



March 26th, 2020

Dear Church,

I miss y'all! This situation we're in is hard! Not having opportunities to see you, to worship together in-person, to hear about your week and how things are going - it's sad, and all the other things we've lost and are losing - canceled celebrations, graduations, trips - brings so much grief along with the anxiety and worry we feel over this virus, its rapid spread, and transmission. But still we are assured of this - God is with us. God is gracious and merciful and ever-steadfast. And God is with us through whatever comes. So, while this letter comes to report that the closure of our building is now extended until further notice, our hearts, minds, and souls are open and our ministry and mission continues.

One thing being apart and staying at home presents is heightened time for slowing down. A sabbath from frenzied work, perhaps, where we can slow down and simplify. See the beauty in taking a walk outside. Just as Christians have long practiced, each of us can take these days for more intentional prayer time. More opportunity for study, creative expression, and exercise. These are blessings in the midst of this changed world we are navigating.

And even as we're apart, Wythe's witness remains strong. In fact, we're learning to stay connected through older means (the phone!), and newer digital methods, like Facebook Live for Worship services brought into your homes, devotional and prayer times via live video, also. And we're beginning to use a platform called Zoom to hold meetings of Session, staff, smaller groups - like Bible study or Sunday school, if you like. If you're interested in hosting a group, you can use the church's account or your own individual one. It's relatively easy to use actually, and it'll be fun! If you need help, please contact me directly or Cristel via the church office.

And while all this goes on, the church covets your prayers and needs your support, including financially. I want to encourage everyone to keep up with your pledges and offerings. You may send your offering in via U.S. mail. The mail is being picked-up regularly, secured, and offerings are counted and deposited. The address is: Wythe Presbyterian Church, 151 Robinson Rd., Hampton, VA 23661. That is fine if you want to do that. We're grateful for your gifts!

We also have a new way to give - online! If you go to our website (wythepresbyterian.org), you can read the information there, click the "GIVE" button, and that will take you to the link to input your information for your donation. If you need help, please email Cristel via the church office or our church treasurer, Pat Saunders, at mema9000@gmail.com. And again, we are grateful for your gifts for the church to do ministry!

We are checking-in with everyone in the congregation regularly; please let us know if there's something we can do for you. If you need something from the grocery store or have another errand that someone can run, please call me directly or the church office. I pray we're back together soon, in-person. And I pray you all stay healthy and safe.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Donna

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