

May 18, 2020

Dear CPC Members and Friends,

It has now been nine weeks since CPC, along with most other churches in the country, closed our doors to meetings and worship services to help stop the spread of Covid-19. During these past nine weeks, Pastor Lucas, Marta, Sarina and Chandler have provided online worship services and other videos for our spiritual growth and encouragement. Our most recent addition to our online services was a virtual communion service provided by Pastor Lucas. We want to thank them for faithfully continuing to serve the congregation.

Our treasurer, Joe Brubaker, has continued to manage the finances of CPC by making deposits of contributions, paying bills, paying our staff and keeping up with financial reports. We want to thank Joe and also Monica (bookkeeper) and Lois (elder) for their efforts to make sure all these things happen. In addition to the regular financial tasks, Joe was able, with Session approval, to apply for and receive the CARES Act Paycheck Protection loan to make sure we could keep paying all of our staff during these uncertain times. Thank you, Joe! And thank you, our congregation, for your continued financial support.

Your Session had their regular meeting on April 19 using an online meeting format. One of the things that has been accomplished is that a Media Team has been formed under the leadership of Bill Riddle to assist in improving the quality of our online offerings. The team is currently working on transitioning to “live streaming” our services, rather than making recordings. We hope to switch to this format soon so that when the sanctuary is reopened, those who are not ready to return to public worship can continue to worship with us from their homes. Another accomplishment during this time is that online giving is now available through our website for those that prefer that method of giving. Check out [www.cocoapresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.cocoapresbyterianchurch.org) and follow the simple instructions for giving. This giving platform is run by The Presbyterian Foundation and has a solid reputation for being a safe and simple way to give online. Your CPC property committee has also continued to work on a number of projects that need attention. For example, lighting in the sanctuary is being improved during this time, as well as the completion of the Youth on Fire Room.

Our CPC shepherds have been actively contacting members and friends to check on them and discern if there are any needs that we can fill. If you know of one of our congregation that needs our help, please call the church office and leave a message (321-631-3956). Mary Beth has kept the office going and fields phone calls, prayer requests and continues to send out the monthly CPC Newsletter, among other things. Thank you, Mary Beth!

So, what happens next? That is the question that Pastor Lucas and the Session are asking themselves. We are thinking through all the possible tasks that might need to be completed before inviting everyone back to the sanctuary safely. Here are the issues being discussed and planned:

1. Mark off the pews for social distancing. (This has now been completed.)
2. Provide hand sanitizer stations in the narthex and Downunder. (If you have a small size sanitizer that you can bring for your personal use, please do so.)
3. Provide masks for those without their own masks.
4. Clean the sanctuary, bathrooms and Downunder.
5. Secure volunteers to be stationed outside front doors to greet people (from 6 feet distance) and encourage them to be aware of social distancing and to use hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary. (Doors will be propped open.)
6. Have live streaming available for those who want to continue to worship from home.
7. Send a letter to the congregation at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance announcing the reopening of the sanctuary once a date has been planned.

What might be different?

1. We will not provide bulletins; all announcements and parts of the service will be on the screens.
2. The service will be shorter (no time of greetings, no children's sermon, no choir). The format will be much like what we have now online.
3. There will be no Children's Church provided at first. This will be reinstated at a later date.
4. We will not pass an offering plate but will have designated containers for collecting our offerings in the narthex.

We hope this letter is helpful to you and we continue to pray and hold you in our hearts. Recently, Pastor Lucas' sermon reminded us that we are in God's care.

From Psalm 91: ***Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.***<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> ***I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."***

We look forward to trusting God to help us continue the ministry of Cocoa Presbyterian Church and also to being together again as soon as it is safe to do so. We miss all of you!

In Christ,

The Session of CPC