

October 23, 2020**

Dear BUMC Congregation,

Up to this point our staff have been working diligently each week to bring both an in-person worship and engaged online experience, small group ministries, connections, phone calls, while also providing 50+ children a safe place to be during a global pandemic. Writing, recording, editing, producing, and publishing the Sunday services and media content has begun to overload the staff.

As such, the pastors have asked that for the month of November we divert our attention to allow space for other important work to happen. There are also administrative items that need priority; stewardship follow-up, website changes, and technological adjustments. The personnel team concurs with our pastors that giving staff space to make these adjustments, improve system processes for media production, and even begin to record videos for our *Figgy Pudding Telethon* are important for sustainable ministry.

This means that we need to decrease some activities to make room for new necessities and important traditions, and to decrease the pressure on our staff. For example, the 9:30 am online service will be a live and simpler service. As long as the health department doesn't recommend suspension of worship, or the hospital does not reach capacity, the 8:30 am BUMC sanctuary service and 10:00 am Living Waters onsite services will continue.

The 8:30 am and 9:30 am services will follow an ancient Christianity movement called Creation Spirituality. It follows four paths to finding God amidst the chaos, something we could all use during these uncertain times.

- The path of awe opens ourselves to God already here.
- The path of clearing gives our fears and hopes to God in prayer.
- The path of creativity takes the scripture and creates a new path to God.
- And finally, the path of transformation leaves us changed from when we entered worship and we leave more prepared to change the world.

As you can see, it is sure to be meaningful time of worship, albeit simpler.

Please know the Personnel Team is working diligently to support our staff and pastors during this difficult time. You are welcome to reach out if you have questions about these decisions.

Dr. Robert Flaherty, Chair

Scott Walgren

Sarah Savage

Nancy Hopkins

Rev. Eric Strader, Lead Pastor for Worship & Administration

****As of late in the day October 29th – we had 2 positive cases of COVID19 in the building and have decided to suspend 8:30am in person worship until further notice. Please join us online at 9:30am at www.bozemanumc.org/live and if you have questions call the office or email eric@bozemanumc.org**