Did you ever notice how many different times in the Christmas story the best made plans end up changing? Mary and Joseph would not have planned for a baby before getting married, or expected to travel when she was close to giving birth, and the magi didn’t anticipate following a star to the sleepy town of Bethlehem, nor to receive a message in a dream to go home by a different route. But sometimes, even when its disappointing, plans change.

Last night the Reopening Committee met to assess church activities in light of the current surge in Covid-19 cases. We considered many factors, including the current strain on our local emergency services and we decided to pause in-person worship and in-person activities through January 20, 2022. At that time the team will meet again to reassess.

It is our prayer that this is temporary, we do understand the importance of meeting in person. However, as a church committed to loving God and people, the health and safety of the people around us is essential.

While we cannot meet in person we can still be in ministry. We will meet online for worship; our Epiphany celebration is this Sunday. Zoom link and other info is posted on the webpage, simplygraceumc.com.

**Join us for live worship on Zoom**

**Log into:**

<https://gnjumc.zoom.us/j/98657500877>

Thanks for your support and prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Gina