

First Presbyterian Church

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Grace and Peace!

On March 13, 2020, I wrote a letter to the congregation explaining that since the president had declared a national emergency because of the novel coronavirus, we would be taking precautions in worship, and we would be suspending in-person Sunday school. A week later, we suspended in-person worship.

That was 45 weeks ago. Just then we were at the beginning of something we didn't know would last so long. Could it be that we are now at the beginning of the end of that long, drawn-out affair? We have had a lot of surprises along the way, and there may be more, so I don't want to count our chickens until they are hatched. At the same time, I am beginning to feel optimistic.

I think it is exactly at this time, that we might be tempted to rush things. Hand County saw some difficult days back in November and December. Even so, when all is said and done, if we don't have another wave of COVID cases, we will have been fortunate. But I have often noticed that most of us, when we are doing something difficult or unpleasant, as we are now, have a tendency to want to take our foot off the gas just a little too early. Doing so in this case could be tragic.

It would help me if you would put your minds and hearts to the task of figuring out what our church will be like—or should be like—when the pandemic is over. I am sure it will not be the same as before. Whatever that will be, we need to be planning for it now, even as we remain vigilant.

Blessings,
Brian Jones