Friends – here are a few churches who have started adapting ways in which community is engaged, worship takes place and resources they are using – this will be updated as we receive more – please send to admin@wjpres.net or revdeb@wjpres.net. Zoom calls will continue in the weeks ahead – any concerns contact Debby Brincivalli revdeb@wjpres.net.

First Presbyterian Church Moorestown ADVISORY***: Beginning Sunday, March 15, we have suspended gathering for worship or other in-person church activities and outside events. BUT! Church services will be broadcast at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning via our live stream only*** We’re working on creating a worship guide that can be downloaded from our website. At present we’re not sending out daily Bible studies or daily prayer guides. That could change.

Cape May Here’s what we’re doing:

Posting a short worship-related video on FB and we hope on YouTube daily.  Some of these will be songs, some sermon snippets, and some just members reading a passage of scripture.  Musicians and I are sharing a Dropbox file for this purpose.  Members will probably send me their videos via email or google photos.

Each of our deacons has a ‘flock’—group of members they keep in touch with.  I asked them to call their flocks, making sure they know about the church closing but also checking in on people’s needs and health.  I’m thinking this might be a good time for me to start calling our members as well, though, maybe a dozen people per week (since we have fewer than 80 total), again to check in, offer prayer, etc.

Our office manager is doing some online stuff from home, which helps.  We’ll probably do our enews every two weeks instead of monthly.  And we also have lined up some deep cleaning jobs for our sexton, while there is no one in the building—wax the floors, scrub the carpet, clean the pew cushions, etc.

Faith Presbyterian Church Medford

We streamed via facebook live and are working on ways to get on to YouTube.

I am communicating through facebook and email to members. We do have a few members who do not use email, they are receiving phone calls from the deacons. I haven't had a chance to do this yet but have a plan in place for when all the adapting slows down.

We are talking about online giving.

I am concerned about all the schools closing and what that means for our preschool and our community.

I am working offering all things virtually stay tuned to the church facebook to see what pops up next.

 I did send out a full liturgy to my email list ahead of time with links for songs on YouTube.

Becca

Wenonah – soup and cornbread to be delivered as needed. Starting virtual worship the 22nd. More to come as we develop

First Presbyterian Church Pitman

    We livestreamed worship on Sunday. We're moving to a recorded service next week, hopefully to do a couple of things that will connect with people better. I'm wondering if I should start watching TV preachers for tips.

I also am hosting an evening Compline service every night at 8pm via Zoom. We'll decide at the end of the week if this should be daily or weekly. We're using the Prayer at the Close of the Day from the new hymnal, with less music (singing seems impossible via video chat) a couple of times for reflection about our day and sharing our prayers with each other.

    We've built a list of everyone who is a shut-in, vulnerable/sick, or home alone, and our deacons will be reaching out twice weekly to see how they're doing, and hopefully to enlist them in making phone calls too.

    I think I'm most proud of what we're done in Christian Education:

* We've talked about doing video two-minute Bible Studies to post online for a long time. On Sunday, after church, we pre-recorded 4 of them. There are definitely kinks to be worked out, but we'll be publishing a short Bible Study on a passage every Tuesday on our facebook page for the duration.
* We had started planning take-home VBS kits to send with families for them to do at home. With the virus, we're accelerating this process, and are working on making sets of "Resurrection Eggs" a classic way of telling the Easter Story, and distributing them to families with young children in the church.
* Another idea in the works is to ask families to make videos of themselves reading their favorite Bible story to share with everyone. Still working out whether people need to come into church and film with our camera, or could film themselves.
* In addition, a couple of teachers are working on send-home or online Sunday School lessons for different age groups.

We do have online giving, but we still have quite a bit of anxiety about how this will affect our budget. I'm sure we'll get through though.

I would love some support/advice on how to make video worship as meaningful as possible. If we're really going to be apart for 8 weeks, I want our services to be something deeply meaningful, rather than just videos of people worshipping. I'd love to hear what other people are doing.

 Christ Presbyterian Church Marlton

Our primary means of communication has been e-mail updates to all members and friends. We have also used our church Facebook page. I have shared via e-mails and FB posts any federal, state and local government updates so people are informed without the drama. I have also been in contact with the local police department and went to roll call last night to be available to officers stressed about COVID-19 and the impact on them and their families. I am also on call in Burlington County as a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor and Chaplain with the state.

Our worship time remains at 11am on Sunday, and this past Sunday we did virtual worship using Facebook Live. We had tested using this last summer, as a way to reach those on vacation so it wasn’t too onerous to flip the switch and go virtual last Sunday.

We did purchase a streaming license with CCLI which cost $59 for 12 months. We currently have a CCLI license for music, but not streaming. I spoke with a CCLI representative to confirm we needed this streaming license, so churches need to check into this if they are considering streaming services with music. CCLI has a special right now until 4/30/20 of a 10% discount.

The worship bulletin was e-mailed to all members and friends in advance of the service so they could participate from their homes. Hymns were also scanned and provided. Our Sunday School lesson was sent to all the parents to go over with their kids, and that likely will be how that’s handled going forward.

Our Session is meeting via Zoom tomorrow 3/18 to make more decisions regarding virtual worship, building use, pastoral care, Christian Ed, and financial/offering issues.

During worship last Sunday and in Sunday’s bulletin I encouraged people to mail in their offerings to the church office, and as an alternative to set up the church in their bank’s bill pay feature online. Our Finance Committee has been pushing online giving since May as a way to have a more consistent income stream. We did a piece on this in our last newsletter with instructions how to set it up. The Finance Committee will be sending out a letter to the congregation in the upcoming days on this issue.

One question I think that needs some clarification is Communion. I did read GA’s FB post last week on this, but it frankly is in “GA/theological speak” and difficult for our Ruling Elders to understand. Clarification in easier terms might be helpful. We are not planning to celebrate Communion in our virtual worship.

I hope this was helpful! Information is coming at us rapidly and changing almost by the hour. We need to support one another through prayer, and live differently these days via social distancing which seems counter to our theology of building and supporting community. As pastors, we can lead with a calm and centered approach keeping our congregations informed and supported.

First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield

1. We are closed to all church and community activities until at least May 1.

2. We are live-streaming an abbreviated worship service, including music, scripture, prayers, children's message (I finally get to pretend to be my hero, Fred Rogers!) and sermon every Sunday morning at 10:00. An abbreviated bulletin is emailed on Thursdays.

3. We are sending out regular emails (4 or 5 each week) to our membership.

4. All Deacons and Elders have four or five households regularly assigned to them. Rather than the normal monthly contacts, I am instructing them to make frequent contact.

5. We have been using on-line giving for some time and now are encouraging members to keep up with their giving that way or by mail.

6. Our church hosts a community case worker supported by all the churches in Haddonfield. We will remain open Tuesdays and Fridays for those in need of assistance. If WJP could offer us some mission funds, we would be able to address more of the growing needs we are facing.

7. Haddonfield pastors will be meeting on March 18 to discuss ways in which we can serve our congregations together. One probability is that our church will invite the clergy who are not able to live stream their services to come together on Sunday mornings to do a live streamed community service, each pastor taking part in worship leadership.

First Presbyterian Church Haddon Heights

Are you mailing or emailing a bulletin for participants to follow?

Yes. We are emailing bulletins, as well as posting it to our facebook page as a jpg on Sunday morning right before we go Live (That way if folks not on our email list who are tuning in can find it too). On Mondays, we are mailing a copy of the bulletin and sermon text to those who do not have internet access.

How are you reaching out to all of your congregants?

Email, Facebook, Instagram, and phone calls and mails to those w/o internet access. We also made use of our Deacons' Call chain to tell announce going to online worship.

   Have you added on-line giving or discussed how to enable people to continue sustaining mission and ministry?

No. Not yet for online giving. We need help.

We did send an email encouraging folks to mail in their offerings (I also called for the offering in the Livestream and asked folks to continue sending theirs in to the church).

Are there community needs to be addressed and how can presbytery help you minister?

We're assessing them right now. We are in contact with our mission partners to see how we can help get food to those who live at the food insecurity line already. We also may have individuals lose jobs. My music director will only be able to receive her paycheck from us - her other jobs will not be paying if she doesn't work (Catholic school, community choirs, etc.).

Woodstown Presbyterian Church

**WORSHIP**: Beginning this Sunday we will move to **ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY**. Every **Sunday at 9am** we will offer live music and preaching via live-streaming as we have done for years. (<https://www.woodstownchurch.com/livestream> and also Live on Facebook) MORE INFO THIS WEEK ON HOW TO DO THIS

1. **KIDS**: We will supply resources for families during this time to make worship part of their daily routine. Aly Gilmore (Director of Children’s Ministry) will be sharing the WPC Family Ministry Playlist (on WPC’s YouTube Channel) so parents you can worship with your kids and incorporate this into daily schedules. We will also have special components for kids live on Sunday as we stream.
2. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** If you don’t follow us on social media do it! We will maintain a strong presence of hope, trust, and faith in a world that desperately needs it (FB: Woodstown Presbyterian Church, Instagram: Woodstown Church)
3. **GIVING**: You can still give in two ways: (1) mail in a check to the office (2) Online giving on the Realm (using the website or app). This is really simple and will be the safest and most convenient way to give. Please call the office if you need assistance, we are happy to help!
4. **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**: Deacons will be contacting everyone on their Care Groups to be sure everyone is okay and if there are any needs they will share them and we will assess and plan together. This week, through Deacons, we will be in touch with EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU!
5. **DEEP CLEANING**: Staff and Trustees will be deep cleaning the building throughout this week and into the weekend so it is sanitized and ready to go when we return to regular in -person worship!
6. **EVENTS**: All events church related will be rescheduled according to CDC regulations for large groups. Our first one - **Worship in the Round-** will be moved to May, details to come!
7. **ASCEND:** Pay attention to the Ascend Instagram and FB pages to see when youth group resumes, for now it will not meet for the next 2 Sundays. As schools reassess we will follow their lead.
8. **LIFE GROUPS** - We are encouraging all Life Groups to stay in touch and if feasible to meet online using Web-ex or Zoom. We are working the details out with leaders now. While you can’t meet in person, utilize modern-day technology and keep the community of study, prayer, and fellowship going! Sue Bestwick (Discipleship Leader) will be in touch to help groups get started!
9. **MISSION & SERVICE**: As a staff we will be touching base with local missions and schools, we have offered our support already. We will be in touch if we have information to share regarding needs in areas of food, medication, etc.
10. **CONTACT:** If you have questions or concerns please contact your Deacon, and Elder, or me. I am here and available by email or text or phone ( 856-305-0769 **eryn@woodstownchurch.com** )

**CHURCH** - We are praying and we ask you to pray with us. Prayer will turn your eyes toward Jesus and strengthen you - **Pray** every day! **Pray** for those who are sick, isolated, living in fear and with high anxiety. **Pray** for those with medical issues, which put them at high risk. **Pray** for those making hard decisions. **Pray** for those who are serving on the front lines in the medical profession. **Pray** for those who do not know Jesus and are facing this on their own.