



ADVENT
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
HARLEYSVILLE, PA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our first reading for Sunday ends with the words, “Is God in this place of not?” What a great question. Everything is chaotic, and crazy. Events are cancelled. Futures are uncertain. Where is God? Is God in this place or not? I trust we are going to be able to strongly answer, “Yes!”

God has cared for us, and is with us even...especially...in the midst of this pandemic. We want to do what we can to remind each other, to engage with our community and with God, and to care for one another. We want to be church. Our staff met this morning to talk about how we will do that.

1 – NO PUBLIC WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY. ONLINE VIEWING OPTION . We will NOT have Sunday School or public worship services this Sunday or Wednesday, or for the next two weeks. We will be inviting you to an online version of our modified Sunday morning service, with 3-5 people invited to participate in the recording. We will let you know – by email, by Facebook, and/or on our voicemail – about the link to use to view (and participate with) that service. You can access that service live at 8:30 on Sunday morning or any time after that.

2 – BUILDING TEMPORARILY CLOSED . Our building will be closed for the next two weeks. (That includes outside groups not using it.) Our staff will still be active and present, and available for email and phone calls, but please do *not* plan to come into the building unless you coordinate it in advance.

3 – HOW LONG ARE WE CLOSED? Decisions about staying closed longer or when to reopen to the public will be made in response to information from the CDC, WHO, and local governmental authorities.

4 – VINCENT RYAN ORGAN CONCERT . Mr. Vincent Ryan’s solo organ concert (on Sunday March 22, to benefit Orgelkids) will still happen, but now only as a livestream concert. There will be no public attendance, but you will get information next week on how to watch online. I’ve heard him practicing – it will be worth it!

5 – VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS AND MEETINGS . Ministry leaders and groups as well as Sunday Church School classes will need to decide if they want to send activities, keep in touch with social media, or invite to a virtual meeting. I hope to be purchasing an online meeting app (probably Zoom) that we can use for virtual meetings and perhaps confirmation midweek presentations. Contact me for more information.

6 – KEEP GROWING WITH GOD . Click here to access our “Taking Faith Home” materials. This is a great way to stay connected to our weekly readings and ways to engage that. You can also access a great daily devotion – aimed at young adults but good for everyone – [CLICK HERE FOR TAKING FAITH HOME](#)

7 – HELPING WITH ERRANDS . A caring Advent member (Barb) offered to help people out with getting groceries or other needs. A couple others said they could

also. And then someone (Amy) offered to help coordinate a pool of volunteers. Wonderful! God's work, our hands. Soooo...if you are willing to be an errand runner, shopper, etc, please contact Amy Hammond at amyhammond.shp@gmail.com and let her know what days and times you are available. And if you need someone to run errands, let Amy know.

8 – STAYING IN TOUCH. Staff will be meeting early next week to review our membership list and make calls on people to see how they are doing. If you would like to be part of the group reaching out over the phone and calling members and friends, please inform Nikki in the church office – office@adventharleysville.org. We will contact you and get a list of people for you to call. Thanks!

As we look at how to care for our church community, I am aware that there are so many others in our neighborhoods who are going to be really hurting in the weeks ahead. I heard a presentation by a Keystone Opportunity Center leader on Wednesday, talking about changes to food pantries, trying to assemble and give out items outside rather than crowding into a building. Clearly needs continue, and grow. This is a time for prayer and for looking at how to care for each other and reach out to serve our neighbor.

And, this is a time of anxiety for many. There are legitimate concerns, and all sorts of panic and fear. What do we do? I like the advice that Mr. Rogers' mother shared with him. In times of crisis, look at the helpers. Let's do that. And where we can, let's be that. The helpers. Calm, trying to be healthy, looking to science and fact rather than rumor and fear, and acting in love. "We love as God first loved us."

"Is God in this place or not?" Yes! God is! I hope you experience that.

Your partner in Christ's mission,

Pastor Mark Singh-Hueter

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