

## This Week At First Presbyterian Church – March 25 2020

Beloved Friends:

**Grace and peace to you in the name our Lord, Jesus Christ!**

We are one more week into the “stay at home” guidelines that will, hopefully, keep the coronavirus from overwhelming us in the next few weeks. You may, as I do, already feel overwhelmed. It is difficult and disconcerting to have everyday life disrupted to this level, and for many of us, the disruption is complicated by not being able to come to church for the sanctuary it can offer. I miss all of your faces – and miss standing at the back door of the church after worship to greet you.

It’s not clear how much longer we will be worshiping at a distance, but know that you are all on my mind and in my prayers every day. For the time being, here’s the schedule for services and Bible study:

- **Worship Services on Sunday morning** at 10:30 am, via Facebook Live, and available on our Facebook page afterwards. NOTE: you do NOT need a Facebook account to access our page!
- **Morning Prayer each weekday morning** at 10 am, via Facebook Live, and available on our page afterwards. You can e mail your prayer requests directly to me, use Messenger, or type them into the comment section of the Facebook Live post.
- **Weekly Bible Study Friday mornings** at 10:30 am, via Facebook Live and available on our page afterwards. We are currently working through the book of Philippians. For this upcoming Friday, read the second chapter, which will be the focus of our “discussion.” This week, I hope to be organized enough to be able to interact with your comments and questions – we’ll see how that goes. It may take a level of major motor skills that I do not possess, but let’s give it a try.

We will maintain this schedule for the duration of the “stay at home” order, and hope that we will be able to worship in the same room at the same time very soon.

**BUT** – please do take care of yourself and your families by following the latest guidelines on protecting our community from the worst case scenario.

Other things to note:

- **We have postponed our Sudsy Dudsy** outreach project at the laundromat in Palestine until the “stay at home” is lifted. We will reschedule that as soon as possible after that.
- **We will not have our usual Fifth Sunday Sabbath Saturday night service** in place of our Sunday service this month. We are having some “visitors” join us on Sunday morning, and I want to make sure we make that available.

- For those of you who have become accustomed to the Fifth Sunday Sabbath on Saturday evening, **I will do a Service of Thanksgiving for the Light at 5:30 pm on Saturday, March 28.** This short service will likely include a couple of the short Taize choruses we sing – but unfortunately, we won't be able to do "You Are My Strength" as a round. Drat!

It's hard to keep up with everything that is going on when we can't see one another, and don't run into one another in various places. I am grateful to you for helping keep me "in the loop" on prayer requests and how folks are doing. Please continue to do that. Trust me – you aren't giving me too much information.

And I ask this with every message – but I know that many of our folks aren't signed up for these e mails, or don't access our web page. **Please pass this information along** to anyone that doesn't have access to the internet, or to anyone that needs to be on our e mail list.

Peace and blessings be upon you, and **I continue to thank God every time I think of you.**

In Christ,

Pastor Karen