

First Presbyterian Church

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Grace and Peace!

In the past year, probably nothing has changed our lives more, in the short term, than the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has made it difficult or impossible for us to do a lot of things we think are important. One silver lining to this is that we may have had a chance to re-think and re-prioritize. Maybe some things we have been unable to do are just fine not being done. Maybe they are best done by others.

But we have paid a price, in great sickness and death. And another price we have paid has been in our inability to gather together—all of us—to worship God with prayers and singing. We have been unable to be in close contact with others. We have been unable to visit people who need to be visited.

Maybe we see a light at the end of the tunnel. We have heard stories of new—possibly more dangerous—strains of the virus. But at the same time, we are finally just beginning to get the vaccine we have always known would be the best hope of putting away these restrictions we have been living under.

I note that South Dakota has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country. That has to be good, and we can only hope that trend continues.

God continues to bless us and give us hope. I look forward to the day when we can all join together in worship, thanking God for the gift of modern medicine and science, for gifted doctors and nurses and care-givers, for neighbors who take care to protect each other. These are all blessings from the one who loves us, and has promised to be with us through everything, even a pandemic.

We are blessed.

Blessings,

Brian Jones