

August 25, 2021

Friends in Christ---

St. Paul says to the Christians in Rome, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (Romans 12:12-13)

Those two verses speak directly to where we are as we navigate the uncertain terrain of the pandemic. We rejoice in the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus. We exercise tremendous patience in suffering. Prayer empowers us to persevere in the face of fear. And, through it all, we continue to make contributions of time, skill, effort, and money to see that saints' needs are met and that hospitality makes strangers into friends.

Based on the newest guidelines from the CDC and our denomination, church council has made decisions regarding Covid management strategies:

- 1- masks are required for all those gathering for indoor services. Exceptions are made for medical reasons.
- 2-receiving communion wine by individual cup is the only option.
- 3-coffee/beverages only are served during fellowship.
- 4- every thirty days, church council will reevaluate our situation.

People will feel all sorts of different ways about these adjustments. Keep in mind that there are no perfect solutions that will please everyone. We simply move forward as faithfully as we can, knowing that the One who faithful will get us where we need to go in the fullness of God's time.

Each Sunday, 10am worship will be live streamed. Youtube abbreviated worship will be provided weekly. In September, Pilgrim Journey Rockin' Praise services will return to the sanctuary.

We fully realize that the pandemic is still with us, yet we realize also that this will not always be so. We are suffering together yet we do so as patiently as we are able. And, by God's grace, our prayers do not go unheard and will not be unheeded.

Stay well. Continue to make wise choices. Thanks for being so very faithful.

God bless and keep you,

JDB+