



HICKORY UNITED EPC

A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

December 12, 2020

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Session strongly believes that corporate worship is vitally important to the spiritual health of our congregation. After prayerful consideration of the Governor's most recent recommendations, the Session has decided not to close the doors of the church for worship but to continue offering Sunday morning worship services at their regularly scheduled times.

Patty Hamilton and Ron Stewart will continue to offer their adult bible studies in the Fellowship Hall and the Choir Room respectively following the first worship service at 9:45 a.m. with masks in place and practicing six feet social distancing. Children's Sunday School has been placed on pause for the next three weeks. Lessons are available via our church website.

We continue to strongly advise you, that if you are planning to attend worship, but are experiencing 'flu-like' symptoms, please stay home. If your symptoms worsen, please seek medical evaluation. Anyone who is three years of age or older must wear a mask in the church at all times. Please use hand sanitizer when you first enter into the 'Welcoming Area' and refrain from hugging or shaking hands with anyone who is not in your immediate family.

As you enter the sanctuary, please allow the ushers to take you to your pew. Ushers have been instructed to intentionally fill the pews from the front to the back. **Masks are now to be worn at all times; including the time you are sitting/singing in your pew.** At the end of the worship service, ushers will recess the congregation from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please be patient. Social distancing of six feet is to be practiced at all times. Please do not gather in the 'Welcoming Area' before or after the worship services.

We are doing all that we can physically do, short of closing the church, to lessen the spread of the Covid virus. All restrooms, classrooms, and the sanctuary are sanitized before, in between and after each worship service. Attending worship services and/or adult bible classes at HUEPC is your own personal decision. Again, each of us is ultimately responsible for our own health. We understand and respect that some of you may feel uncomfortable with coming to church for worship during this difficult time. If this is the case for you, please stay home and watch the worship service through the link on our church's Facebook/ website pages or on when it is aired on Hickory T.V. during the week.

Judy and I are planning to drive to Kansas City on Christmas day to celebrate the birth of our newest grandchild. (Due date is 12-13.) To lessen our possible exposure to Covid-19, I will be working from home with the exception of attending Sunday worship services and the Christmas Eve candlelight services.

Let us all be thankful for the power and presence of God during this dark time in humanity and focus on the true light of Jesus Christ that continues to shine brightly. May you and yours have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Blessings, Dan