

## **COVID Updates / Advent Practices**

There is perhaps no time of year we more long to be together as families and faith communities than Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. This year, that must of necessity look different.

### **Advent Practices**

We know most of you have plans in place for your Advent worship and practices. If you want to hear what others are doing, or need a late idea or two for your programming, please join your Presbytery colleagues in an **ADVENT 2020 PRACTICES Zoom call** on Tuesday morning, November 10, at 10:30am. The link is below.

Topic: Advent Practices

Time: Nov 10, 2020 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86504884243?pwd=cUlwdVc5bTVJbWdEcGxsQWtpM282dz09>

Meeting ID: 865 0488 4243

Passcode: 660240

## **COVID Updates**

The Presbytery continues to participate in regular calls with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, MDH reported that COVID cases reached new record daily highs in cases and hospitalizations in Minnesota (and there are similar reports from Wisconsin); across the United States as a whole, daily cases topped the 100,000-mark on Wednesday and continue to climb. More directly to us, *MDH reported that faith-related outbreaks in October showed an 80% increase over the previous three months in individual cases connected to faith gatherings like worship, weddings and funerals.* As faith communities and churches, we must play a role in stopping the spread.

Here are updated statistics and resources from the Minnesota Department of Health, as your sessions continue to make informed decisions on church activities and actions.

The Minnesota Numbers (November 1, 2020)

- Total positive: 160,923
- Patients who no longer need to be isolated: 136,457
- Total approximate number of completed tests: 2,949,591
- Deaths: 2,530
  - o Deaths among cases that resided in long-term care or assisted living facilities: 1,760

- Total cases requiring hospitalization: 10,849
  - Total hospitalized in ICU: 2,805

*Numbers are cumulative since Jan. 20, 2020.*

The number of lab-confirmed positive tests among Minnesota residents will be updated daily on [Situation Update for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) with test results from the previous day. The page also includes a map of counties with confirmed cases, and more.

[Safe Funerals and Memorial Services: Updated Guidelines](#)

[MDH Resources for Places of Worship](#)