Christ Church, Frederica COVID-19 Update, April 1, 2020

Worship

With current national, Georgia, and local guidelines around social distancing, we will not hold any public services through the month of April, although this time frame will likely be extended again.

Current online offerings via Facebook include:

Daily: Evening Prayer, 5:00 pm

Wednesdays: X Church, 6:30 pm

Sundays: Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer, 9:15 am, Kidurgy (recorded) 10:00 am. Sunday services are also available via YouTube later in the day each Sunday.

Communion Under Special Circumstances has been discontinued at this time, as a result of the Shelter in Place order Governor Kemp announced today, effective this Friday.

Holy Week at Home: We will be sharing information for Holy Week prayers and home services you can conduct on your own if it is not possible or desirable to participate online.

Our Live Holy Week offerings Include:

Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Morning Prayer, with the Passion Narrative, live on Facebook at 9:15 am. Send Fr. Tom your photo or video of you and your family with palms or other branches for our virtual procession.

Maundy Thursday: The Commemoration of the Lord’s Supper, live on Facebook at 6:30 pm.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, live/recorded on Facebook at 4:00 pm.

Good Friday liturgy with veneration of the cross, live on Facebook at 6:30 pm.

Easter Vigil: The Great Vigil of Easter, live/recorded on Facebook at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday: Easter Eucharist, live on Facebook at 9:15 am.

\*Note: Holy Week and Easter Services will also be available on YouTube after the service has ended and has been uploaded to our YouTube page.

Pastoral Care

We continue to reach out to members of the parish individually. We have called everyone in our active database. If you didn’t hear from us, it may mean we don’t have up to date contact information for you. Please call us to provide us with your information.

All of our pastoral care is being done over the phone and via video. Please let us know of any pastoral care needs or if you or someone in your family is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care and how we can reach you/them.

Please continue to reach out to your friends and acquaintances at Christ Church during this time. Call the folks you are used to seeing and share the love of Christ through fellowship. We must all care for each other and our neighbors during this time.

Fellowship and Learning

All groups that can move their meetings to Zoom are encouraged to do so. We can help set up the meetings with the church’s Zoom account. Details for groups can be found in each week’s News You Can Use. NOTE: recurring meetings will use the same meeting ID for all of their meetings. Once you have the meeting ID number, you can write it down in your calendar for future meetings. Current, scheduled offerings include:

Mondays, 11:00 am: Adult Study with Rev. Bob Brown; The Walk

Wednesdays, 10:30 am: Men’s Discussion Group

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm: Fr. Tom’s Lenten Discussion; This is Your Life

Thursdays (beginning 4/2), 1:00 pm: Women’s Book Study with Mthr. Ashton; Keep in Shut

Thursdays, 5:30 pm: EC 101 with Mthr. Becky

Sundays, 10:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour

We know that Zoom will not be accessible to everyone, but it is the best option we have at the moment. Other Zoom opportunities will be announced as they are scheduled. Any group that cannot utilize Zoom is effectively cancelled until social distancing recommendations have been lifted.

Operations and Pledging

The Parish Office is closed. Please don’t visit the office at this time. Meetings with clergy or others can be scheduled, of course, but the staff has been encouraged to work from home as much as possible to further lower the risk of transmission.

Thank you to those who have been able to continue their giving during this time. We hope that many of you will be able to continue to support the church financially by electronic pledge payment or by mailing pledge payments to the church. Spending has been adjusted to reduce where we can in the short term. Many of these cuts are temporary and are only deferred to a later time as we anticipate a rebound in the months to come. The Vestry also established an emergency line of credit last year to be used in such situations to ensure that we remain liquid and pay our staff.

If you have not made an Annual Pledge for 2020 and are willing to do so, they are helpful as we try to evaluate what we are facing for the rest of the year, especially now. We do not have a capital pledge phase end date for our Rooted. Growing. Building. Campaign. We will keep the pledge windows open indefinitely as we all watch the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic. Fortunately, we have plenty of time before our projects were slated to begin.

Outreach

We invite all parishioners to support community relief efforts as they are able. We are doing the same from the church’s perspective and will continue to do so. The new Shelter in Place order has placed Backpack Buddies and food drop offs for the food pantry up in the air until we learn the specifics of the order. We will communicate needs as we can.

We are also continuing our face mask drive for healthcare workers. A previous email to the parish has detail on how you can support that effort.

Two local non-profits (there are others) that will be doing good works to address this current crisis include:

FaithWorks – many of you know FaithWorks and their many outreaches, from The Well, to Sparrows Nest and much more. https://faithworksministry.org

Firebox – a relief organization here in Glynn County, started by the folks as Southern Soul to support restaurant workers in need. Many restaurant works are or will soon be out of work. https://ssbbqfirebox.com/mission/