



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

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January 21, 2021

For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference,

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness and Hope of the world!

The last ten months have been so very difficult to all of us. We have been confronted by and are living through a pandemic that has claimed over 400,000 lives and made millions sick in our country. Many of us are mourning the loss of loved ones and have watched others struggle as they fight for their lives. Among those struck by the illness are some of our pastors, parsonage families, church members, and our families. Our hearts go out to one another as our struggles and pains continue.

However, we begin to hear some encouraging developments in the last weeks. Vaccines are now being administered. While we are still in a spike in the number of new cases reported, we are seeing some positive downward movement.

With these encouraging signs, I want you to know that the Cabinet and I are prayerfully discerning ways to guide our congregations into the next steps of reentry and expect to have guidelines developed that will be disseminated by February 2nd. I solicit your prayers as the Cabinet seeks the next faithful and safe steps for our churches to resume in person worship and gathering.

The Cabinet and I join you in praying for the day when we can safely worship together face to face. By God’s grace, may this soon be possible.

I am grateful beyond words for your patience, faithfulness, and steadfastness during this pandemic. Together with you, I put my hope and trust in God who cares for our wellbeing and whose plans for us are to give us a future filled with hope.

Prayerfully in Christ,

Jeremiah Park