



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT LUNDS CORNER

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May 25, 2020

Dear Friends,

I write to you today to announce that your leadership team and I have made the prayerful decision to resume a greatly-modified form of worship on Sunday, May 31 at 9:30 a.m. This was not an easy decision because we all know this dangerous and highly-contagious virus is still ravaging our community.

Many churches have chosen not to resume worship at this time, but each congregation is unique. Our leadership is aware that “virtual worship” would not be accessible to a large a portion of our church family. We also know that the size of our congregation in relation to our sanctuary allows us to implement the essential social distancing guidelines that may be impossible for larger congregations.

Most of all, we know, this is a congregation that has proven over the years that we truly and genuinely look out for each other. And so, we are optimistic that the strong faith and genuine affection uniting us will enable us to accept the temporary measures required to protect and care for each other’s health and well-being. We fully believe that every single person at worship will comply with the attached guidelines, whole-heartedly, with strong faith, and with good humor.

This coming Sunday (May 31) is Pentecost — the day we celebrate as “the birthday of the Christian Church.” We will read the passage from Scripture that recounts how the people who had traveled from their far-flung homes all receive the Holy Spirit to unite them in their shared faith. As we celebrate our shared faith in our beloved sanctuary, this will have special meaning for us.

Despite all the precautions and changes to our familiar worship, I know beyond any doubt that this Sunday we shall feel the Holy Spirit not just animating us personally, but as the gathered and worshipping church. So, after these twelve weeks of enforced separation and distance we shall have our own very special Pentecost. I invite you to honor the old church tradition and wear something red at worship on Pentecost Sunday.

As your Pastor and on behalf of the leadership team, I fully respect that many people will not feel comfortable or safe coming to worship at this time. Please do what you know is best for your own health and situation. No one should ever have to decide between staying well and coming to church. So, whether I will see you in church on Sunday or if you feel it wiser to remain home at this time, know that you are in my prayers today and always. As always, I am only a telephone call away.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug