

Dear Members of Ladue Chapel,

Due to the dangerous rise in Covid-19 infections in our community and out of an abundance of caution and concern, your session decided at their last meeting on Wednesday, November 18, to put the reopening plans for worship at Ladue Chapel on hold for at least the remainder of this calendar year.

While statistics are often hard to interpret, what convinced us to take this step is the following: the current numbers tell us that out of fifty (50) people in worship, eleven would be infected with the virus. These eleven would then, in turn, infect two more people each. This means at the end of a worship service, more than thirty (30) people would be infected and take the virus home to their loved ones. In our opinion and in the opinion of our Health Task Force, this presents an unacceptable risk. Furthermore, given the fact that most of our members belong to a high risk group for infection (50 years and older), we want to assure everybody's health and safety as best as we know how.

As for small groups (Bible studies, book groups, etc.), we decided to suspend access to the building until two weeks after Thanksgiving. This decision is also guided by what many if not most school districts in our area have concluded. However, we will, of course, continue to provide access to all people who participate in and conduct worship, so that our worship life continues unabated. Also, nursery school will continue as they are under the rigorous guide lines of the Missouri Department for Health.

We did not arrive at this decision lightly. All of us long to come back to church to give thanks to God for God's abundant blessings, especially with the Advent and Christmas season fast approaching. However, this is not the time to let our frustrations and our longing get the better of us. With the announcements of highly effective vaccines right around the corner, we know as people of the resurrection that there is new life already on the horizon. The time when we can be together again in person is near.

We will also provide more worship opportunities for you in this holy season, and our elders, deacons, Stephen Ministers and pastors will make every effort to personally reach out to you.

We thank you with our whole hearts for your understanding, faithfulness and support. Please know that we will pray for you as we know you are praying for us.

May the God of life and hope surround you with strength and comfort in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Anne Duncan,  
Clerk of Session