



We are a community united in God's love, actively sharing that love with all.
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November 16, 2020

Dear Friends:

Greetings! John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, had three basic rules he wanted people to follow: Do no harm. Do good. And to be in love with God and your neighbor! I believe the first rule – to do no harm – is a constant reminder as we surmount the perils of this pandemic. We place a premium on such things as wearing our masks and social distancing. We pay attention to our federal, state, and local mandates that keep us safe and healthy.

Recently your church leadership, after assessing the Contra Costa County guidelines for re-opening places of worship, concluded that it would be safe to re-open for worship on this coming Sunday, November 22nd. Coupled with our church re-opening protocol, we started the process of training our ushers and greeters in procedures to keep our congregation safe during worship. And of course, we continued to monitor the latest COVID-19 county data to ensure we could legitimately re-open.

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 infections in our area, it has become apparent that we must *indefinitely postpone our re-opening*. I know for some this comes as a disappointment. For others, even if we had re-opened, you already stated your intention not to be present in worship until there is a vaccine.

As to when we might re-open, we simply do not know. We are paying close attention to the COVID-19 data and will only re-open when it is safe for our congregation. Until then we will continue to offer livestream worship on Sundays at 10 AM, followed by our virtual coffee hour at 11 AM. We also have a variety of studies and other fellowship activities available.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin K. Carpenter".

The Rev. Colin Kerr-Carpenter
Senior Pastor, Walnut Creek United Methodist Church