
Update from Pastor Brandi (Worship and Google Classroom)

1 message

Ada First United Methodist Church <info@adaumc.org>
Reply-To: Ada First United Methodist Church <info@adaumc.org>

Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 10:14 AM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just want to send out a couple of quick updates and let you all know that I am praying for you daily (if you see a golf cart or car sitting outside your house, it may be me...pausing and praying for you in front of your home!).

1. I know there were some who were unable to log-in to the Google Classroom. If your email account has ever been tied to an organization (i.e. university, school, business) it will not work. You will need to create a new Google ID (any email address will work... I'm using "pastorbrandirigsby@gmail.com). Check in often and don't be afraid to play around and interact with the platform.

2. I received an email today from our Bishop which you will find attached. Bishop Palmer has asked us to cancel in-person for another week (3.29.20). We will continue to broadcast our worship service through WONB (94.9) this Sunday and next Sunday. All weekday activities at the church between 3.22 and 3.29 will also be postponed.

3. If you have a need, please reach out! If you need help with groceries or picking up medications, we have members who have offered to help. If you have a pastoral care need, I am always available by phone or email.

4. I'd also love to hear how and where you are catching glimpses of God's grace in the midst of this time. This morning, I pulled into the Ada Schools parking lot at 7am where over 200 lunch bags were sitting and waiting to be picked up or delivered to our school kids. We also had nearly a hundred volunteers from our community who have come forward to help make sure the food gets made and delivered. I have also received messages from dozens of you letting me know that you're praying for me and my family. You have now idea how much that means to me...thank you! Right now we are seeing redemption and hope spring up in extraordinary ways. Keep praying and loving!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Brandi

Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you Beloved.

In the midst of the urgencies, challenges, chaos and uncertainty created by the continuing need to respond nimbly to the Covid-19/Coronavirus I wanted to reach out to you again. First of all kudos to you one and all for what you are doing to stay healthy and to help all of your neighbors to do likewise. I am blown away at the creativity that is running rampant throughout the West Ohio Conference to help people worship in new and fresh ways for many and to care for the most vulnerable among us. You are awesome. We are resourcing one another on an unexpected journey. Thanks be to God.

Our Communications Team is in overdrive to be one channel where you can access multiple tools, ideas, resources and information. They draw a lot from you and attempt to pour it back out to you. If you are not in the habit of reading NewsNet, opening eblasts or checking the conference website you may want to alter that pattern for this season. NewsNet will come out each Tuesday unless the schedule is altered for some reason. By Thursday Noon each week for the foreseeable future we will blast out any helpful updates, information and suggestions. This will start Thursday March 19. The goal is not to overwhelm you but we want to avoid under communicating.

Thank you for your responsiveness to my encouragement about worship services this past weekend and next. I am extending that encouragement through at least the remainder of March. I know some churches altered gathering and others proceeded with public worship. Either way you should know of my love for you and my trust and confidence in your discernment and decision making. You have my support. I know that if you gather you are taking every healthy precaution. You are as a friend of mine says in a "judgement free zone".

Let's continue to be united in prayer for:

- Persons and households already directly affected by the virus
- Medical personnel
- First responders
- Researchers
- Decision makers
- Cleaning crews
- Retail personnel
- Furloughed workers and shuttered businesses
- All of our clergy and congregations

We are all facing some new realities though we work and pray that they will not be long term let alone permanent. We are learning as we go. Some new practices will prove to be a blessing to the mission of the church beyond this crisis. While some anxiety is likely we get to choose if it will take us over. Most crisis can become petri dishes for bad behavior and worse theology. Neither are inevitable. The church can actually be a firewall to preserve life and promote health or we can incubate the worst in all of us. The epistle reading from this past Sunday included these words from Romans: "We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

+Gregory V. Palmer

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