

May 2, 2020

Greetings, Lakeside Family!

I hope that each of you is doing well and making the most of these challenging days. I am happy to report that, as far as I know, no one in our congregation has been infected with the coronavirus. I pray that we all continue to stay healthy throughout this crisis.

I am grateful for the many ways that you are reaching out to be in touch with one another and to offer help whenever needed. Many of you have also let us know that you are available if a need arises in our congregation or in the community. You are participating in worship through our recorded services and responding to requests to join in on a variety of creative projects that bring us together. Thank you for sharing your “Lakeside Spirit” in abundant ways.

Our worship will be available on our website Sunday morning. Were we able to be together in the sanctuary, we would celebrate communion, so why not share The Lord’s Supper wherever we find ourselves? Before you sit down to begin worship, have something which represents the bread and the cup for you so that we can celebrate God’s grace together.

On Monday, we will begin receiving devotions that will minister to us during this time when we are apart. Coordinated by Carol and Chuck Taylor, a number of folks are writing devotions to share with us over the next few months. Monday through Friday emails will be sent with the devotions included. They will also be posted on our website. If you would like to write a reflection yourself, please send it to the church office at lakesiderm@embarqmail.com.

The pandemic has overshadowed many things in our lives. One such special date for our congregation is our 65th anniversary on June 5! It is difficult to have an anniversary celebration when no one can attend the party! During a recent Diaconate meeting, Chair Robert Sykes mentioned that he had been thinking we could all gather in the parking lot, remain in our cars, have a “tailgate party,” and at least see each other. Everyone had a good chuckle, but Robert has a good idea, and we are thinking about how such an event could be held. Many details need to be worked out (including a date), but imagine decorating your car to celebrate our anniversary, displaying thank you cards to Lakeside, and preparing a special picnic for your family to enjoy. Perhaps we could have a “We ♥ Lakeside” parade so that car by car we could drive around the circle and see everyone! Other ideas will pop up over time. Let your imagination go to work!

If a tailgate party is not feasible, we will find another way to celebrate all of the good that is Lakeside. The important thing is to remember what we all mean to each other, to this community, and to God’s larger family across time and place.

Take care of yourselves and one another. We will be back together . . . with many creative ideas about our future.

Blessings,

Jody