



Community Mennonite Church

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear CMC Family,

Peace be with you. ***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)*** As our community, country, and world take precautions to prevent and slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, I'm grateful for the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and medical professionals, the wise deliberations of our own Church Council, and our God who sustains our faith in times of uncertainty, wilderness, and vulnerability.

PASTORAL TEAM

Lead Pastor

Jennifer Davis Sensenig

Associate Pastor

Jason Gerlach

Interim Pastor

Byron Peachey

Pastoral Elders

Brian Martin Burkholder

Jennifer North Bauman

Linda Gnagey

Veva Muma

Leah Wenger

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIR

Jeremy Nafziger

CONGREGATIONAL VICE-CHAIR

Sue Swartz

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Ben Bailey

As Community Mennonite Church we are suspending our gathered worship service this coming Sunday and offering a short service of scripture, song and prayer which can be accessed **online at 10am on Sunday, March 15th**. (We'll send instructions for how to connect later today.) We are also canceling the Contemplative Service, Monthly Gathering, and Women's Bible Study this coming week. We will communicate any additional changes to our church calendar in a timely way.

Many of us are coming to terms with disappointments related to canceled events and travel plans. We are adjusting to new conditions for work and school. We want to protect those vulnerable populations and caregivers within and beyond our congregation. We share some of the anxiety that circulates during a pandemic. We are concerned for persons who have the fewest resources for times like this. For these and many other ordinary reasons we will miss coming together as a group for worship because there is something that happens when we are gathered in Jesus' name that tends our individual spirits and enfolds us into the truth and beauty of God's kingdom. We cannot replace that experience, but we believe these measures will be temporary.

As we support the appropriate precaution of social isolation for persons who are immunocompromised, and believe suspending these worship and ministry gatherings will prevent and slow the spread of this virus in our community, we remain a church who is connected through the love of Christ and engaged with one other for relationships and ministry beyond ourselves. Using technologies to worship and live as one body in Christ when being face-to-face isn't possible may open up some new opportunities for us. What might God show us during this Lenten season about being the people of God during a crisis?



***Behold, I send an angel before you
to keep you in the way
and to bring you to the place
which I have prepared.
Exodus 23:20***

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer
On behalf of Pastoral Team