

June 18, 2020

Dear Palm Schwenkfelder Church family,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the whole church family let me affirm that I love and miss seeing you all in person. I pray that this letter finds you safe and well while we all continue to find ourselves in the face of a global pandemic. Back in March, as community members and good neighbors, we made the decision to stop in-person worship services to help slow the spread of COVID 19 and keep our vulnerable population in the church safe. Montgomery County has now transitioned to the Yellow Phase, and our congregation has assigned a Health and Safety Team, which will be chaired by Mr. Ed Bieler. Currently serving on the Team in addition to Ed from our Board of Trustees are Moderator, Lawrence Croll, Alex Jalowy and Andy Kriebel. Representing our Deacons are Joanne Luz and Blake Master. Our Church staff joining the Team are Pastor Nick, Barb Master, and Kevin Master. We will be meeting regularly to assess current situations, best practices and timelines as we move forward together. If you have questions or concerns related to the church and COVID 19 any of us will be happy to listen, respond, and share.

For the health and safety of our church community, as well as with guidance from denominational bodies, community partners, and the Insurance Board, Palm will not be attempting to return to in-person worship until Montgomery County has entered the Green phase. In addition, with vacations and family commitments, we anticipate that early August will be the most likely time to begin gathering together again. Please be aware that worship will be a different experience when we are able to return with no congregational singing and social distancing measures in place, and that as a congregation we are committed to continue making worship accessible on-line even after we begin celebrating in-person again. Currently you can access our worship services through the church website [www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com](http://www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com) or on our Facebook page with this link that will take you to all the videos that have been posted <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PalmSchwenkfelderChurch/videos/>.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and offerings, but thank you as well to all those who have had to struggle to learn a new technology, who have worked to find new ways to connect, and for reaching out to those who are isolated. May we continue to grow in the faith of Jesus Christ and trust fully in the Hope and Love, which see us through every moment.

Faithfully,

The Health and Safety Team