



Dear Members and Friends of CUMC:

On Monday evening, the Leadership Council voted to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Governor Wolf's orders issued earlier in the day. All services at our building have been suspended until further notice, and all activities at our church have been cancelled effective yesterday for the next two weeks. The Leadership Council will meet in a special session on Monday, March 30. The office will be open – the front door will be locked so that all visitors can be screened prior to entering. Previously during services on Sunday, it had been announced that the Second Capital Campaign has been paused until stabilization and normalcy have returned to our lives. This Sunday' Sneak Peek, for which many of you had already signed up to take tours, has been postponed. It has been confirmed that the new Worship Center's floor will not be started until mid-May, and we are hopeful that we will still be able to sign our names and write prayers or Biblical quotations on the floor before the flooring has been laid.

Paramount in our decisions was the overriding consideration of the health and welfare of us all. We are a family of Christian brothers and sisters, and it is best that we stay home and hunker down until it is safe to gather again in larger groups. It is also important that as a family we continue to stay connected with each other.

As we contemplated our decisions, it became obvious that we needed to embrace the challenges we now face and look at them as opportunities. Since unifying, we had altered many of the ways that we "had done church" at our three previous churches. Starting on Sunday morning, March 22, you will be sent an email with a video link to a worship experience the pastors are working on now. Each Sunday when restrictions force us to suspend services, there will be a worship experience for you to view and with which you can interact. As the restrictions are lifted or at least gathering numbers reduced, we are hoping that the worship experiences will be able to include our choirs and praise band.

Earlier today, the staff met and generated a number of activities they would like to lead during this period of time we are unable to assemble in church. Check your email on Friday for how all our ministries want to stay connected.

We also need your help to keep us connected to each other at CUMC. We have some members and friends who don't have family nearby, don't have access to internet (and church info), and may need help with grocery pick-ups. We have others who are off work/school and have already offered to help those in need. If you can help, or need help, please complete the forms under RESOURCES on our Coronavirus & CUMC Updates and Resources page or call the Church Office.

We also need you to continue to contribute faithfully your tithes and offerings. Our bills still need to be paid and our payroll met. We also want to continue our financial support for ministries and missions, which continue to operate. You have always been a very generous congregation, and it is our prayer that your generosity will be able to be continued through this crisis.

None of us has ever experienced what we are living through daily. There is not a course we could have taken in undergraduate, seminary or grad school that could have prepared any of us for what we are now facing. We will do our best to lead you, ask for your continued prayers, and ask that you pray for each other and our church.

And remember the words of 2 Timothy 1:7 –
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Pastor Jim and Pastor Mira
Kerm Leitner, Leadership Council Chair