



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2020

In light of: the growing number of Covid-19 infections in Vermont, increased hospitalizations, the onset of flu season, the potential spreading of the disease during holiday gatherings and the advice of our Governor and experts in infectious disease, I strongly urge that **worship not be held in person at least through the end of this year.**

If you have worshiped outside or have begun gathering indoors with social distancing, these actions have seemed reasonable in some locations and with lots of precautions. However, the environment in which we live has changed as colder weather drives us indoors. Children have returned to school and are participating in sporting events. People are weary from the constraints resulting from the disease and are becoming less careful about wearing masks, social distancing, and not coming into contact with those beyond our "pod" or family.

Many of our congregations and clergy have reminded us that while some have a fairly low risk of getting Covid-19 or, if infected have a relatively mild case, it is those whom we might infect and who will not be able to fight off the virus that we need to keep in mind. In the language of our faith, we are our brother/sister/sibling's keeper.

I know this is a hard word to hear. There is hope on the horizon as promising drug trials for vaccines and medicine to treat those already infected come closer to making it through the trials and become widely available.

We are not alone. We can survive this time, see the gifts hidden within and take care of one another. As it says in Hebrews 6:19a:

***We have this hope, a sure and steady anchor of the soul...***

In peace and hope,

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak  
Conference Minister

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