

3/20/2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Our 'new normal' as families, as a congregation, in our community, state, and nation seems to be evolving daily. Here is an attempt to update how we live out our faith AND meet the needs of our community as of Friday morning March 20, 2020.

There **WILL BE** a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. There is an *urgent need*. Every precaution will be taken to protect volunteers and donors. Blood Drive 12noon - 5pm.

Honoring the request of Bishop Palmer on 3/19/2020, we **WILL NOT** hold public worship services at least **through Easter**. This applies to both our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We **WILL** record a new worship experience each week and provide a worship bulletin as well. Both will be accessible through our Facebook page and our website [www.rumcoh.org](http://www.rumcoh.org). A DVD of the recorded service will be available for nursing homes. A limited number of additional DVDs MAY be available as well. Call the church office. Leave a message.

**Thank you to everyone** in our RUMC family now participating in Online Giving through our *ChurchTrac* system. The link to establish online giving is clearly labeled on our church website.

The Easter Flower order for April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **WILL NOT** be placed this year. Money will be returned to those who have already placed their orders. There **WILL NOT** be an Easter morning breakfast. The Cross Walk for Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and the (indoor) Prayer Walk on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> have been **postponed** to a later date.

With the permission of the Bishop and Cabinet, we will apply the concept of *In Extremis* (in an extremely difficult situation) to our participation in **Holy Communion** on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and on Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This will allow our congregation to participate in Holy Communion **in our homes** during the online worship experience led by your pastor.

Nathan Rupp, our Director of Children and Youth will be contacting Jr/Sr Youth about an online lesson to stay connected in place of their weekly Youth Group public gathering. Confirmation Sunday is currently scheduled for Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or after the completion of the final confirmation class. There **WILL NOT** be a 30 Hour Famine for Youth on March 27-28, 2020. It will be rescheduled.

*Five02 on Wednesday* Community Dinners are scheduled to return in mid-April and will likely focus on *carry out* dinners only the remainder of the season. Kids Club remains on hiatus until school is back in session in Rockford. All Bible Studies and rehearsals remain cancelled at least through Easter, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking into the possibility of online meetings in the short term for Administrative Board, Trustees, Pastor/Parish Relations, etc.

**Reach out to your friends and neighbors.** *If YOU or your neighbor have a specific need, please do not hesitate to let someone know.* Contact the church office (419-363-3230), pastor Chip, or a member of the FourTen (410) Local Mission team. The FourTen team has 'freezer meals' available now. *Helping Hands Thrift Store* will be available 'if needed' by calling the church office. Please leave a message. The *Parkway Local Food Pantry* will be open and ready to serve Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am.

Updates will be posted on our church Facebook page, our church website, by text message and phone answering machine message systems. Our April church newsletter will also be available online. *Building Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families so that our Community May Flourish* will likely look and feel differently in the days ahead. One of our worship leaders recently remarked, 'Remember, even though the doors are closed, the love of God is still with us.'

Peace, Pastor 'Chip'