

# Christ Church, Frederica COVID-19 Update, March 26, 2020

## Worship

The Glynn County Commissioners have put a restriction on gatherings through April 13. Our Bishop has also instructed parishes in the Diocese of GA to cancel public services through Easter. We will not hold any public services through April 13 at the earliest. We will announce what digital opportunities will be offered for Holy Week and Easter in the coming weeks.

Current online offerings via Facebook include:

**Daily:** Evening Prayer, 5:00 pm, **Wednesdays:** X Church, 6:30 pm, **Sundays:** Holy Eucharist, 9:15 am, Kidurgy (recorded) 10:00 am

Communion Under Special Circumstances continues on Saturdays at St. Ignatius and Sundays at Christ Church. We received feedback from a local infections disease specialist that our distancing and sanitary practices in place are sufficient to keep people reasonably safe during this pandemic. We are following recommended practices.

If you would like to receive communion, please call the office (912-638-8683) to reserve a time. We will only serve groups of four at a time, so that we can adhere to social distancing guidelines. You MUST call for a reservation. Please do not enter the church without having an assigned time.

## Pastoral Care

We continue to reach out to members of the parish individually. We should have reached everyone in the database by the end of this week at least once. If you don't hear from us by the end of this week, it may mean we don't have up to date contact information for you. Please call us at 912-638-8683 to provide us with your information.

Most of our pastoral care is being done over the phone and via video. We are still not able to visit the hospital or retirement communities. We are also following recommendations that visits only be made in crisis situations to help prevent unintentional spread of the virus. Please let us know 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. Current, scheduled offerings include:

**Mondays** 11:00 am: Adult Study with Rev. Bob Brown; *The Walk* <https://zoom.us/j/430040512>

**Wednesdays** 10:30 am: Men's Discussion Group <https://zoom.us/j/7195907709>

**Wednesdays** 1:00 pm: Fr. Tom's Lenten Discussion; *This is Your Life* <https://zoom.us/j/378803655>

**Thursdays** (beginning 4/2), 1:00 pm: Women's Book Study with Mtr. Ashton; *Keep in Shut*  
<https://zoom.us/j/860810908?pwd=Z1BpbXNRK1ITZzJPMzJFbVZScittQT09>

**Thursdays** 5:30 pm: EC 101 with Mtr. Becky

<https://zoom.us/j/860810908?pwd=Z1BpbXNRK1ITZzJPMzJFbVZScittQT09>

**Sundays** 10:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour

<https://zoom.us/j/804378689?pwd=MEdvdDA5S05JRCtFaE9NbEVkbkkzQT09>

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 effectively 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 here <https://onrealm.org/ccfssi/give/now> or by mailing pledge payments to the church at 6329 Frederica Road St. Simons Island, GA 31522. 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. Two things we are actively addressing are Backpack Buddies and support for the St. Athanasius food pantry. Backpack Buddies will now utilize small group packing teams working in small shifts with disinfectant precautions for all involved. We will distribute bags at schools, while they distribute meals to students. If you can help support St. Athanasius' food pantry, the needs are great and expected to grow. Donations may be left on the front porch of the Christ Church Parish House at any time and we will deliver the food to Brunswick.

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 at Southern Soul to support restaurant workers in need. Many restaurant workers are or will soon be out of work.

<https://sbbqfirebox.com>

## Rector's Sabbatical

If it is possible, the Rector will reschedule his sabbatical leave for 2021. Details are still up in the air on how to do that with the grant that was awarded, but it is our goal to reschedule the entire leave at this point.