

Dear City of Hope Presbyterian Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the love of God our Father, the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

We pray that you are doing well overall. Some of us have been challenged by seasonal illness and we trust the Lord on your behalf for a speedy and complete recovery, 3 John 2.

We wanted to give an update for some temporary changes to our Sunday morning Worship Service that will be effective beginning this Sunday, November 15, 2020 and until further notice.

According to the latest news and updates, there has been a recent spike in coronavirus cases over the past weeks throughout the state of Maryland, as well as the further complications due to the annual Flu Season. Governor Larry Hogan has also given his recommendation for limiting time spent with others.

As shepherds and leaders, we want to err on the side of taking every precaution with respect to these developments and ensure as much as we are able that each of our members/attendees are kept as safe as possible as we weather this storm together.

At the time of surveying members of our congregation about returning to in-person worship service, coronavirus cases were dropping in the state of Maryland giving further motivation for a return to in-person services. However, since we actually began in person worship on October 25, numbers have been steadily rising, so we would like to take further precautions.

Meeting via Zoom is not ideal and certainly not at any point a goal for our time together. Many of us may be less enthusiastic about Zoom compared to in-person meetings for many very good reasons. All of us are a bit weary

due to the coronavirus context in our midst. That said, we are thankful for the ability to spend time together, even if it is not in the most ideal way and particularly as we approach a time of togetherness in the upcoming Thanksgiving Season.

Nevertheless, let us continue to pray for our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, to give us relief and restoration from this virus as He has in the past for so many other challenges that we have already faced and weathered by His grace. Our life is in Christ and He is faithful as He calls us to worship, trust and obey Him.

For now, starting this Sunday, November 15, 2020, we will be returning to 11AM Zoom meetings as before until further notice. We certainly pray and hope in the Lord that this measure is a temporary one that will soon be retired.

We further pray that you as a congregation do understand that you are loved and that your welfare is highly esteemed in our hearts and minds. Please do not fear, rather persevere and plan on participating during our Zoom Meetings.

Especially remember us in prayer that our heavenly Father's guidance and wisdom would be abundantly given to us each step of the way as we seek to shepherd each of you.

In the Love of Christ our Lord,
Pastor Brian C. Wood
Elder Tom Miller
Elder Ronny Wahba