

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Long Memorial Church Council met on December 14 to discuss our Christmas season worship services in light of recent guidance and examples from local public health and education leaders. Because of the increased case levels, positivity rates, hospitalizations, and Covid-related deaths; in light of increased travel and visitation by large numbers of the public during the holidays; and because of the typically increased attendance in Christmas-season worship services, the Council voted to **not offer worship services inside the building December 20, December 24 (Christmas Eve), December 27, and January 3.**

We WILL hold the following services:

- **December 20 - Lessons and Carols -**
 - Outdoor Worship at 9:45am, weather-permitting (*note new time*).
 - Maintain social distancing; please wear a mask
 - Live-streaming on YouTube at 11:00am.
- **December 24 - Christmas Eve**
 - Outdoor Worship at 4:00pm, weather-permitting.
 - We will be singing Christmas carols.
 - Maintain 15 ft social distancing. Please wear a mask.
 - Live-streaming on YouTube at 5:00pm
- **December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas**
 - Outdoor Worship at 9:45am, weather-permitting (*note new time*).
 - Maintain social distancing; please wear a mask
 - Live-streaming on YouTube at 11:00am
- **January 3 -**
 - Outdoor Worship at 9:45am, weather-permitting (*note new time*).
 - Maintain social distancing; please wear a mask
 - Live-streaming on YouTube at 11:00am

This decision, like so much of our lives this year, is made with heavy hearts; especially for those who have been attending worship inside. We hope that you will still discover the Peace of Christ, the Joy of Christmas, and the love of our congregation, even though this year and this season has been so different. May we remember the shepherds, who journeyed not to the synagogue, but rather to the uncomfortable stable to greet the Christ child; may we remember Mary and Joseph, who were not able to deliver their child in a place of their choosing. May we remember the many blessings that God HAS given us, even while journeying through a season of hardship.

The Church Council will meet on January 4, 2021 to reassess the status of our indoor in-person worship services. Please feel free to contact me to talk if you would like. Without the familiarity of sitting together in the sanctuary, perhaps we all might need a little extra spiritual support – over the phone or across a front porch – and I'm glad to share it. I love you all in Christ.

Ed Priestaf, Pastor