

Dear Church Friends and Family;

We are praying for your collective health and safety during these uncertain times and are hopeful that this letter finds you well and in good spirits. In that spirit, the pastors and deacons have been prayerfully working to discern the path forward for our church community to reopen the building for in person worship. At the diaconate meeting on 11 August 2020, we had discussion regarding the many issues surrounding in person worship. Following the conversation, the deacons made a unanimous decision to continue streaming our services for the time being, rather than reopening the building in September as we had hoped to do. We will revisit the topic of reopening in early October, with a goal of resuming Sunday worship in the sanctuary on November 1st.

This difficult decision reflects the rapidly changing reopening approaches that surround our community. Suffield schools will be returning to hybrid (partially in-person) learning in September. Other nearby school districts are opening with only virtual classes. Given that the hybrid school reopening increases the community risk of COVID-19 spreading by some degree, we thought it prudent to wait to see how this reopening works, rather than potentially complicating the community risk between church and school. If all goes well with the school reopening, we believe that this will be a good indication of the safety of our plans to reopen the building for in-person worship.

In the meantime, we hope you will continue to join us for worship through our YouTube channel, also shared on Facebook. We are also seeking to expand our opportunities for Christian learning available through Zoom. In addition, we will be offering additional socially distanced ice cream socials in the church parking lot, as well as the Wednesday small group prayer meetings in the Church garden at 10:00 am and Thursday evenings at 6:30. We hope that these events provide you opportunities to connect, learn, and worship together as the community of Christ in these trying times.

In Christian Love,
David Jones
Chair, Deacons