



18 November 2020

Dear SsAM Family,

Our lives and lifestyles were altered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and our church stopped gathering indoors to worship over eight months ago. The decision to close our doors to in-person worship, in order to protect the members of our congregation and love our neighbors as ourselves was not difficult. Determining, however, how and when to regather indoors is.

In order to reopen responsibly, a robust and highly detailed plan is required that takes into account multiple aspects including CDC and State of Delaware regulations. This plan must be established and approved by the Diocese, as a measure of ensuring it captures the most current and up to date understanding of public health.

We are pleased to share a regathering taskforce has been formed and is currently taking steps to build such a plan. This is a group of volunteers who have a passion for SsAM and our mission. Until this work is complete, our church on 8th and Shipley will remain closed to in-person worship as well as meetings and special events. As a result, we will not plan re-gather until March 31, 2021. This decision will be evaluated by Vestry by February 1, 2021.

COVID-19 does not discriminate as hundreds of thousands of people have contracted the virus and the number of hospitalizations and deaths continues to rise. To that end, SsAM must continue doing our part to protect ourselves, and the people with whom we interact daily. Online services and morning and evening prayers will continue. As we are an extremely relational and highly missional community, we will continue to explore creative ways to connect all of us during this exceptional time.

Sincerely,

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.  
Rector

Rachel Gaskell  
Sr. Warden

Peggy Shane  
Jr. Warden