

E-Note from Pastor David – 4-17-20

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

THIS WEEKEND – It is good for us to gather together each week – even if it is digitally – to celebrate our Risen Lord! So...We invite you to our worship experiences this weekend! We will begin a brand new message series called, “Exiles: Finding Hope While Scattered” – based on the New Testament book of First Peter. This weekend, I'll share a message called, “Exiles” based on 1 Peter 1:1-12. First Peter is a powerful letter of encouragement for all who are feeling isolated and socially distant. Plan on joining us for this timely and relevant series! Come check it out... and invite a friend!

We will have TWO Live Stream Worship services. You can easily access either of the online worship options from our website (www.stpauls.faith). You simply navigate to our home page and click on the menu item, “**WORSHIP ONLINE**”. You will be redirected to a page where you will choose either the “**Live on Facebook**” or “**Live on YouTube**”. The “**LIVE ON FACEBOOK**” service will be hosted on our Facebook page (St. Paul's United Methodist Church) at **6:00 PM on Saturday**. You do not need a Facebook account to watch but those with a Facebook account will be able to comment during the service. The “**LIVE ON YOUTUBE**” will direct you to our YouTube channel where the service will be hosted live at **10:00 AM on Sunday**.

1. **Saturday EVENING at 6:00 PM on Facebook**. You can also access that directly here: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsEtown/>
2. **Sunday MORNING at 10:00 AM on YouTube**. You can also access that directly here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUXsbR6bqRneWo7hDmsI21g/>

The service will be available On Demand (through YouTube) – **ANYTIME** from Saturday at 6:00 PM on. Which means you can worship at whatever time works for you – whether at your “normal” Sunday worship time or any other opportunity. Simply click on the YouTube link above and select the service you wish to view.

We have also developed a central location for all our information and resources relating to the Coronavirus. Simply navigate to our website (www.stpauls.faith) and click on the “**Coronavirus Updates**” banner on the home page. You will be redirected to a second page which contains duplicate access to our online worship, a link to download the current week “**Sermon Notes**”, a link to submit “**Prayer Requests**”, a link to our secure online “**Giving**” portal, the latest on **Event/Meeting/Rehearsal Status**, links to resources for our **GK** and **JAM** families, and a link to copies of the latest **Church Correspondence**. You can also access both the “**Sermon Archives**” and our new “**Worship Archives**”. What a great way to get caught up and give the new process a try so you don't miss anything!

GK AND JAM FAMILIES / VBS – With the COVID-19 crisis still at hand, we know that Vacation Bible School is the last thing on your mind. Our advertising was to begin in April and registration in May. We wanted to let you know about our decision about Vacation Bible School.

With so many unknowns and the safety and health of our kids and team being the utmost importance, we have decided to **cancel Vacation Bible School for the summer of 2020**. It is disappointing, as we always look forward to “VBS”, seeing God work in the lives of our kids and through our team, but we are confident this is the right decision.

We made this decision now so that we can work on other fun and impactful ways to reach our kids and families during our current situation, along with planning for when we are back to meeting at church together.

Thank you for your prayers and your continued support of our Children’s Ministry.

Suzanne Hetrick
Children’s Director

Staci Hood Neece
Preteen Coordinator

OUTREACH TEAM / COMMUNITY CUPBOARD - Please Continue to Support the Community Cupboard. The Cupboard is having more requests for food and needs donations. Items may be placed in the 24-hour donation shed at Community Place at 61 Washington Street. If you have a large donation (more than a few bags of groceries), you may park on Washington Street, go to the Community Cupboard door and ring the bell between 9:30 -1:00 on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Leave the donations in your car, a volunteer will come out with a sanitized cart and get the items directly from your car.

Most needed items: Canned goods: pears, pineapples, carrots, spinach, mixed vegetables, Spam, baked beans, kidney beans; ketchup, mayo, mustard, salad dressings, mac and cheese, crackers, sugar (granulated and brown), coffee, tea, juice; paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, feminine hygiene products, liquid hand soap, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies.

Thank you for your continued generosity, St. Paul’s.

REDUCED OFFICE HOURS CONTINUE / MASKS REQUIRED - Our office hours continue on a reduced schedule of **Monday-Thursday, 9AM-1PM and closed on Friday. Beginning Monday, EVERYONE entering the building will be required to wear a mask.** Please call ahead to purchase gift cards or before stopping in for other business. Our staff continues to monitor their voice messages and email while working at home as well.

YOUR GIVING IS NEEDED – Thank you for your ongoing generosity! Because of the fact that we’ve not been able to gather on site, our financial contributions have taken a major hit. You can best help by taking a moment – either right now or sometime during the week – as an act of worship and generosity – to give electronically on our St. Paul’s website or by text-to-give or by mailing your offering envelopes to the church. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Your gift really does make a difference.

CREATION 2020 CANCELLED – The Creation 2020 event scheduled to begin June 24 has been cancelled. According to their website, tickets for 2020 will be honored in 2021. For more information, please visit <https://creationfest.com/postponed/> or contact Dave Rizzo.

CORONAVIRUS PLAN UPDATE / ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS – In order to honor our local and national government’s guidelines, ALL on-site church gatherings continue to be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled to online meetings – at least through April 30th. As more information comes forth, we will adjust that date. To find an active list of those ministries that have been cancelled, postponed or rescheduled to online meetings, please go to our church’s website (www.stpauls.faith), click on the “**Coronavirus Updates**” banner on our home page, and scroll down to the “**Event/Meeting/Rehearsal Status**” section.

For groups that are rescheduled to meet online, we are providing online gatherings by using our “Zoom” software. Group leaders will send out via email a “Zoom Invitation” allowing you to join the meeting. As a reminder, when you get an email inviting you to the meeting, just follow the following steps:

1. In the email, locate and click on the highlighted link just after the phrase, “Join Zoom Meeting.”
2. A window will appear asking you to “Join by Video” and/or “Join by Computer’s Audio.” Click that.
3. Make sure that you are “muted” by using your cursor to go to the bottom left where you’ll see a “microphone.” If you are muted already, there will be a red line going across it. If there’s no red line, click on the microphone icon once and the red line will appear. When you want to speak, just click on that microphone again so that it “unmutes” you.

WE NEED YOUR HELP / DIGITAL DIRECTORY! We are building a digital photo directory that we will share with members and regular worshipers at St. Paul’s Church and we invite you to help us. Do you have recent digital picture of you and/or your family that you could share by emailing it to the church office at office@stpauls.faith. It does not need to be a professionally posed picture - just one where we can see all the smiling faces in your family.

We will connect your family picture with your family profile on our church software and then extract each member from the picture for each individual profile. At this time, the pictures will remain private to those who have been granted access to our digital software in order to honor our safe sanctuaries policies and protect our children. We are not planning on printing a directory at this time and there is no cost to you to participate. It is our way of remaining connected while we are apart.

Please send us a picture at office@stpauls.faith with "Directory Picture" as the subject line and the names (first and last) of everyone in the picture in the body of the email. Thanks so much for your help!

SPECIAL ITEMS TO NOTE –

1. There will not be a printed or online copy of THE WEEKLY this week.
2. Our staff continues to lift up all prayer concerns. If you have a specific request, please use the “[Prayer Requests](#)” button to submit your information or email Pastor John at johnpm@stpauls.faith.
3. Children’s Ministry (GK and JAM) will be providing their Sunday School lessons from our website. Scroll to the bottom of the “[Coronavirus Updates](#)” page and select either “[Grace Kids](#)” or “[JAM](#)”. New lessons will be added each week – a great way to reinforce the lesson over multiple days.
4. Important correspondence on this topic from me or the staff has been uploaded to our website. If you missed an email or an e-note, scroll to the bottom of the “[Coronavirus Updates](#)” page and select “[Articles](#)”.
5. If you know of someone who does not have access to our online worship and would enjoy receiving a printed copy of the message, please email the information to Pastor John at johnpm@stpauls.faith.

Remember—We are looking forward to your joining us for Church Online!

peace and love to you,

pastor david

Our Mission

[As followers of Jesus, we will out-love the world.](#)