



Hooker Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1111 SE Greenville Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27858

Telephone (252) 756-2275

Fax (252)756-2101

Rev. Kara R. Swartz, Minister

<http://hm-cc.org/>

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Dear Church,

I pray that all of us are continuing to do, relatively, well and are continuing to trust God. Prayer has been a sustaining center as we have navigated how to do church amidst a global pandemic. We have had some stops and starts that prevented our re-gathering in person together as soon as we had hoped. Your understanding, patience, and willingness to learn and grow in faith through this area of church growth has been deeply appreciated. As current trends have been relatively steady the plan is to resume **Onsite Worship, in the Sanctuary on October 4th**. Onsite Worship will be offered every **1st and 3rd Sundays** for the foreseeable future as we gauge how this all works with the various worship opportunities offered and the melding of online and onsite worship.

The At-Home Worship Packets will continue to be sent out monthly. Bible Study each week will, for the time being, remain solely on Zoom and Facebook Live. We will also continue to keep all updated on any changes. Please know, to resume any form of in-person worship also means an acceptance of the risk in gathering. This risk continues to remain high enough, and will change as we enter into colder weather that we ask all to remember the Covenant of Best Practices for On-site In-Person Worship that were formed from the surveys sent earlier this year. Prayerfully know that these practices only lessen COVID-19 transmission, they do not prevent it.

Covenant of Best Practices:

1. Stay Home if you are ill, exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19, or if you have been in contact with anyone who is diagnosed or awaiting testing results, even if you have yet to display any symptoms—within the last 14 days.
2. Wear a Mask upon entering the building, throughout worship, until you have left the building.
3. Practice Physical Distancing in entering, sitting, and exiting. Also, in greeting one another without physically touching, shaking hands, hugging, etc. Furniture will be moved, arranged to help with this, and for cleaning.
4. We will have No Contact Communion and No Contact Offering. You may bring your own communion or utilize Hand Sanitizer before picking up the Pre-Packaged Ones. Offering Plates will be placed for you to leave your tithes and offerings as you enter or exit. You are asked to also dispose of your own trash as you leave.
5. Youth are encouraged to sit and worship with their family. There will be no Nursery, Children's Moment, Worship & Wonder, or Grow-In Worship at this time.
6. Our Order of Worship is different to accommodate the Live-Stream, there will also be No Singing.
7. There will be No Paper Bulletins, everything will be on the screens.
8. Restrooms will be available; We ask that one person utilize any Restroom at a time, wash your hands, and then use the sanitizer spray provided, also wait 2-3 minutes before entering the Restroom after another has left.
9. There will be No Coffee, Water, or Doughnuts. You may bring your own from home, as always.
10. Sunday-School Bible Study will continue by Zoom and Facebook Live, and will not be in person at this time.
11. Any visiting with others is encouraged at a safe 6+ foot no-contact distance in the parking lot after worship has concluded, not in the building.

Church has not been, will not look, will not feel, and honestly, will not be the same for quite a while. Even so, we are Hooker Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and we are continually growing in faith, as we grow in love of one another, our community, and our world. We are the Church, changing and adapting to the time we live in. We are finding ways to be the church here and now, and always seeking to share the Good News of Jesus' ministry in our world.

I continue to hold all in prayer as we grow in faith and grow in love together,

Rev. Kara R. Swartz