



JAMESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE REV. DR. JAY SMITH, SENIOR PASTOR

March 18th, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that all of you are staying safe and prepared as our world changes with every beep of the phone. It seems that with each news update things get more serious. You are in my prayers each day and I long for the day that we can once again worship together.

Last night at the Session Meeting your Session voted to follow the CDC recommendation limiting gatherings of more than 10 people for 8 weeks. After much discussion it was decided that JPC will be closed for all gatherings effective today and will continue until May 3rd. We felt like this was the safest decision for the congregation and all groups that might meet here. This, naturally, raises questions and I will attempt to answer some of those here.

What will we do for worship?

This week the sermon and scripture will be available as an audio recording on our website. Starting on March 29th we will publish a video of an abbreviated worship service on our website and Facebook live.

What do I do if I need my church?

The church office will remain opened with limited staff and hours. There will be someone in the office from 9 – 12 Monday through Thursday mornings. This way people can pick up food boxes, drop off pledges or food donations, and know that someone will be there to answer the phone. The Session and church staff will work hard to keep us connected throughout this uncertain time. You can always call, text, or email Pastor Jay or Pastor Judy anytime!

If the church is closed do I still need to give?

Please continue to give. There are several ways you can continue to support JPC. You can set up automatic bill pay through your bank, use the app or website to pay securely by credit card, or you can still mail a check! In fact, I would challenge those that are able to consider using all that money you are saving by not going out to eat or doing other fun things out in the world to consider stepping up and stepping out in faith and increasing your giving to the church. We have already seen a huge increase in the number of

requests we have had for food and assistance. As the church we are called to minister to people in their time of need and that takes resources.

The programs of the church are still running. The APNC is still working and getting close to finding an Associate Pastor to join us this summer. Outreach is still planning on getting food boxes and Easter baskets into the hands of Family Services of the Piedmont families. We will be a source of hope for the hopeless!

Will a pastor come and visit me?

Most nursing homes and hospitals are closed to visitors. You are safe in your homes. Neither Judy nor I will not be making home visits. If there is an emergency, I will be there for you. If there is a death in your family, I will be there for you. Other than these instances we will be a virtual community of faith. We are working on an old-fashioned phone tree to keep us connected as a church family. Please understand that this is uncharted territory and that these things take time.

All these plans will be reevaluated by the Session on a regular basis. Obviously if the CDC recommends full quarantine the office hours and worship offerings will have to change. For now, we feel as if this is the best we can do. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." God has given us the gifts to persevere and to weather this storm. As a community of faith, we may worship and serve God in different ways during this pandemic but at JPC we still exist to invite, equip, and reach our world for Jesus Christ!

Be safe and know that your church is here for you!

In Christ,

Pastor Jay