



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 South Main Street - P.O. Box 1038

Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

724-832-0150

Pastoral Statement on the Current Coronavirus/COVID-19 Situation March 17, 2020

Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Grace to you and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ!

We call upon you to remember the words of St. Paul: “nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We take heart in this word of scripture that assures us of God’s providential care for us and for all the world during all times. This is the faith that animates our lives and our actions as followers of Jesus Christ and members of Christ’s church in this world.

The Session of our congregation has met to determine our way forward as a congregation during this time of concern. We have prayerfully concluded that it is in everyone’s best interest to suspend gatherings of all kinds within the church building for the next two weeks. This includes, of course, our Sunday morning worship service, which draws the largest crowd any given week. Though the service will be closed to active on-site participants, you will be able to participate remotely in the service as we simulcast the service live on our Facebook page each Sunday at 10 a.m. Other services may also be simulcast through Facebook as well.

We will maintain ways in which the congregation may continue connection even as we remain separated over this two-week period. These ways include the following:

- Simulcasting of worship services, including the Mid-Week Chapel Service, on our Facebook page
- Contacts from the Pastoral Care Committee by telephone.
- Maintenance of church office hours in order to receive phone calls.
- Regular updates and the inclusion of a daily devotion on our church’s website.
- Enable ways in which the financial support of the church’s ministry may continue.

Please see the next page of this communication for more information about these points.

Finally, we ask the membership to make good use of the common sense that God has given us in order to maintain not only each individual’s health, but the health of others. Please continue to use safe practices that have been outlined and provided to us from health organizations who are doing all they can to mitigate the spread of the virus. Rely on your common sense and place your trust in God’s love and care for us all. For indeed, we walk not alone in this life even though we may be separated for this time.

Take heart brothers and sisters, for we serve a God of love, grace and hope.

On behalf of the Session and the Staff of our church,

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor

Mrs. Janice Heming, Clerk of Session

Staying Connected at FPC During Our Time of Separation:

Worship Services:

All worship gatherings of FPC will be conducted only through Facebook page simulcast and links from our website. The live postings will be held at the normal times of worship. **NO PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE HELD.** Though we regret this measure, it further protects the health of both the congregation and those with whom we share community.

Updates and Information:

Information about our current status and any updates regarding our plans going forward can be obtained from the church website, www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com. A daily devotion will be posted to help center all of us upon God's Word during this time.

Pastoral Concerns and Connections:

The Pastoral Care Committee of the Board of Deacons will be making telephone contact with all the members of our church, providing an opportunity to check in with all of us as we spend time away from one another, but never away from the outreach of God's loving care through Christ's church. At this time, the offices will remain staffed during the regular business hours, so please feel free to call us at 724-832-0150.

Financial Support Continuity:

The members of the Session also encourage all members of the church to continue their diligent and generous financial support during this time of separation from one another. It is important to continue to maintain both the work of the church and the staff that assist and lead us. Please consider switching to our variety of e-giving plans that are both convenient and secure. If you are interested, please consult Lu Ann Peters, our Financial Secretary, by calling the church office. Or if you wish to mail in your contributions, please make sure that the envelope bears our full address:

First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
P.O Box 1038
Greensburg, PA 15601

Direct Pastoral Concerns:

If you are in need of any pastoral support during this time, you are invited to contact the Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum directly at 724-832-0150 or via email at revankrum@hotmail.com.