



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Dear Church,

2020 continues to be year we all will remember. I think by now we can all be honest and open with one another. This has been a struggle! We are feeling the widespread and ranging impacts of the catastrophic events of this year. As thankful as we are for worship via Facebook Live and Zoom, it does not take the place of in-person worship. Our hearts long for a return of community, to hug and greet one another. But this COVID-19 epidemic continues to teach us lessons in perseverance and resiliency.

Your Board leadership and I have talked about a plan for reopening. We have consistently agreed to wait until Phase 3 to begin this process. As I am sure you are aware, Gov. Cooper announced on July 14 that North Carolina would remain in Phase 2 for another three weeks. Our commitment is to the safety of our people, especially those who are at the highest risks. When we are in Phase 3 and have a better gauge of safety, I will work with Board leadership to begin the process of reopening. Until such a time, please continue to join us online or via Zoom. Feed and nourish your spirit as best as you can!

I know you are weary and anxious. To confess, I am too. But the time is just not right. We are seeing COVID-19 continue to reach closer and closer to home. Furthermore, the scientific evidence consistently shows church worship as one of the most high-risk activities. We ask for your prayers, support, and most especially patience.

My prayers remain with each of you. Please continue to stay in contact with one another and with me. We will remain resilient and we will emerge from this stronger than ever!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Andrew Shue

Senior Minister

First Christian Church of Greenville, NC