- .....MATURE HIS CHILDREN THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP
- .....MODEL HIS LIFE THROUGH SERVICE/MINISTRY
- .....MINISTER HIS LOVE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
 10:45 A.M.

PRESENTED ON PARKVIEW FACEBOOK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY  
 7:00PM

PRESENTED ON [WWW.ZOOM.COM](http://WWW.ZOOM.COM)

JUNE 21, 2020



love you  
**DAD**



**BACK TO WORSHIP ON JUNE 7**

We are inviting everyone back to campus Sunday, June 7th! We will not have a Bible Study time for now.

Worship will be in the sanctuary at 10:45 AM (church doors will open at 10:15 AM).

I have enclosed the precautions we are taking, and we humbly ask that you abide by these precautions when on campus.

**Proverbs 4:-1-13**

WISDOM

-Of the-

**Father**

Knowledge from

Generation to Generation