



United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

March 20, 2020

Brothers and sisters,

Previously the Board had elected to cancel in person worship through March 22nd due to Covid-19. We have been carefully monitoring the situation as it develops from day to day. At this time, we are extending this cancellation through April 5th. We will continue to monitor the situation and accept that it may extend past that date.

In the meantime, we will continue to worship together electronically through Zoom. You can access it through <https://zoom.us/j/159967508> or call in at 1-301-715-8592, using meeting ID 159 967 508. This information will continue to be sent out before each service. We will continue our prayer services at 7:30 PM on Tuesdays and 1:00 PM on Thursdays. We will also gather worship together on Sunday mornings to worship at 10:00. Sunday Service will also be uploaded to the church Youtube channel, Facebook page, and sent out via email. Additionally, a children's message video will be sent out twice a week. These are new technologies for us and we ask for patience and grace as we adjust and try new things!

I encourage you to continue to be in community with each other. Check on each other, reach out to each other. We have had people step up in caring for each other. We have a team in place to run errands for anyone "at risk" and not comfortable going out. We also have a volunteer to help anyone who might want some help learning new technology to better reach out to friends and family. Finally, you will receive information in the next week about the "Faith 5" program that can help us stay connected. It is my hope that this time of "social distancing" will not only make us appreciate our community of faith, but also strengthen the bonds of community we have with one another.

Some have asked about giving while we are not meeting in person. Just as we are called to continue to worship with one another, we are also called to continue glorifying God with our gifts. There are several ways you can continue to honor your tithes and offerings during this time. You can mail a check to the church. You can give online through paypal https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=KJTC62AUPNWCE&source=url. You can also set up a payment through your banks online bill pay feature. Paypal charges the church approximately 3%, so please consider either consider giving through one of the other two ways or adding 3% to your offering to offset the fee.

We face the very real possibility that we will not be able to worship together in person on Easter. If that comes to pass, we must remember that Easter is not just a day but is instead central to our identity. As followers of Christ, we are an Easter people. We are people of resurrection. The date of Easter changes every year and this year, Easter will be whatever Sunday we are reunited. On that date we will celebrate that neither sin nor death can separate us from the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ!

2 Thessalonians 3:16: "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you."

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris

REV. CHRIS DEACON, Pastor
ckdeacon@yahoo.com
www.unitedparishbowie.org

2515 Mitchellville Rd.
PO Box 1571
Bowie, MD 20717-0171

Church Phone/Fax:
301-249-6411