

Dear Chapin UMC Family,

This coming Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be our second Sunday of not meeting together on campus to worship. That saddens us all, for sure. But, we're so very blessed to be able to worship online (at 9am and at 1115am). This Sunday will be a great time of worship, all for the glory of our great God! We will sing together, pray together, and hear what God's Word says about freedom from our insecurities, how we find peace and experience joy amidst so much uncertainty. We will also share important information about the opportunities we have as a church to make God's love known in our community and around the world during these days. You really don't want to miss these Sunday online gatherings!

Yes, our routines have been turned upside down. Please know I understand the additional frustration and the angst caused by us not meeting together, because I'm experiencing it too. But, as has been said, the decision to not gather physically together is the most loving and responsible choice we can make at this time. Quite possibly millions of people could be carrying the coronavirus without knowing they are carriers. They could also never personally suffer its effects; however, they could transmit it to someone at risk and then the virus becomes more than devastating. So I appreciate your understanding in this matter. And I promise that not only are you being responsible by staying at home, you are being loving. Because it is loving to set aside our preferences for the wellbeing of others. It is loving to make personal sacrifices in order to try and protect others. So I thank you from the very depths of my heart!

We will, of course, continue to monitor this situation closely and evaluate on a week-to-week basis the status of worship services and all church-related gatherings on the Chapin UMC campus. We will keep you informed through every possible means: Constant Contact, email, and each of the CUMC social media platforms.

I leave you with a word from First John 4:17-18 “...[A]s we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.” (NLT) What a powerful truth! Our love is perfected (made mature, completed) as we walk with (spend time with) the Lord – which in turn grows our confidence and eliminates our fears. Remember this – **perfect love expels** (*drives away, casts out*) **all fear**. May the love of Jesus flowing through us be the catalyst that God would use to expel the fear and anxiety our world is facing!

I Love You Guys,  
Jody