



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Members and Friends of Covenant Church,

*December 9, 2020*

This global pandemic continues to present all of us with challenging circumstances and decisions. Please know that your church wrestles with issues too. At a meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2020, the Session voted to return to online-only worship effective immediately for an indefinite period of time.

This Sunday, 10:30 A.M. worship will continue to be led from the church Sanctuary and available online, but there will be no worshipers physically present.

The Session made this decision out of an abundance of caution due to the extremely rapid rise in COVID-19 infections. There is particular concern about an expected spike in infections that are predicted to occur in the coming days and weeks, as a result of all the people who have been traveling over the past Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas holidays.

This was a difficult decision, especially because – based on the trends we have been seeing – it means Christmas Eve services will be online-only as well. But as one Session member put it, “I don’t like missing Christmas in the Sanctuary, but if the worst should happen, I’d miss each and every one of you more.”

Nationally, there is concern about the nation’s hospital capacity being exceeded, with no part of the nation being exempt from this danger. Therefore, the Session’s decision to do what we can to flatten the curve can be seen as a form of local mission outreach to benefit our larger community.

Church meetings will continue to be on an online-only basis. Small group discussion groups and bible studies that have met over the past months will explore Zoom and online options. The church office will continue to be open, although everyone is encouraged to transact business over the telephone or online if possible. Those who must visit in person are required to follow masking and physical-distancing protocols and to keep their visits brief.

Finally, as was true when we operated under similar restrictions last Spring, we want to clarify that the church is NOT closing. We are continuing to operate, to the glory of God, but are simply doing so in different ways. Let’s all pray for the health of our community, for one another, and for the day to come quickly when the virus-transmission rate again returns to a manageable level, and we will be able to praise the Lord together in person.

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all of you.

In Christ’s spirit,