



# The Presbytery of **DONEGAL**

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among humankind. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God himself will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."  
And the one who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."  
-- Revelations 21:3-4*

Greetings Colleagues in Ministry,


We write to you as the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Donegal. Yesterday, December 10, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Rachel Levine issued a statement with new pandemic mitigation orders. The orders prohibit indoor gatherings of more than ten people for the next three weeks, until January 4, 2021.

Communities of faith are specifically excluded from the prohibition for religious services (and only religious services.) But churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques are strongly encouraged to follow this prohibition, to save lives and to limit the strain on healthcare facilities. You may read the entire statement here. [www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-sec-of-health-announce-new-protective-mitigation-efforts-to-put-pennsylvania-on-pause-through-early-january/](http://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-sec-of-health-announce-new-protective-mitigation-efforts-to-put-pennsylvania-on-pause-through-early-january/)

As the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, it is our duty to point you to this updated advisory. As always, we recommend following the directives of the commonwealth and the CDC. We have personally spoken this morning to most of the pastors of congregations still worshipping in-person. A few are going to continue with in-person worship with their Covid protocols in place, and several others are suspending in-person worship immediately.

Know that each of you, your congregations and families continue in our prayers, and we are available to you for consultation as you navigate these decisions.

In trust of the One who is continually making all things new, even in times of great darkness,

  
**Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes**  
Executive Presbyter

  
**Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson**  
Stated Clerk