

St. Mark's Walking by Faith During the COVID-19 Pandemic

From: Otto, Rev., Dr. Harris III (pastor@stmarksclt.com)

To:

Date: Friday, March 13, 2020, 12:16 PM EDT

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” – 2 Corinthians 5:7

Greetings St. Mark's Church Family,

We trust in God through this global crisis. As we trust, we must be wise and discerning.

COVID-19 is having unprecedented impact on how persons interact. It has the potential to have catastrophic impacts, if we continue with business as usual. The Center for Disease Control believes that we can slow the spread of the virus and reduce the impact.

Gov. Roy Cooper advises against gatherings of more than 100 people. Bishop Paul Leeland advises WNCC congregations to suspend worship for the next two weeks. Our executive leaders met with St. Mark's health care professionals to plan our response.

[St. Mark's will not have a worship service on site, but will broadcast online worship services on Sundays March 15 and March 22.](#)

Further, all meetings will be canceled, postponed, or held via teleconference or videoconference until March 26. If you have a meeting or study planned during this timeframe, we will make arrangements with you to have technology available to host your gathering(s) virtually.

St. Mark's Trustee, Communications, and Worship Teams continue to strategize about Sunday's virtual worship service and/or Sunday School. Once we have clearly defined the details, we will send instructions on how to attend online.

St. Mark's continues to pray together during the Lenten season beginning each weekday (*Monday through Friday*) from 7:14am to 7:30am beginning. To join the prayer, call 515-604-9774 and enter the access code 786091.

We are the Church. We walk by faith. I encourage us to continue to trust in God's faithfulness. I encourage us to stay connected with one another by phone call, texts, e-mail, and social media. Let's continue to express our love for one another through making sure everyone remains safe.

Additional Resources for COVID-19 Preparedness:

COVID-19: Letter from Bishop Leeland: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/covid-19-letter-from-bishop-leeland-and-other-resources-for-preparedness-13441434>

In order to facilitate continued worship during this time the Church Development office is offering resources to help churches transition to online streaming and online giving. Learn more here: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/church-development-offers-assistance-for-streaming-worship-13441647>

Preparing your churches:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/checklist.html>

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/covid-19-ways-to-respond>

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/use-facebook-live-to-stream-your-church-events>

NC Department of Health and Human

Services: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

CDC Response: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Messages from UMC Organizations:

WNCC Committee on Relief: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/a-message-from-the-committee-on-relief-13440587>

Wespath: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/a-message-from-wespath-13441435>

Health Benefits Committee: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/message-from-the-health-benefits-committee-13441452>

Shalom Chaverim!
Otto D. Harris III, Ph.D.



St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC

<http://StMarksCLT.com>

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." - 1 John 4:11

This is a broadcast church family email, but does not show individual recipients.