



August 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

Sunday, September 6th will mark 26 weeks of **Church at Home**. That's half a year since we were last able to gather in our sacred space to worship God with joy and wonder. That's 182 days without seeing your smiling faces in the flesh as we learn and grow together. These six months have been the hardest of my ordained ministry, but there have been moments of hope and joy in there as well. Churches United in Christ HELP ministry has been back up and running for three months now. Eleven households have their lights on or gas stoves lit because of the dedicated work of those volunteers. Wednesday Community Lunch continues to provide a meal, once a week, for the women and children housed by the Barren River Area Safe Space. Hundreds of masks, handmade by several parishioners have been given away. Our members serving with M.E.A.L.S., INC. have provided meals to more than 1,000 people since their restart last month. We are constantly finding new ways to radiate God's love to all.

After Governor Beshear and Bishop White invited congregations that had restarted in-person worship to close down again, our Restart Task Force took a few weeks to prayerfully consider our next steps. We feel quite comfortable that **A Good Place to Say Your Prayers** is a safe way to allow our members to experience the beauty of sacred space. If you haven't signed up for a prayer time, or if you'd like to come back again, please feel free to register at bit.ly/2QnkO5b or by calling the Parish Office. If you're hesitant to come because you don't know what you'd say to God, Mother Becca has developed a short prayer service leaflet you could use.

In our discussion, we became aware that the pattern of thinking that says, "this won't last forever" had us pushing decisions off by three or four weeks. "It's just another month" thinking has stifled our imaginations, and with the program year looming, we had to adjust our mindset. Rather than say, "we'll re-evaluate on September X," we decided to live into the uncomfortable reality that in-person worship will remain suspended indefinitely, and begin to dream of where Christ Episcopal Church was being called to grow, even in the midst of a pandemic. In September's Window, you'll see all kinds of Christian Education offerings. Our Sunday worship next month will feature hymns that are well known and beloved for you to belt out, praising God in your living room. In addition to hearing familiar voices as Lectors, we hope to give the Prayers of the People back to the People next month. Plans for a drive-through Pet Blessing service are being finalized as well. With fall approaching, we are prayerfully and carefully considering ways we might bring small groups of people together for outdoor fellowship like the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and Daughters of the King have done recently.

Twenty-six weeks is a long time, and we don't know how much longer it will last, but as the pandemic continues to change our lives, I'm thankful for the leadership of our vestry and staff, and for your continued patience and generosity of Spirit as we learn new things day by day.

Grace and Peace,

Steve