



DAVIDSON COLLEGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 N. Main St † PO Box 337 † Davidson, NC 28036

July 19, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Davidson College Presbyterian Church,

I pray that the rhythm of summer has allowed you and your loved ones opportunities for rest. I like to say that summer is often a chance for extra recreation, but I also hope it affords you a chance at re-creation as you rest and reset.

Speaking of re-creation and resets, the renovations to our main building are coming along. Just the other week we finally turned a corner and changes are really accelerating. Up until that point, we were still tearing down and moving out, but now we are in the business of building up and bringing in. Wall board is being hung on framing, dirt is being filled in and concrete is being poured.

With that said, we are also finally more aware of our updated schedule for a return to the building. As many people expected with an older building, we will not hit our original target of returning to the main building on August 15th. The delay is the result of multiple surprises that we found when we started opening up walls and digging up dirt. The surprises have been both expensive and time-consuming to rectify. The expensive part we are handling through operating and capital reserves. I am grateful that we have such reserves in place to assist with the issues we encountered.

Now that we have turned the corner and dealt with our unexpected issues, our construction management firm has informed us that we will be able to start moving back into the main building on October 15<sup>th</sup> rather than mid-August. Do note that this is the day we start moving back in, not when we expect to return to normal programming. It will take a little time to re-inhabit the building. Our weekday preschool is in the process of adjusting their calendar and locations for their first few weeks of school and are excited to finally be in their new classrooms on October 21. The rest of our normal faith formation programming, on Sundays and midweek, for adult and for children, will start in their new spaces on November 3. Other building usage such as committee meetings, bell choir rehearsals, etc. will start slowly returning between October 21 and November 3. Until then, we will continue to work hard at sharing the spaces available to us in the Congregation House as fall programming resumes. Not ideal, but not impossible.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of work surrounding the new ramp for Lingle Chapel, which will need to be closed for a week or so in early August to complete that work. Soon after that work is finished, our new Sanctuary and Chapel windows will be installed in mid-August, with no anticipated impact on our Sunday schedule. We will then return to our normal worship schedule of three services and an education hour on Sunday, September 8th as

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previously planned. Sunday morning faith formation classes will be in the Dana and Watson buildings until November 3.

As I noted above, our delays are not ideal, but none of this is insurmountable. We were online for 15 months during the pandemic. Throughout this more recent time period we have been able to do ministry well even without the main building. For instance, the energy around this summer's worship life is more than noticeable and truly affirming. We can handle an eight-week delay with this project! A year from now we'll be enjoying larger fellowship spaces, more meeting spaces, newly refurbished educational spaces, a new library and a new playground and will barely remember this summer's inconveniences.

I am grateful for so many good people working on this project and responding to its delays and impacts. From the Architect Steering Committee, to the Weekday Preschool Board, the Faith Formation committees, the Finance Committee, the Library Committee, people selecting finishes and more, including our staff- lots of people are helping us to navigate these waters and I thank each of you.

Thank you to everyone who supported Opening Doors financially and spiritually. Regularly scheduled pledge payments, paying off pledges in full and even some extra gifts have all made a difference in our ability to complete this project. I am also grateful to you for adapting to these changes to our schedule with patience and grace as we look forward to moving back into our main building in October.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. M. Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "H".

Peter J. M. Henry  
Pastor

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