



Covenant United Methodist Church

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January 9, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Covenant UMC,

Grace and peace to you in these continuing COVID-19 pandemic times.

I write to you in the midst of the worsening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 Virus. As you know, we have been worshipping in-person since September 7, 2021. However, we now find ourselves facing the “Omicron Variant” of the COVID-19 Virus of the virus. It is the most contagious variant yet in terms of its’ ability to even cause positive cases of the virus in those persons who have been fully vaccinated and boosted! On January 5, 2022, The Wisconsin Council of Churches issued a press release urging churches in Wisconsin to return to “Physically Distanced” ministry.

(<https://www.wichurches.org/2022/01/05/churches-urged-to-return-to-physically-distanced-ministry-2/>)

In response to this recommendation, our Church Council met in a special session after worship today, January 9, 2022, to discuss what Covenant’s response to this recommendation should be. After discussion, the unanimous decision of those present was to return to virtual worship (online-only worship) for the next four weeks (through Sunday, February 6, 2022). After this date the Church Council will meet to re-evaluate whether to continue the virtual worship option, or return to in-person worship on the following Sunday.

Virtual Worship Services will be recorded weekly on Wednesdays and will be posted online on our Facebook and Church Website pages. These will be available for viewing prior to the following Sunday. The Church office will be staffed Monday and Wednesday 9 am – 1 p.m. each week. Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will be held on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. via ZOOM. Additional information about how to join these classes will be emailed to participants this week.

As always, I want to assure you the church is still here and available to you during this time of virtual worship! Additionally, we are not alone in this uncertain and scary time; God is still with us! We need to keep our faith in Jesus Christ alive because our faith is stronger than the COVID-19 virus!

The following information regarding our church activities is also important to know:

♥ The following Church activities, including but not limited to: Sunday worship, coffee fellowship, committee meetings, Wednesday morning Bible Study, and choir rehearsals are cancelled until we return to in-person worship. Committees and Ministry Teams that need to meet may do so via phone (conference call) or via ZOOM. Call the church office for assistance with these forms of communication.

♥ Our Ministry expenses continue even though we are not meeting for our usual activities. You can mail your weekly giving to the church office, click the “Give” tab on our website at www.covenantforyou.church, give through the Tithe.ly Mobile App which is available in the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store, or text the word “**give**” to the phone number **(920) 267-4801** and follow the prompts.

Jesus is still Lord of all, and we are still the people of Covenant UMC. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything! Remember to pick up the phone and call your neighbors and church friends just to see they are okay, and see if they might need anything! God is good, all the time, and all the time, God is good!

Peace,