

October 16, 2020

Dear Northgate Family,

On September 21, the Bishop of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Michael McKee, informed us that Metro District churches, of which Northgate UMC is a part, **could** resume indoor, in-person worship on October 4th. However, that was provided that the leadership of each church agreed that it was safe to do so for each church's given congregation and that appropriate protocols had been put in place for the safety of the membership.

It was the recommendation from your church leadership that we wait a couple of weeks just to see how the numbers continue to trend as to the infection rate in Dallas County. At that time, the "Dallas County COVID-19 Related Health - Guidance for the Public" about religious services had been reduced to a level orange, **which meant we could have returned to in-person worship under certain guidelines** (and if our church leadership determined it appropriate to do so, as directed by the Bishop.)

As of this past weekend, Dallas County announced it was returning to a **Level Red** in the watch and care of COVID-19 Related Health. **This means that churches should remain or return to mainly virtual/streaming worship instead of in-person worship.**

Consequently, the leadership of the church has determined that we continue to follow the "**Do No Harm**" directive and we **Will NOT RETURN To In-Person Worship on Sunday October 25th as had been planned.**

We know this is disappointing to a great many of you. It is our prayer and hope that once again that the Dallas County area cases of COVID-19 decline and we can return to in-person worship.

Please continue to be prayerful in this journey that all of us are on, and we will see you in the contexts of our Facebook Live, Pastor Orr's YouTube page and the audio version on Sermon by Phone on Sundays as we try to lead a worship experience that is meaningful to you and that will keep you safe. Please keep a close watch on our church website for upcoming information as we move through these changing times.

May God bless you and keep you well!

Pastor Orr