

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 63

Miller, South Dakota 57362

(605) 853-3386 www.millerpresby.com

August 28, 2020

Grace and Peace!

Everybody keeps wondering what the “new normal” will be, and trying to get ready for it. It is strange to live in a time when nobody knows what life together will look like 3 three months from now, or six months, or a year. Some are predicting that we never will quite return to the life we had before COVID-19. I don’t know.

So many people have suffered so many large and small losses. People can’t visit each other as they would like to. Many don’t feel safe going to church or the grocery store. For a while we were limiting funeral congregations to ten people. And, of course, something like 175,000 Americans have died in the pandemic, and that number grows by the day. So many losses.

So when the dust settles, I am sure it will be true that things will not be the same. Even *we* will not be the same as we were. But—good news!—some things do not change. The love of God does not change. The grace and mercy and forgiveness we are promised from that loving God do not change. More and more, I take comfort in that.

But also, more and more, I wonder what this pandemic calls us to. If things are not the same as before, then maybe our mission in the world is not exactly the same either. Who are we all called to be in this time of contagion, and in the time after? I am hopeful we are all putting our hearts and minds to work on this question. If you have thoughts about it, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Sunday school resumes this week. We will be taking precautions to keep teachers and students safe. But it means we will have more children around, and that is always fun. Join us in person if you can. If not, make sure to find the service at 10:00 on Sunday at millerpresby.com.

Blessings,

Brian Jones