



From the Senior Pastor

Church is *not* Canceled

Greetings, Shallowford friends!

This week marks seven months since I first stepped into the Shallowford pulpit. Seven months ago, or even one month ago, none of us could have imagined the twists and turns of our first spring together. Like many of you, I am more grateful than ever for our connections as a church family. Shallowford, somehow you manage to shine even when the light is dim.

I have been amazed at how quickly our congregation and our staff have adapted to the challenges of being the church in a pandemic. Children, youth, and adults are studying the Bible and playing games over Zoom. We are worshiping together online, praying over the phone, and keeping the postal service busy with handwritten cards from one Shallowford member to another. Our church building may be closed, but church is not canceled. The church has simply left the building!

When I am missing being with you all, I find myself wishing that things would go back to normal. But I heard a wise friend say recently that, if we do this right, we will never go back to normal.

We will create a new normal:

- One where we are more aware of how connected we really are.
- One where we are slower to judge and quicker to be kind.
- One where we are a little more flexible and a lot more grateful.

I am grateful for you, Shallowford, and for the ways the Holy Spirit is on the move. Let's follow the Spirit's lead together as we continue to be the church without walls!

Peace,

Rev. Anna George Traynham
Senior Pastor

