

Dear Friends and Members,

Many of you received an email from Bob Doughty, our Church Administrator, and me on Wednesday March 11 outlining some initial steps that our church made to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As you know, efforts in this area are ongoing on local, state, and national levels. On Thursday afternoon, our Bishop, Paul J. Leeland, emailed all United Methodist pastors in our conference and instructed us to suspend all public worship through Sunday, Mar. 22. "The virus is spreading rapidly," he wrote, "and there are an increasing number of cases throughout the state. We know the virus is highly contagious and that mitigation is possible with cautious measures."

We, your pastors and administration, have agreed to abide by the Bishop's recommendation, which impacts all United Methodist Churches in North Carolina. **Your health and safety is our priority. Our response is to implement the following:**

- No Public Worship for Sunday, March 15 and March 22
- No on Campus Youth Activities for Sunday, March 15 and March 22
- No First KIDS Activities for Sunday, March 15 and March 22
- Weekday School will be cancelled through April 1
- All daily church meetings and functions will be cancelled for at least the next two (2) weeks

In our best attempt to balance safety and spiritual needs, we will offer worship via: Livestream at 9:15AM and 11:00AM on both Sundays. **Click here** to access worship from home. Please contact the church office for more information (828.693.4275). For the health of our community, our staff will be working as much as possible from home. If you need to reach a pastor, please call or email us directly.

Your pastors will follow all posted notifications when visiting hospitals and other care facilities. Our staff will be washing their hands thoroughly and often. We strongly encourage you to do the same. Please keep yourself abreast of current CDC guidelines ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) and follow them closely to ensure your personal health and the well-being of our community.

Finally, Bob and I express our gratitude for your continued financial support during this unexpected hiatus and we are most grateful for your prayer for our church, for our community and for our world. [Click here](#) for online giving. Please join us in daily prayer for all those across the globe who are suffering from Coronavirus or working to stop its spread.

In peace,

Mark

Bob