

Church Update

Mountville Presbyterian Church <mountvillepresby@gmail.com>

Wed 3/18/2020 1:29 PM

Dear Mountville family,

Last night the session met to discuss how to continue worshiping the Lord and doing ministry here at the church. These have been very difficult decisions and I ask you to continue to pray for our leaders going forward. The landscape of life and recommendations of government have changed a lot in the past week and have necessitated us revisiting our current practices. Our President and governor have encouraged us to limit gatherings in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our medical community continues to urge us to be cautious at this time in an effort to stem the tide and shorten the peak of COVID-19 for the next 15 days. Romans 13 reminds us that submitting to governing authorities that don't go against what is right is a mark of trust in God. We haven't made any decisions out of anxiety or fear, but in consideration of how to love God and His people best at this time. This differs from other perspectives, because it means we have hope in the ongoing redemptive processes of the Lord during these times. God is good...All the time!

Worship & Small Group Gatherings

In light of this new information and our desire to not unintentionally cause harm to others, we will not have onsite worship or in person small group gatherings and meetings through at least March 31. This includes choir practice and our church workday. There will be a worship service offered online on Facebook the next two Sundays and posted early the next week on our website. Small group meetings can take place over the phone, video conference, or email. I will also begin offering a couple of short devotionals twice a week through our One Call Now service that will be delivered around lunchtime to those interested in them. We hope to begin that next week.

Church Office, Staff, and Officers

The Church office will be considered closed to non-staff as of today. I will still be available to connect by phone, email, or as needed in person. The staff will continue to work as needed for each position. Our elders and deacons will still be available to serve and care for those on their shepherding lists. We encourage you to reach out to any of us with questions, concerns, or ways we can help you. This is a time where we still are Christ's Church worshiping, walking, and bearing witness to the Triune God. Many of us are seeing new and different doors opened to serve others. I pray that we will be filled with joy and hope as we walk through these doors and times together.

Exodus 14:13 & 14 & Psalm 46:10 & 11 remind God's people in difficult times that we know God is with us and that He will fight for His people. In Exodus, it is as the Egyptians come back to pursue Israel after their exodus, and in the Psalm, it is a picture of peace in God's city even as turmoil goes on in the world around them. The call in both passages is to be still, know that the Lord is God, and He is with us. I pray you will experience the blessings of stillness before God during this time. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

In Christ, together with you,

Pastor Patrick and all the elders at Mountville