
October 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Transition Team and Church Council met on Wednesday evening, September 30, to discuss and make decisions regarding the re-opening of the building in the midst of this global pandemic which we have been confronting since February. Our hope was that the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths would have gone down and been contained so that we could resume a life as normal once again.

Sadly, that has not been the case. In the past two weeks, we have seen the number of Wisconsin cases spike upward, and consequentially hospitals are experiencing an increase in patients, and even most sadly, the number of deaths has increased as well, according to the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). Additionally, the CDC and its top scientists are projecting that the cases will continue to rise this fall as we face the flu season.

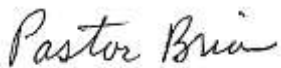
With this information in mind, both the **Transition Team and the Church Council have decided to postpone indefinitely any indoor gatherings that include worship, small groups, and education programs such as Sunday school, confirmation, and adult forums. Outdoor worship also has been put on hold.** We will continue to tape our weekly worship service and make that available on our [website](#). We will continue to use Zoom for our virtual education classes, utilizing the online resources and technology that are available to us. Small group ministries can continue on Zoom, with the exception of our Preschool and AA groups. Our Preschool classes are small in number and are in strictly controlled environments. The AA groups are very small in number, and since AA is a true life-line for its members, we believe that we can support them in their efforts to gain and maintain their sobriety.

We know how difficult this time is for everyone. Rest assured we will be continually monitoring the situation to keep you informed along the way. This is a first for all of us, as we try to adapt to ever-changing circumstances.

We want to leave you with a quotation from the apostle Paul, who wrote to his congregation in Rome:

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. Rom. 1:8-12

Peace be with you always!



Pastor Brian Halverson



Brian Zach, Council President