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Dear Parish Family,

June 29, 2020

I miss being with you in-person and I know you miss being with each other. When we suspended in-person worship in March, we hardly imagined we would not be back together for Easter, let alone Pentecost. And, now, with the warmer weather and stores and restaurants opening up, we are all aching for life to get back to normal. Unfortunately, the case numbers here in Ohio and around the country are telling a different story. In Ohio, the case numbers are back to where they were in early May and hospitalizations have increased steadily over the past week. We must continue to remember that our life's calling is to love one another and during the time of COVID-19, we love by social distancing. Large churches meeting in-person have been hotspots for spreading the virus. Thankfully, we have technology that allows us to stay connected while we remain physically-distanced.

After much conversation with clergy and lay colleagues, review of Diocesan guidelines and pastoral letters, and participation in webinars (including the Cleveland Clinic and the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes), I have decided that we will not return to in-person worship this summer. I will re-evaluate at the end of the summer the possibility of outdoor worship in September and October. Much thought has been given to what in-person worship will look like if we are able to re-gather before we have a vaccine. Please see the enclosed guidelines for outdoor and indoor worship if we return to in-person worship during the pandemic. However, now is the time to think creatively about how we remain a loving community while we await a vaccine.

Let's begin by looking at the ministries underway at St. Paul's:

- Recorded Sunday Eucharist (Morning Prayer on the second Sunday of the month) – includes parishioners reading the lessons and providing musical selections (found on YouTube) – we are getting quotes on streaming technology
- Recorded weekly reflections on Tuesdays and Fridays – currently, our Tuesday series is looking at our stained-glass windows and our Friday series is interviews between family members reflecting on their lives during the pandemic (found on YouTube)
- Zoom Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am
- Carillon Concerts on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am
- Zoom Church School for our children on Sundays at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm (off for the summer)
- Recorded Godly Play Summer Stories
- Zoom Youth Group on Sunday evenings
- Zoom Total Chaos events
- Zoom Children and Youth Summer Camps
- Videos and gifts honoring our recent high school graduates
- Zoom Sung Evening Prayer (May 21, June 29, and July 22) – hosted by the Young Adult Group
- Zoom Meetings and Ministries: Adult Choir Church Music Classes, Adult Formation, Bell Choir, Children and Youth Choirs, Contemplative Prayer, EfM (Education for Ministry), Episcopal 101, GMAG (Global Mission Action Group), GCC (Greater Cleveland Congregations), Investment Committee, Men's Spirituality, Outreach, Parishioner Pals, Planned Giving, Stephen Ministers, Stewardship, Vestry

Our Lay Weeders continue to care lovingly for our gardens. Please come and enjoy them when you are out on your next walk! Stephen Ministers, Staff, Vestry and volunteers continue to call and check-in on parishioners. Our mask makers have made and delivered over 200 masks. Our Knitting Ministry continues to knit prayer shawls. Please let us know if you'd like a mask or a prayer shawl for you or a loved one! Our feeding ministry, Loaves and Fishes, and our pastoral ministry, Intercessory Prayer Chain, continue. Our Outreach Committee has been exploring ways St. Paul's can help meet community needs arising from the pandemic. Members of the committee met with members of Forest Hill Presbyterian to learn about their Abundance Pantry. We hope to begin partnering soon with Forest Hill in this food ministry. When you come by to look at our gardens, take a look at our Act II display windows across from the playground. Act II has made the move up to the West Wing and we look forward to a grand opening once the building reopens. In the meantime, our Act II Ministry Team has been thinking creatively about how to continue to serve our community. They are beginning to offer a personal shopping service. People call the shop to inquire about items they need. Options are offered and then chosen items are prepared for pick-up. Recently, we've had people calling about items in the display windows! Also, the ministry team is beginning to post items on Facebook Marketplace, Nextdoor and eBay.

The continuing work of many of our ministry teams is an inspiration to all of us on how we continue to love and serve during the pandemic. How might your committee continue to connect, care and serve? What is this time teaching us and how can we move forward in new ways? I welcome your ideas.

I know that COVID is having a financial impact on many families. I am grateful for whatever financial support you are able to give, either by check or on-line, to support our many ministries.

My thanks to our Staff, Wardens and Vestry for their hard work and dedication over the past few months as we have reimagined church and community during the pandemic. Thank you for all you do to nurture and grow this loving community. Please remember Jesus' loving words to his disciples (Matthew 28:20): "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne" followed by a small plus sign.

The Rev. Jeanne A. Leinbach, Rector

In-Person Worship – Outside

- Morning Prayer (no Eucharist)
- Southwest Lawn
- Room for approximately 30 families
- 6-8 ft. circles will be painted on the lawn – circles will be 6 ft. apart
- Bring own chairs and/or blanket
- Must sign-up in advance on-line or by calling the parish office
- Check-in on Fairmount sidewalk when arrive to facilitate contact tracing
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well
- Maintain social distancing throughout, including arriving and departing
- Face masks must be worn at all times, including children age 2 and over
- Please bring your own – we will have some on hand for people who forget
- Clergy will be wearing face masks
- Instrumental music only (no singing)
- No offering plates
- No receiving line
- No nursery care – parents please make sure young children will not wander
- Bathrooms on the ground level will be available - one person in the bathroom at a time

In-person Worship – Inside

- Morning Prayer (no Eucharist)
- Seating for 50 people (every 3rd pew – family members will be seated together)
- Must sign-up in advance on-line or by calling the parish office
- Enter through the north door (near the office) and check-in to facilitate contact tracing
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well
- Maintain social distancing throughout, including arriving and departing
- Enter the Nave through the hallway by the Chapel of the Cross
- Ushers will seat families
- Doors and windows will be open as much as possible
- Bulletins will be in the pews – all books and other items will be removed from the pews
- Face masks must be worn at all times, including children age 2 and over
 - o Please bring your own – we will have some on hand for people who forget
- Clergy will be wearing face masks
- Instrumental music only (no singing)
- No processional
- No offering plates
- No receiving line
- No nursery care – parents please make sure young children will not wander
- Bathrooms on the ground level will be available - one person in the bathroom at a time
- At the end of the service, ushers will guide departure through the north door