



UPDATE FROM RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

SHARING THE JOURNEY... SAFELY



Friends,

We miss you!!!! We miss you in worship, on the Green, at congregational meals, in the choir and all the other places our lives naturally intersect.

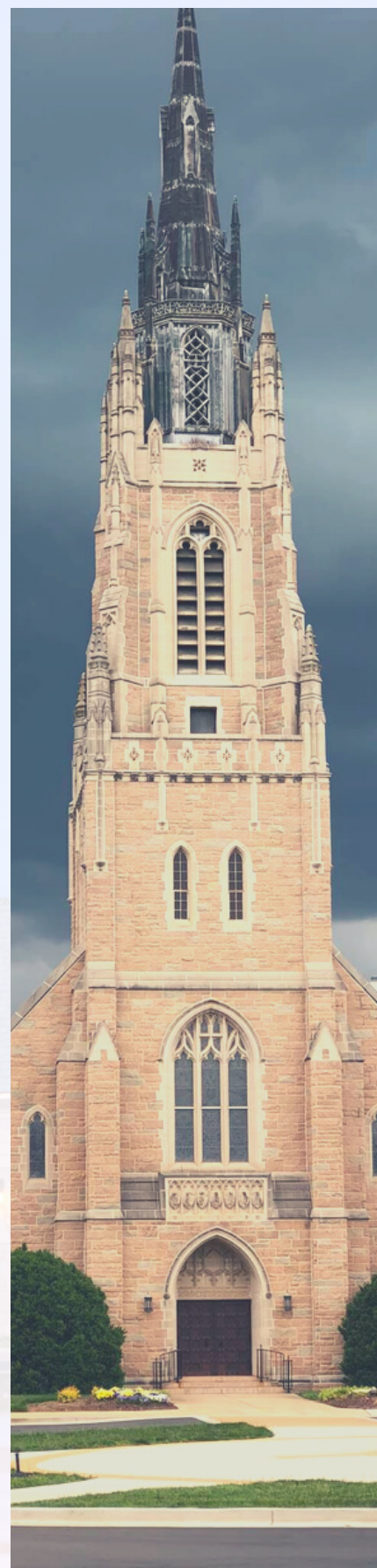
Absence does indeed make the heart grow fonder, mostly because it clarifies the richness found in sharing the journey with others.

As we trust you have noticed, Covenant's Session and Staff are making every effort to sustain — and, in many cases, enhance — the vitality of our congregation's life. Worship, though online, continues to be compelling with many baptisms, memorial services and challenging sermon series. Our global and local outreach efforts have pivoted toward essential needs such as food and water, needs nearly unimaginable a year ago. Education and Congregational Care efforts have become even more vital during this time of relative isolation. We are grateful for your participation.

The Re-Opening Task Force meets regularly to consider how we can best utilize our campus and capacities to 'love God and neighbor.' We have consulted with experts in infectious disease, epidemiology and even air flow/ventilation. We are saddened that the public health crisis is actually escalating at this time. Epidemiologists expect this trend to continue in the coming months, mostly due to the seasonal move indoors.

However, we are pleased to be able to make several important adjustments to our guidelines. We hope and trust these will strengthen us in faith while preserving our physical safety.

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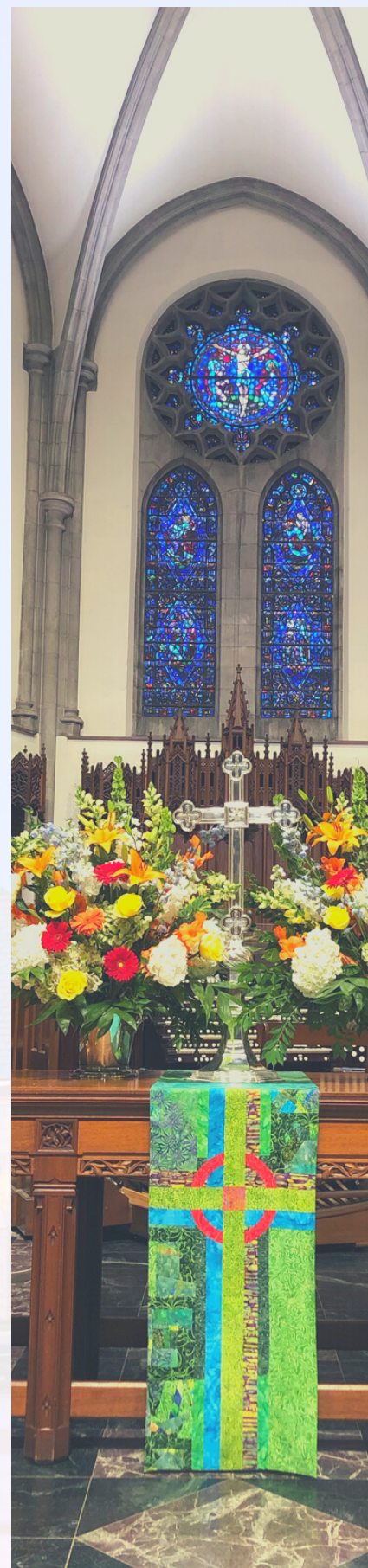
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1. We will host an on-campus Christmas Eve worship experience that promises to be meaningful, safe, and memorable. Details are forthcoming, but we hope you'll make plans now to attend with loved ones with whom you feel safe sharing proximity.
2. The Sanctuary remains open for prayer and meditation on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will enhance that prayer time on the four Mondays of Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21) at noon with 15 minutes of Advent and Christmas hymns/songs, scripture readings and lighting of the Advent candle. Consider making Advent more meaningful by attending one or more of these times.
3. Our Recreation Wing will open Nov. 9 with a carefully planned process for registration, strategically re-designed space and enhanced building ventilation/filtration. Space will be appropriately limited, and we hope to offer more time slots as the pandemic trends in a helpful direction. Adjustments will continue to be made as wisdom suggests, and we appreciate your extraordinary support and patience as we continue down a faithful path.

If you are eager to understand the tremendous impact your commitment is making, we invite you to attend this year's Stewardship Dinner, normally limited to Elders due to space constraints. This year, it is open to the congregation through the marvels of technology!

It will be fun, informative and hopeful. [Find details here.](#)

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In the meantime, let us make three requests of you:

- Attend to your spiritual vitality (and that of your loved ones) by participating in worship and/or some kind of study. It's a long road, and we all need nourishment along the way;
- Find a way to serve/give of yourself. It may be as simple as making sandwiches for our homeless neighbors or as sacrificial as serving on the Christmas Eve host team. Whatever your capacity, find a way to serve and give;
- Connect with someone you miss. Call someone you used to see in the pew or on the Green. Have a cup of coffee (outside please!) with someone from Covenant you enjoy. Initiate contact with someone. They will love hearing from you, and you'll be glad you did.

Thank you for being the extraordinary congregation you are. It's a joy and privilege to serve with you.

In Christ's service,

Bob

BOB HENDERSON

Senior Minister

Deana

DEANA COOPER

Clerk of Session



SHARING THE JOURNEY....

Grab-N-Go meals on Wednesday evenings

- Our kitchen staff prepares meals available for curbside pick-up on Wednesdays for you to re-heat in the oven at home. [Details here.](#)

Individual meetings with clergy

- Our clergy staff continues to meet with congregation members on a regular basis. These meetings carefully adhere to appropriate health protocols and can take place on site when deemed necessary.

Connecting with a friend for the journey

- Stephen Ministers are companions on your journey, even if it simply means taking a walk or talking on the phone after a tough day. [Details here.](#)

First Sunday Talks

- A series called *Intersections* explores the relationship between faith and areas of life we often view through a secular lens. Join us via Zoom on the first Sunday of every month. [Details here.](#)

Fresh Air. Fellowship. Hike with Covenant.

- Join Covenant friends for monthly outings on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings to area parks. Hikes are accessible to all ages and skill levels. [Details here.](#)



