

Dear friends,

At our meeting last night, our Session suspended all activities at Nazareth through the end of March. This action covers all gathering of the church, youth and other groups, as well as meetings. Though our gatherings have been suspended, our ministry has not! We plan to find creative ways to invite members, visitors and friends of Nazareth to continue to share as fully as possible in life and ministry.

The office staff will continue to be available during our posted office hours of Monday – Thursday, from 9-2. We may not physically be on campus, but we are continuing our work and are available by phone. DJ (864) 384-7765; Debby (864) 347-5434.

An audio message of the sermon will be available by Friday evening at 5:00 on our church website. These will be new sermons, following the “Called to More” series that was planned for Lent. Our suggestion is that you and your family gather on Sunday mornings at 10:30 and listen to the message. Each week I will also offer prayers before and after the sermon and, upon request, sing the benediction! Full manuscripts will be on the website the following week.

Each Thursday in the eblast, DJ will have links to family-oriented activities that include devotional suggestions as well as discussion questions based on the chosen Scripture from the week.

Those disciples in our church family who are unable to get out need our prayers more than ever. We will post a list of folks that could use some extra attention with cards, calls and regular check-ins. We hope you will share with the church office any need that you have or hear about. I will keep my regular schedule of care, responding as needed to any hospitalization, illness, or crisis, as I am allowed. If anyone needs an errand run or some items from the store, the office staff or the members of the Evangelism and Nurture Committee will respond. Please just call and ask!

We also want to continue our Missions. We will continue to collect our monthly items for this month - bags for the homeless. The red bin will be in the fellowship hall so feel free to drop items off. If you do not have a code, just call before you come to be sure someone can let you in. Also, this suspension covers our monthly “Pennies for Hunger” Sunday, so consider dropping a check to Nazareth marked “Pennies for Hunger” in the mail or drop it by the office.

To contact us, as always, please be in touch by phone, text or email with the church office or any Elder. If you do not get a live voice, please leave a voice message; we will be checking and responding regularly. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call Julie at (864) 421-4750.

Finally, as the Session voted to continue to pay all staff during this suspension and there will still be maintenance and administrative costs, please do not forget about your planned giving.

I am grateful for the wisdom, compassion and unity of the Session and staff at Nazareth. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring and compassionate church family. We will continue to monitor suggestions from the CDC and will keep you updated.

I invite each of us to see this season as a rich opportunity to grab hold of the Good News and to serve our neighbors with Christ’s love. Each of us has been called into service for this time, and so I offer you this scriptural encouragement from 2 Timothy 1:7: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

Take care of yourselves, take care of each other, and please join us in mutual prayer for God’s protection, care, and blessing.

My love and gratitude to you all,

Julie

