

Values for Pandemic Ministry

Guided by the Spirit

We will engage in discernment, seeking God's guidance and wisdom, and listening deeply to one another.

Focused on safety, especially for the most vulnerable

We will abide by all public health recommendations/mandates, and remember the words of 1 Corinthians 10:23: *"All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up."*

Inspired by our Mission Statement

We will seek to embody our highest shared intentions, which have been expressed in our church's mission statement.

Committed to Excellence... and mindful of limitations

We will recognize and honor that while we are all "in the same storm", we are not in the same boats. Every member of our community (church members and staff, young and old) is experiencing varying degrees of distress, uncertainty, trauma, and disappointment. We will absolutely do our best to serve this congregation with energy, creativity, and faithfulness - and we will give one another grace when our "pandemic best" is not equivalent to what we are capable of doing in normal times.

Rooted in relationships

While a ministry of embodied presence remains largely out of our grasp, we will pour our energies into making genuine personal connections with our

community. We will employ phone calls, hand written notes, technology and, when possible and permissible, social distanced in-person visits.

Grounded in hopeful realism

We recognize with sorrow that some ministries – even cherished ones – cannot be recreated in this context. We will not give into despair, but neither will we dabble in empty idealism. Rather, we will proceed with intentional openness, exploring new models of ministry. We will hold plans for the future lightly, trusting God’s promise to the exiled Israelites: “For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

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