

Trinity Presbyterian Church

2125 Tower Dr. Woodbury, MN 55125



June 30, 2020

Beloved Trinity Community:

As most of you know, several weeks ago, the Governor of Minnesota lifted many of the restrictions for meeting in places of worship. However, there is still considerable concern over the ongoing threat of the contraction and spread of Covid-19. According to most information available today, gathering in a congregational setting presents unique and greater risks which are different than a quick trip to the grocery store.

At its meeting on June 25, 2020, the Session decided to continue with online-only Zoom worship through the entirety of July and August 2020. Trinity's June Drive-in worship which was held in June, was well received, and therefore drive-in worship in the church parking lot will again be offered on July 19th and August 16th. Session also approved serving communion during the drive-in worship services, this in addition to drive through communion on the first Sundays for the month. At the July session meeting, the session will review the Minnesota COVID19 trends to consider an easing of restrictions. Trinity will participate in a Presbytery worship service scheduled for July 26 instead of a service at Trinity, this will enable your worship leaders to have a Sunday of Sabbath.

As a session we are approaching a return to physical gatherings in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While some may be willing to attend public worship in person, we know others will need or desire to continue to worship at home for quite some time.

The session has prepared a plan pertaining to how the congregation may proceed to host in-person gatherings. We intend to follow a "Three Phase Approach" to opening. For now, we will continue to host Zoom worship services in the sanctuary, with a small group of worship leaders, as we figure out the equipment and other needs for simultaneously providing in person services alongside online services.

We hesitate to post a date for moving on to Phase Two. As with Phase One, online access will continue to be available and high-risk individuals will be encouraged to stay home. The phased approach for returning to in-person worship has been shared with you before but can also be found on the Trinity website. <https://www.trinitywoodbury.org/covid-19-respoonse>

This is a new paradigm for all of us and we know there will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. Despite this, we will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. At the same time, let us trust that there will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new things God is doing, even now. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness. We will learn that we can do new things and we will find that our faith in God will increase!

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Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, be responsive to the Spirit, and be open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

Grace to you, and Peace,

Pastor April on behalf of the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church.



COMMUNION Sunday July 5, 2020 - On Sunday, July 5, 2020 we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship. Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, and cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice - perhaps grape or cranberry - or wine, with or without alcohol, or any beverage you want.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you may choose to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Prepare this special meal as you are moved.

DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION Sunday July 5, 2020 from 11-11:45 a.m.

If you would like to receive communion at Trinity on Sunday July 5, 2020, you may drive through the parking lot after worship to be served and receive a blessing. Pastor April will be wearing gloves and a mask and all elements are individually sealed direct from the manufacturer. We ask that you also wear a mask to receive communion and please remain in your vehicle.

FINANCIAL GIFTS AND OFFERING - We thank you for your generosity during these disrupting times and remind you there are several ways to give to Trinity:

Gifts can be made online at trinitywoodbury.org/donate

Gifts can be made via text 855.481.8171 or eGiving through Vanco.

Gifts can be sent through the U.S. Post Office to Trinity Presbyterian Church (address above).

If you need postage-paid envelopes, please call our office at 651.738.0045.

Gifts of Stock/IRA/Other: please reach out Dan Freeman at 651.731.1220 or email him at dbfreeman@comcast.net

Your continued giving is vital to Trinity's ministries & mission and is deeply appreciated!