

Message to the congregation from the Salem In-Person Worship Team:

Our team consists of Earl Bricker, Jayne Clouser, Sharon Higgins, Connie Sue Novotny, Sue Welch, and Rev Matthew Hunt. We want you to know that the VMST (our church board) asked us to gather and evaluate if and when we can come back for in-person worship. We met via Zoom on Wednesday November 4th to discuss if and when we can come back for in-person worship in the midst of a pandemic. At the time, the consensus was that we would like to come back for in-person worship during Advent if we could socially distance safely. We even have a plan in place on how to come back safely when the right time comes. However we decided this is not the right time – with rapidly rising COVID-19 cases in our community, the lack of key volunteers necessary to worship safely (we need quite a few), and continued requests from the Adams County Health Department for churches to only offer virtual worship services we decided to delay coming back for in-person worship until the risk of harm decreases and the ability to come back safely increases. We care deeply about you and this faith community. Pastor Matt is working closely with the leaders and ministries of the church to make Advent and Christmas special and meaningful. This includes Drive Thru Communion on Sunday December 13th when you can also get a candle to light while you watch the virtual Christmas Eve service. We need your encouragement. We need your support. We need your prayers. The ministries of Salem Church have continued to make a difference in people's lives because of your giving, your participation, and your prayers. Thank you. We will be meeting periodically to re-evaluate our worship opportunities. We will keep you updated.