



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally
Rev. Mark Alan Miller, pastor

16 March 2020

Good Day to Friends and Family of Tecumseh UMC

It was a disappointment for me, yesterday, to not lead worship in a space filled with the colors of sunlight through our stained glass windows and the sounds of our organ, choir, and the singing of the gathered saints. Welcome to our season of the Coronavirus and the opportunity to explore how to do church in new ways.

First, the nuts and bolts stuff:

In accordance with CDC guidelines and the recommendation of our bishop, Tecumseh UMC has suspended all in-person gatherings. This includes worship on Sunday and Wednesday, meetings, and music rehearsals. We do this to enforce "social distancing" in order to curtail the spread of Coronavirus among us and this is important because people age 60 and over are the most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, a serious respiratory disease, from the virus. The bishop's recommendation is to remain closed through March, but as of today, the CDC is recommending eight weeks. We shall take this week to week.

Our district superintendent has ordered all Heritage District clergy to refrain from hospital and nursing home visits. This will prevent pastors from catching and spreading Coronavirus among the sick.

Where we go from here:

We are in new territory, a wilderness in which we have no map or travel guide. But we do have God and each other, even if we are not together face to face.

When I finish this letter I will begin exploring options for streaming or podcasting that will be accessible from our website (www.tecumsehumc.org). I hope to post a variety of worship and devotional material over the coming weeks.

I ask you to stay engaged through our website and Facebook (Tecumseh Umc) if you are connected to it.

Meetings? We will need to figure out how to meet without being in the same room together.

I also ask you to continue to support Tecumseh UMC financially as you have done. Our suspending gatherings has no effect on the need to pay the bills and support our staff and pastor. Please mail in or drop off your offering. I am looking into options for giving through our website and will let you know when we have such capacity.

Stay connected by phone. Call around to the people you currently cannot see on Sunday morning. I will be doing the same.

Keep the faith. May the Holy Spirit sustain you. And may you know the peace of Christ.

. . . Pastor Mark

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