

The Anglican Parish of St. Francis

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My brothers and sisters,

As I am sure most of you are now aware, Manitoba has seen a spike in the number of Covid cases over the past few weeks and Winnipeg and surrounding areas have stepped back to a “Code-Orange”. Naturally, Manitoba is not unique in this. Many other provinces are also seeing a rise, as well as, quite disturbingly, many countries. This has led some in the scientific community to wonder if this might be the beginning of the so called “second wave” we have all feared. On top of that, we are now entering the flu season which brings with it a flood of other health concerns, all of which puts a strain on our health care system.

Yesterday evening our parish pandemic response team met to discern our way forward. It was decided that we will NOT resume in-person church services at this time. It is my sincere hope that you understand how very difficult it is for our team to make these decisions, either to open up or to close . . . or what reopening safely should look like . . . all in keeping with provincial directives and diocesan guidelines. Like you, we too long for the day when we can get back to “normal” and reconnect with those of our Christian family who mean so much to us. This day will come but it does not seem to be now.

In the meanwhile, we will continue to offer online worship services each Sunday. Our parish response team will monitor the situation as we move into the fall. We will listen to the scientific community. We will adhere to diocesan policies. We will stay connected to one another in creative ways. And of course, we will pray. Ultimately, this will one day become part of our history and serve to shape us into a new community.

Please continue to stay safe. St. Francis will re-evaluate our situation towards the end of October, early November, at which time we will determine our reopening position.

This letter comes with my warmest personal wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Fr Wayne