



Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE – November 18, 2020

Dearest friends and neighbors,

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,*” declares the LORD. “*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*” The words of Isaiah the prophet indicate that the sovereign wisdom and ways of God are not easily comprehended. Nor, might I add, is a pandemic easily comprehended. It has been eight months since the we felt the weight of COVID-19 and the burden has not lifted. I am so deeply grateful to all who have attended in-person services on Sunday mornings, and for those who share in worship through our YouTube services.

For in-person worship we have asked everyone to wear a face mask when in the building, taking everyone’s temperature at the door and keeping a log of those in attendance. We have installed offering boxes at each entrance to the sanctuary. Giving a wave, rather than a handshake or a hug, is now our standard greeting. All worship information is shown on the screen in the chancel area in place of printed bulletins and some pews are taped off to maintain a safe distance. A team of volunteers cleans the pews and surfaces between worship services. Yet the coronavirus persists and the number of cases in surrounding communities, and in Allegheny County, have risen sharply in recent days.

Therefore, exercising reasonable caution and wisdom, the Session of KMUPC has decided to suspend in-person worship services and Sunday School for the next three weeks, which includes Sunday, November 22, November 29, and December 6. The building will be closed to outside groups during this period as well. The church office will remain open and we prayerfully hope to resume in-person worship services and Sunday School on **Sunday, December 13, 2020.** We ask that all of you join us in seeking the well-being of all God’s people at Ken Mawr Church. There are a couple calendar alerts: We will have an **Online Thanksgiving Day Service at 10 AM** scheduled on YouTube. The annual Congregational Meeting for the election of officers will be held on Sunday, December 13 rather than December 6. And pre-filled Communion cups may be picked up at the church during the week before our next Communion service on Sunday, December 6.

In the midst of these changing circumstances, God has promised: “*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth...*” (Isaiah 55:10-11). Here at Ken Mawr we are blessed with wise and compassionate church leaders. We remain focused on *Declaring God’s Grace & Demonstrating God’s Love, as Directed by God’s Word* in these uncertain times.

And thanks to all of you who have maintained your faithful giving of tithes and offerings throughout this pandemic. We are blessed by your generosity. Also, if you have never participated in worship through YouTube, you can search “Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church” at YouTube.com or connect by the link at kenmawrchurch.org. Let us pray without ceasing, Christian friends! I remain...

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl McDonald