

The COVID-19 Journey

During the week of March 8-15, the entire country came to a screeching halt. COVID-19 touched every aspect of American life, including religious institutions. On March 15, the Interim Minister and Deacons cancelled Sunday worship.

During the next few weeks and following several Deacon Zoom meetings, the Deacons recommended that we begin Zoom Worship services. We were zooming all over the place. Deacons collaborated, business meetings were conducted, and worship services resumed at 11:00 Sunday. Each week, about 30 devices signed in for worship. Without wavering, we have followed the lead of both the health experts and our governor.

Deacons determined to keep up with church families by calling weekly. They also began sending daily devotions called "Locked Down with the Lord." Sylvia Coates kept everyone informed of prayer requests. Our administrative assistant, Heather, has been very helpful, facilitating the devotionals, posting to our Facebook page, and publishing the Messenger.

The Deacons developed a set of safety guidelines in anticipation of resuming onsite worship. The Virginia Governor gave the okay to resume gatherings for churches under 50 in attendance. June 20, Father's Day, was our first Sunday back. For a variety of reasons, we moved worship from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. Attendance has been in the mid-20s. On July 15, the church approved changing the onsite worship time to Sundays 9:00 am to be followed by Zoom worship at 11:00 am. We anticipate these changes to begin in mid-late August.