

Dear Westwood Family,

As you are aware, we are seeing a rise in Covid-19 cases not only across the country but also here in Fairfax. As a result of this surge, and in the interest of keeping everyone as safe as possible, we have decided to go **back to virtual worship services beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th**.

What does this mean for you?

~ This Sunday, November 22nd, worship will be live streamed live on Facebook and on our website as we have been doing since August. However, everyone leading in worship will be masked. If you want to attend this worship service in person, please register on REALM or by calling the church office. I'm excited to let you know that we will have Andre Towner as our guest preacher.

~ Beginning next Sunday, November 29th, we will premiere a Facebook Video each Sunday morning at 11:00 am like we were doing this summer. Moving back to a virtual service will allow us to again use many different people in worship. It will also mean that everyone speaking will be doing so without a mask which will make it easier to hear and understand.

~ We are asking everyone to set up an Advent Wreath in their home this year so we can light our candles together each week. We have several sets (wreath and candles) available for sale in the church office for \$10. You can e-mail or call Martha Newman in the office to reserve yours. Just remember the Church Office will be closed the latter part of next week.

For most of you, this change will not be that different. You will access the worship service as you have been doing. The only change will be in how the services are put together. For those of you who have been attending in person, this will mean a return to worshipping at home.

I realize these are strange and difficult times. And yes, it seems like things are going to get worse before they get better. But have hope. The light is coming. In fact, Advent reminds us that no matter how dark things seem – the light is coming. It may seem far away – but the light is coming.

Please feel free to e-mail or text or reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

I'm so happy to be your pastor!

Bryan