

*Rappahannock Charge United Methodist Church*



*Rev. Jessie Colwell  
jessie@rappumc.org*

March 19, 2020

Dear Rappahannock UMC Charge Family,

Grace and peace be with you! I wanted to write to you and give you a word of peace in these uncertain times. God is with us at all times and “nothing,” not even the corona virus, can “separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 8:38). We are presently living in a historic moment as we all respond to this pandemic and watch the church and many other businesses and organizations shut down for an unknown amount of time. As more stores are without the regular necessities of life, the Rappahannock Food Pantry has care boxes for anyone in the community in need of the basics. They are currently offering a drive-thru service on Tuesday and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m., and again on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m..

On March 13, 2020 Bishop Sharma Lewis sent out a letter to all pastors suspending worship for March 15 and March 22. On March 16, Bishop Lewis sent out an additional letter about suspending worship through March 29. So, all our in-person activities will be cancelled until Palm Sunday worship at all three churches on April 5, 2020. I will update you soon if we will be closed for a more extended period.

I want you to know that I am making a contingency plan for Holy Week and Easter if we are unable to meet in person due to the CDC regulations. As the body of Christ who loves to give our praise to God and experience fellowship, not having church is hard for all of us. I miss seeing you all and hearing updates about your lives. Please keep me informed either through email or by calling my cell phone (540) 717-2411 or the parsonage (540) 675-3370.

In the meantime, I wanted to offer you some spiritual disciplines to attend to as we continue in the season of Lent together. I hope they are beneficial to your spiritual lives. I also plan to hold worship each week through Facebook live. What has been the most interesting is how many people have viewed the service, currently over 850 people. So, one upside of doing the service this way is that we are reaching out beyond our church to draw others in. After the live service, I will upload the video to YouTube so that all can view it. I will also send sermon manuscripts to those who do not have email. We have also purchased zoom.com which is a service that allows us to meet virtually. We are currently using this interface for our Bible Study meetings.

Please continue to send in your offering each week or monthly either to our treasurers or through online giving. There is more giving information on the back of this letter. Also, and most importantly, continue to pray for all those who currently have this virus and those caring for them. Continue to pray for each other and those in our community who are ill and those who

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have lost their jobs due to closings. Pray for our college students whose semesters are ending very differently. We will continue to help our brothers and sisters in the community through making donations of money and service to the Rappahannock Food Pantry. Please let me know if you know of individuals in need of care. Stay safe and healthy!

Above all, remember that we are in this together. Just as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years not knowing when it would end, we too are wandering in the wilderness, but God is with us and will lead us forward.

God bless,

Pastor Jessie Colwell

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**Giving Information**

With our churches being closed for three weeks in a row, I do encourage you to send in your tithes, gifts, and offerings to our church treasurers either weekly or at least monthly. This will help us continue to meet our operating budgets. You also have the option of giving online: <https://rappumc.breezechms.com/give/online>. A list of our church treasurers is below:

Flint Hill UMC:  
Attn: Brenda Payne  
340 Dearing Rd.  
Huntly, VA 22640

Willis Chapel UMC:  
Attn: Bonnie Hahn  
48 Homestead Knoll Ln.  
Huntly, VA 22640

Sperryville UMC:  
Attn: Ce Pike  
465 Old Hollow Rd.  
Sperryville, VA 22740

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