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Dear Friends,

As we say goodbye to Pastor Sarah, we should remember all of the great work she did with us over the last 16 months. I personally want to thank her for building relationships with the members of the congregation, as quickly as she did. It was a very easy transition to allow her into our church community and she fit in well. We send her off with best wishes on her next endeavor. God Bless and keep in touch!

This Sunday, we get to say "Hello" to our new bridge Pastor Christoph Schmidt! Our Executive Committee has had the privilege to meet Pastor Christoph a couple times over the last two weeks, and I am very excited to hear his sermons and work with him through the Advent and Christmas Seasons. With COVID-19, this year's holiday season will certainly be different than years past; but the opportunity to bring our worship, praise, and gifts to the Christ child will not pass us by. It has been difficult for the Council and the WAM teams to make any definite plans for the upcoming holiday season, not knowing the exact course our worship style will take. A few different ideas are being thrown around for both indoor and outdoor services. While I cannot predict the future, I am certain that this year's Christmas will be a memorable one.

At present, we are still planning on outdoor worship for at least the next two weeks. Our building has some limitations in that we do not have a ventilation system that circulates clean air as much as it could, which has held us behind the curve. I have heard of other local churches that are worshipping inside already. Some have had good success in staying healthy, and others have been forced to go back to online worship. While I personally would love to be indoors on Sunday mornings, we have chosen to keep our employees, volunteers, and congregation as safe as possible. The Executive Council meets weekly to discuss any updates to worship and fellowship.

Speaking of fellowship, our church building is open for small groups and teams to meet. If you are part of a team that has not met in a while, please think about getting together (safely) and continuing your ministry work. We ask that you reserve the fellowship hall or sanctuary ahead of time to make sure there is plenty of space for all. Also, if you do use the building, there is a cart with cleaning supplies available to wipe down surfaces that your group has touched. And of course, masks are required.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I'm available anytime by phone, text, or email. Have a blessed week!!

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