

March 19, 2020

Brothers & Sisters

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . . For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” . . . If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:1.13-14.25, ESV)*

The Session has decided to close the building and face to face ministry programs until further notice. We also are postponing the public phase of our Anticipate Capital Campaign until the Fall of 2020. [Please refer to previous pastoral letters for reasons and guidance.](#)

God was not surprised by this virus, outbreak or pandemic. How are we ANTICIPATING God moving in this moment? How are we going to PARTICIPATE with God in this opportunity to bring hope to the hopeless and faith to the faithless?

Let us use our freedom in Christ to love each other by bringing hope and staying in step with the Spirit of God.

The building is closed, but the congregation is open. There are lots of ministry opportunities remain.

### **Ways to Engage and Serve:**

1. **Worship on Facebook Live.** Sundays at 10am. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service. All you need is the link [www.facebook.com/christpres](http://www.facebook.com/christpres).
  - a. **Host a Watch Party.** With a live event or video on Facebook, you can share and host a watch party to spread the worship feed onto your personal page. Personally invite family, friends, and neighbors to try us out and worship with us.
  - b. **Online Bulletins:** [www.christ-pres.org](http://www.christ-pres.org) will have updated bulletins and lyrics for each service.
2. **Stay Connected:** Social distancing doesn't mean emotional distancing. Let's reprioritize staying connected with each other
  - a. **Session outreach:** The Elders will be making personal phone calls each week to check-in and make sure you are okay. Call them back and chat.
  - b. **Mobile Directory:** Reach out to each other. Make a phone call, text, email, and check-in with people. The directory is available at [www.christ-pres.org](http://www.christ-pres.org). Reach out to Pastor Tracy for the access code at [tracy@christ-pres.org](mailto:tracy@christ-pres.org) or text 413-636-5664.
  - c. **Website & Social Media:** Our website has been updated and will contain the most accurate and updated information, including important links for all online ministry opportunities.

3. **Give:** Giving is a privilege and continues to be an opportunity to thank God for His generosity in our life. Your giving goes to support the vitality of this congregation, the outreach of the Gospel in Springfield and surrounding areas. In addition, your giving goes to support missionaries locally and overseas. We appreciate your support and act of thanksgiving toward God.
  - a. **Mail Check** or use your bank's automatic bill pay feature. Checks can be sent to Christ Presbyterian Church, 1597 Allen Street, Springfield, MA 01118.
  - b. **Online Giving:** There is a link on the homepage of our website ([www.christ-pres.org](http://www.christ-pres.org)) that allows you to give online. You can make this a one-time or recurring gift. We use PayPal but you don't need an account.
4. **Upcoming Online Opportunities:** I really encourage you to extend yourself and try these out even if you aren't tech-savvy.
  - a. **Zoom Bible Studies during the Week:** All you need to do is click on the link. If you are using your smartphone you will need to download the app.
  - b. **Zoom and Facebook Live Prayer Times**
  - c. **Theo Time and Read Along on Facebook Live.**
  - d. **More to come.**

I am eager and ANTICIPATING seeing you all soon. In the meantime, let us keep step with the Spirit.

With much Love,

Tracy Johnson  
*Pastor*