



BOZEMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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January 6, 2021
Bozeman United Methodist Church,

Greetings in this new year! We pray for a great year as our community transitions beyond this pandemic. As you know, our in-person worship services have been suspended since November. We have repeatedly assessed these external metrics in hopes of relaunching in-person services in the new year, however the numbers simply do not meet our thresholds for worship.

Given this back and forth continues to provide angst and uncertainty for you, our staff, and our response team; given the continued high rate of hospitalization and our responsibility to support frontline healthcare workers and Bozeman Health, and given we hope to have a vaccine timeline for folks within the coming months that would allow a larger percentage of participation, the COVID response team has recommended we continue to pause our in-person worship with a plan to reevaluate in-person worship at the end of February. Lastly, while desire to worship in person is high, participation has been low. We hope you understand the importance of continuing to use our staff's resources wisely.

This is a moment in history we can never return from, as such we know digital expressions of worship will be part of our rich future. We recognize some consider this less than ideal for connecting with God, however, this is a moment to find and be part of community amidst this pandemic. It is easy to see who in our community feels connected, it is harder to see those that feel lost. As this time of stress and strain continues, please send up the SOS if you need help navigating the new ways of connection and relationship. We invite you to continue to support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, this way of being United Methodist people is still relevant, possible and important during this pandemic.

A continued word of thanks to Dr. Bob Flaherty and Jennie Card for their support and work on our COVID response team and their continued conversations.

Blessings,

Rev. Amy Strader
Lead Pastor Cong. & Comm. Engagement

Rev. Eric Strader
Lead Pastor Worship & Admin.