

“When will we have in-person worship again?” This question seems to be at the forefront of all our minds as we begin to see state and local governments loosen the shelter-in-place restrictions.

The short answer to that question is: We don’t know. But here’s what we do know:

1. Our priority is to the physical, emotional and spiritual health and safety of our congregation members, staff, and community. We will always err on the side of caution when it comes to doing what is best for your health and wellness.
2. Multiple guideline sources (federal, state, local and our Annual Conference) influence and direct our decisions about reopening. None of them at this point have given a date for re-opening “in-person” church services as well as instructions about the size and scope of the gatherings.
3. We are working on a multi-phase plan to gradually end our physical distancing. This plan is currently incomplete and will probably change as we move forward with updated information. Our hope is that our multi-phase plan will be shared in the next few weeks.
4. We are still the church. Although we have been unable to meet together in-person, we have felt the power of the Holy Spirit bringing our faith community together in new and creative ways. Who would’ve thought that we could have such authentic, deep worship and small group experiences through Facebook, Zoom, and other electronic communication!?! Although it isn’t an ideal situation, we are seeing God at work in powerful ways as we continue to grow in our faith!

As we navigate these uncharted waters together, we hope you will cover us in prayer and offer us lots and lots of grace. Know that we are doing our best to make decisions based on facts that change on a daily (sometimes hourly) basis. Please be in prayer for us, our staff, lay leaders, and community as we adapt to the ever-changing needs associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent devastation from the Easter tornado.

Stay safe and well, and know that we will get through this together!

Pastor Dwight and Pastor Amanda