

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Dear Shiloh UCC Congregation,

I wanted to take this opportunity to Thank You All for your continued patience, prayers and support. Your consistory and Pastor continues to meet every other week to assess the current situation and make decisions based upon the best information we can gather from national, regional and local authorities, along with medical professional guidelines, and Conference recommendations.

Even though York County has moved into the Yellow Phase of re-opening, based upon a number of factors including the size of our congregation and age of our congregation, at this time it is our recommendation that we still NOT meet in person for worship until at least after Sunday 6/14/20. The Conference is hosting another meeting addressing re-opening on Tuesday 6/16/20 at which time we hope to get some further guidance. Until then we will continue to share Pastor Melinda's mid-week messages on Wednesdays and Sunday worship services remotely through YouTube. We will continue to email the links and post them on our website. In addition, we will email the text of these messages and Pastor Melinda will continue to host "Conversations with the Pastor" on Thursdays through Zoom meetings.

We have begun to evaluate other alternatives to record the Sunday morning Worship Service in the Sanctuary, including purchasing higher quality video equipment including an HD camera and audio system which would allow us to not only upload the service to YouTube, but also allow us to record the service on DVD and distribute to those in the congregation that do not have a computer and therefore could watch and listen to the service on a DVD player.

Furthermore, we have begun planning for the future when we will be able to once again safely meet in our Sanctuary to gather once again as a congregation in person. This will likely require the use of masks, social distancing and increased cleaning between services.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the congregation for their continued financial contributions during this difficult time. Although Consistory is being strategic in the future finances of the church, there are on-going operating expenses that can't be avoided. It is important to continue supporting the church. Once again, thank you!

Finally, I would like to personally thank the consistory and Pastor Melinda and Maira our administrative assistant for their continued leadership over the past few weeks. As many of you know I work for WellSpan, and although I do not provide direct patient care, I am responsible for all of Food and Nutrition Services across WellSpan which now includes 8 hospitals and spans across 5 counties. As part of the senior leadership team I was proud to be part of the planning over the past few weeks to make our community as safe as possible during this pandemic. However, this was very time consuming and required me to focus all my energy on my "day job" and thankfully we have a very competent and committed consistory, pastor and administrative assistant, who successfully led the day-to-day operations and decision making of Shiloh UCC over the past few weeks, for which I am grateful – thanks again to each and every one of you!!

God bless you all and keep praying – we will get through this together with God's help!!

Sincerely,

Tim Bentzel, Consistory President