

March 17, 2020

Dear Bemus Point United Methodist Church Family,

God is good! In the midst of all the turmoil in our world, how good it is to know where our ultimate trust lies. We have been so thankful this week for the words of Psalm 46, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."* Lots has changed, but God has not. We live by faith, not fear. Thank you, Jesus!

We want to keep you updated about how we will be continuing to function as a church family in the midst of this new reality. There are lots of details below, but we hope you will take the time to read through them now, so our transition to this new way of being the Body of Christ together can go smoothly.

### Worship

Our worship services will only be online beginning this week. We will live stream at 9:30 AM Sundays so we can still be together in worship in real time, even though we will not be physically with each other. We encourage you to gather with those in your household and join in together. For the time being we will be using Facebook Live. The link will be found on the home page of our website at [www.bpumc.com](http://www.bpumc.com). We also will continue to post our sermons on our website and app as we normally do.

Online-only worship will last through Good Friday, and we will evaluate whether we will be able to gather for Easter as that time gets closer.

One of the ways we offer God our worship each week is through our offering, and we realize that will look different in an online context. If you have not signed up for electronic giving through our website or app, this is the perfect time. Our church office will still be functioning, so you are still welcome to mail checks to BPUMC at PO Box 99, Bemus Point, NY 14712 (please use the PO Box instead of the street address). Our ministries will continue, our staff will keep serving, our mortgage payments will continue on schedule, and our building will still need to be lovingly cared for – in other words, we hope you will take the time to establish a new way of giving regularly as we worship in this new format, so the ministry of this church does not suffer at this crucial time when our world needs BPUMC more than ever.

### Meetings and Groups

All our administrative meetings, Bible studies, youth group, and small groups will either take a break from meeting until further notice, or meet online. Our staff will be making available simple directions that any group leader can use to meet using Google Hangout. Our youth will continue to meet on Wednesday nights, but online instead of in person, and our children are being provided with Bible lessons and activities to be done at home with their families.

### Congregational Care

Staff and volunteers are organizing to contact members of our church family on a regular basis, especially those who may need some extra help and care. Help with grocery shopping, running errands, and other tasks is in place. If you have a need, please contact Britta at [brittabrown@bpumc.com](mailto:brittabrown@bpumc.com).

### Community Outreach

What a wonderful opportunity we have to show our neighbors God's love right now! Our food pantry will be extra busy, so your donations will be welcome. We have a drop-off point just inside our main entrance. We have set up a special fund to assist those who will be hardest hit economically. You can donate by selecting "Coronavirus Community Outreach" in your online giving or marking that on your offering envelope.

As we enter this new reality, let's make sure we keep in touch with each other. Reach out to your neighbors, connect with your small group, pray with someone, and let us know how we can be of help to you. We love you and are so thankful to be your pastors at this unique time in history. God is good.

Many Blessings,

*Pastor Kristen & Bill*