

ARCC NOTES

Pastor Elaine's Ponderings

Our Life in the early days of Covid-19

Sheltering in Safety, Self Quarantine, Social Distancing...

Who ever heard of such things? It is new. Kind of scary. Isolating.

I never imagined something that would cause me, as a pastor, to advocate NOT gathering in public to worship together. And yet, here I am doing just that.

Stay home, my beloved in Christ. Take care of yourself. Don't risk your health, or the health of others. We have been given these guidelines by the CDC, the president, and the governor. It is the only way we know to squash the virus before it becomes a monster.

The Church Board met one time last week (we practiced social distancing, to the best of our ability) to discuss best practices and how to protect this congregation we love so much. In order to protect those within the congregation who are at risk, it was determined that all face to face meetings would be canceled until April 15. Naturally, if we get the all clear from the CDC before then, we will begin meeting in person again. Till then, no meetings at church. The preschool, too, is closed for the time being.

Stan is cleaning with top of the line sanitizers and disinfectants that cover and disinfect both soft and hard surfaces.

Since we cannot meet together we have some plans in place to maintain our sense of fellowship and community in this strange time: we will provide worship each week, live and recorded. Our worship will be available on Facebook. You can go to our Abbey Road Christian Church page, any time to watch and listen.

Pastor Elaine, Roanne Dean, Dave Dickey and others will offer daily video Evening Check-ins and a time of prayer and devotions. We began this fussy week of quarantine, with Evening Check in Monday through Friday and an online worship experience from Pastor Elaine's home. Eleanor Dean offered Sunday Evening's Check in and Devotional. This week we will work out a way to make these videos available to those of you who do not access Facebook, Vimeo or YouTube. It is our intention to offer our upcoming worship using a method that allows you to call in on your phone and listen. That way more of us will be able to worship together.

Beginning this week, there will be church leaders calling everyone to check in and see how you are. I greatly encourage you to call each other, too. Don't forget to call those in our congregation who are living alone, or in a retirement or medical facility. This is a fundamental way we can care for one another and stave off isolation and loneliness.

Please- don't forget that you can call me, too. My number is 562-396-8039.

Please continue to call, email or text in your prayer requests and concerns so that we may share them with each other.

Prayer is a God given gift; let's use it. Let us avail the Lord with our praise, gratitude, and our petitions. God is our Rock. A very present help in times of trouble. God is here. In the midst of our trials. With us even when we cannot sense the presence of God's holiness.

We are in this wild and unprecedented situation together, Beloved. We can make it. We are strong in spirit. Gifted and loving. And with God for us, nothing can overcome us.

Stand against fear, loneliness, despair. Pray, make phone calls, write cards and letters. Take advantage of our technology to be together in spirit, if not in flesh.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

May the Lord smile on you and give you peace.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Elaine.



John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Mary Ann Heinsman, Maxie McKenzie & family, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Debbie McCormick, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Debbie Bradley, Thelma Nelson, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George Amick, Ruth Hopkins, Iris & Bill Likens, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Ruth Dockins, relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid.

Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office or fill out a form found at the back of the sanctuary.