

## Email to Church Members

Well, we are certainly living in uncertain times right now, aren't we. These are uncharted waters for all of us. Our routines and interactions with one another seem to be changing on a daily basis. We are already being pushed out of our comfort zones.

Last night the Session of our church made the decision to suspend in-person worship on March 22 & 29, and then re-evaluate after that. In our worship service on March 15, the desire to be together, in the midst of the fear and panic surrounding us, was palpable! Session didn't make this decision lightly but we have to balance our need to worship together with everyone's safety. To put this in perspective, if one person attended worship and was afterward diagnosed with COVID-19, everyone else would have to quarantine.

We are working on ways to support and encourage one another in our time apart. Each Session member has a list of members to call and check in on until we can be together again. They will report back prayer concerns, which we will send out in emails to those of you for whom we have addresses. Call the office if you are not on our email list and would like to be added. We will post sermons and daily messages on our church Facebook page, as well as emailing them.

Linda Smith and I will be keeping our normal office hours here at church for the time being. We ask that you communicate as much as possible by phone or email, and only come into the office if absolutely necessary. You can call my cell phone (585-409-6929) any time you have a need, or just need to hear a voice other than your own.

Please remember that our church bills still need to be paid. You can help by mailing your contributions or placing them in the drop-off box located on the Clay Street entrance door.

Most importantly, in addition to taking care of yourself, please keep the many people on the front lines of this virus in your prayers; nurses, doctors, EMTs, and the many, many people working in businesses that serve our daily needs. Pray for those who are now unemployed as a result of the virus. Call neighbors, other members and friends to check in on them. We are learning how to be apart and yet not feel isolated. We can each be a source of faith, hope and love for those around us! Be kind and be generous toward others that are feeling the same stress as you.

I'll leave you with these words from Isaiah 41:10 for now. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." We are gently reminded that we are not in this situation alone. God has promised to walk with us. God is aware of what is before us and will support us. There is a comfort that comes when we know we are not alone. But when we realize that it is God who holds our hand and God who is looking out for us, there is a peace like no other.