

PASTORAL MESSAGE

For 4/25/20

Tomorrow marks the seventh Sunday we have “worshipped from home.” We consider ourselves a small country church, pretty set in our ways. Yet we have made some incredible changes in a very short amount of time. But looking back to the beginning, we were far from confident that we could weather the storm.

The week before Sunday March 15th, the Administrative Council gravely pondered the decision to suspend face-to-face worship. We were unsure how the whole “worship-at-home” process would go. And we were unsure whether we could survive financially, when our system of offering and tithing had worn such a deep groove. Putting our offering in a plate on Sunday morning was almost the only system we had.

We now have had seven weeks of worship from home. For those with internet capabilities, either an audio of the sermon (first week), or video of our worship (starting week two) has been available. We have a system in place to supply worship materials to those without internet, if they request them.

Church meetings have continued, although we’re meeting remotely.

Our financial income is down some, but we are weathering the storm. We are thankful for the faithful support of so many of you, who have continued to meet membership vows.

We continue to ask, “how can we be faithful in this time and place?” Last week we invited all families connected to our congregation to consider sending a photo for our 2020 Balls Mills Pictorial Directory.

This week we invite everyone to think about possibilities for entering into a covenant with a group of other persons and families, to stay connected and care for one another. Most United Methodist congregations were started many years ago as a “class meeting.” A small group of persons met together regularly. They prayed together. They studied and pondered scripture together. They sang and ate together. And when the time was right, they pooled their financial resources, and built a “church.”

But the “church” started many years before the building appeared! The church is anywhere two or three gather together. On May 3rd, our eighth worship-at-home experience will celebrate friendships. This week, leading up to that event, ponder friendships, and the covenants and webs of love and care that connects us all.

Stay home, but stay connected!

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Chris