

Dear St. John's Family and Friends,

During these extraordinary times, it is crucial that we stay connected to one another and know how to reach out for help, should the need arise. It is for this reason that I write to you in the midst of this week with some important information, updates and reminders.

Once again, our worship service this Sunday will be accessible on St. John's website, as well as on our Facebook page. Special thanks to John Hendricks for helping us stay so well connected via the Internet and social media. If you are not already connected to our Facebook page, please consider joining ~ there is a wealth of information there to both lift your spirit and keep you informed.

We learned this week that Manna continues to seek contributions of both food and money to keep its operation running smoothly. The need is greater now than ever and we can help. Food may be dropped off at Manna or brought to St. John's and one of our Outreach Team members will deliver the food to Manna. If you bring food to the church, come to the ramp entrance, ring the bell and Lisa will let you in. There will be baskets just inside the door for leaving food contributions. Contributions of money may be made through St. John's, and checks or cash may be left in the locked mailbox on the Church Office door.

As you are probably already aware, even though we are not physically meeting at the church during this time of staying put and staying safe, the work of the church continues, and bills continue to need to be paid. Offering may be mailed to the church or dropped off, as indicated above. Again, we ask you to place contributions in the locked mailbox on the office door as we seek to make sure that Lisa is kept safe while tending to office matters during the week.

We are also aware that for many, these are challenging times financially as mandates to close a multitude of businesses means no paychecks for some. If you are struggling to make ends meet or need grocery store gift cards to help feed your family, please be in touch with me or with Pastor Addie. The reason we have an Emergency/Good Samaritan Fund is precisely so that we might respond at times like these. Help is offered with the utmost confidentiality. If you need to be in touch with either Pastor Addie or with me, please call or email us ~ we are eager to respond.

Oh, and don't forget your homework assignment for Lent! Many have been emailing me their "go to" Scripture verses during this time of uncertainty and fear. I have added these verses to our bulletin board display in the Sanctuary and will be sharing some of them with you in the weeks ahead.

Above all else, let us be paying close attention to our neighbors in need and the most vulnerable among us. Let us look beyond ourselves and remember that we are not on this journey alone. Lifting up the words of one of my favorite hymns once again: "I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through." We are in this together, and with God's help, we will see this journey through, one day at a time. Be not afraid . . .

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sue