

*(Note: This letter was distributed in the April 2020 issue of The Bridge newsletter.)*

## **Congregational Letter concerning Response to Coronavirus**

**March 19, 2020 (Revised March 26, 2020) –**

### **Please read for updated information**

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” — Psalm 46:1**

The Church Board met recently to discuss the current situation with the recommendations made by Governor Hogan and also the Center for Disease Control in relation to the Coronavirus. Please see the following decisions that were made in order to comply:

#### **Suspension of Church Services:**

We know that the idea of suspending worship for any period of time is a difficult pill to swallow for many of us. However, for the safety and health of our members, especially the at-risk members, we felt it necessary to follow the CDC guidelines/directives. All activities will be suspended at the church for 8 weeks (starting March 22) – subject to evaluation **every two weeks**, based on latest guidance / directives. **Messages from our pastors are being recorded on Sunday morning from the sanctuary and will be posted on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BCCoB1855](http://www.facebook.com/BCCoB1855)), and website ([www.bushcreekchurch.org](http://www.bushcreekchurch.org))** Also, for those of you who do not have internet access, each week a copy of the sermon script, along with prayer concerns that have been received that week will be mailed.

#### **Deacon's Role:**

Our Deacon Chair, Art Frank has already been taking extra steps in asking our deacon staff to contact our members regularly. In addition to that, please contact Art directly or the church office if there is a need within the congregation for essential items (groceries, medications, etc.). Art will pass the information on to the appropriate Deacon. Dean Thews and Beth Green have also volunteered to be “runners” for essential needs and will deliver to your doorstep.

#### **Tithing:**

During the time period that we are not holding regular worship services and you wish to mail your weekly tithe, please feel free to do so. Please mark the outside of your envelope to the attention of Wanda Embrey. For the sake of confidentiality, these envelopes will not be opened but will be delivered to our Financial Staff promptly. (Dorcas Bromhead and Wanda Embrey).

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### Future Meetings:

- **Board and Commission meetings** can be held by teleconference. Instructions have been provided to all Commission chairs if they wish to proceed using this method.
- **Bible studies** could also “meet” via teleconference. Please inform the church office if you will be holding a Bible Study and how.
- Our **Youth** will be communicating via FaceTime on Sunday evenings at 7 pm. All high school-aged youth are welcome to join in. Please text Claire Smith at 240-772-6000 to let her know you would like to join in. A Bible Study for youth will be conducted by Dylan Rinehart on Wed. & Fri. evenings via Zoom. To participate, contact Dylan at 240-405-2030 or [dylan.rinehart1005@gmail.com](mailto:dylan.rinehart1005@gmail.com).

### Activities:

- **April Oyster Dinner - cancelled.** The next dinner will be **October 24, 2020.**
- **BDM Dinner scheduled for April 4 has been cancelled.**
- **Meat Canning scheduled for April 13 has been cancelled.**
- **Spring Council scheduled for April 26 cancelled.** Rescheduled to **May 31.**

### Miscellaneous Discussion/Decisions:

- Pastors Leo and Melissa will work from home, and will be available by phone between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday. Please feel free to call if you need to talk, would like prayer, or have questions. Home: 717.359.5109, Leo’s cell: 717.870.8786, Melissa’s cell: 717.870.8774. (Please keep in mind that Melissa’s treatment schedule might prevent immediate availability, but they will get back to you.)
- The church office will be open only three days per week or an as needed basis. If you need to physically come into the office, please call first. When the Administrative Asst. is not in the office, all calls will be forwarded to her cell phone or to a volunteer so calls can be monitored in the event of an emergency. A sign will be on the front door with those same instructions.
- **Please continue to submit prayer concerns, by phone or email, to Bob Farmer for distribution.**

***During these troubling times, please keep our entire church family in your prayers as well as our communities, our nation and around the world. Please take this opportunity to reach out to those that are completely shut in within our midst by phone calls, cards, etc.***

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”—John 16:33

**Sincere Blessings to all, Pastors Leo and Melissa & Beth Green – Board Chair**