

# Saint Paul United Methodist Church

“The Place to Connect, Love and Grow”

Reverend Scott Bratton, Pastor  
Virginia Brown, Business Administrator  
Diana Rotan, Church Secretary  
Virginia Brown, Director of Child Care Ministries  
Barney Davis, Facilities Caretaker



Melody Beck, Director of Children’s Ministries  
Roger Beck, Director of Youth Ministries  
Laura Novak, Director of Creative Arts Ministries  
Karen Hertzog, Organist

May 13, 2020

Dear St. Paul Family;

We miss you and have suffered patiently during the last two months of the Corona Virus Pandemic. While we have been blessed with great participation through Facebook Live, we long to be together in the Sanctuary for worship. Your Church Council met last night to decide what restrictions should be in place before face-to-face worship may resume. At this point I am awaiting a decision from our Bishop concerning our earliest return date. **It could be May 24<sup>th</sup> but also likely could be extended.** We want to see you but hope and expect that you will stay home if you are sick or vulnerable.

We wish to emphasize that while we are taking a best-effort approach, we need your help. You have a part to play in the preventative process as well! According to the latest data, primary Coronavirus transmission occurs when a sick person coughs or sneezes in close proximity to someone else. Infection can also occur by touching a recently contaminated surface and then touching our own eyes, nose or mouth. I have updated provisions in a letter I sent out almost two months ago.

- We advise children under five, adults over seventy, and anyone with respiratory or health concerns to stay home.
- We will maintain social distancing and sanitation in the Sanctuary with designated seating areas, no bulletins, no hymnals, no paper products in the pew, and limited face-to-face contact.
- When we will restart face-to face worship, we will not be offering Children’s Moments, or Children’s Church, or Nursery.
- I encourage worship for adults who are not vulnerable or fragile, but we will step away from passing the peace, passing the plate, and auxiliary functions. We will receive your offering during worship at the Collection box at the back of the Sanctuary. During the week, your offering can be left in the drop box outside the Administrative Building. The office is open on Mondays between 9 a.m. and noon.
- We will discourage Sunday School and small groups for the present time.
- If you have a tendency to cough or sneeze, we encourage you to wear a mask or stay home.
- We will not screen persons prior to entry but we ask you to stay home if you are running a fever or have Corona symptoms. If you desire to wear a mask, please bring one with you.
- The Child Care Center was closed the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> for a deep cleaning. We established additional requirements to screen children prior to admitting them back into the Child Care Center.
- We have used recommended antiviral cleaners to properly disinfect public access areas of the church daily. We have increased sanitizing measures for bathroom fixtures, doorknobs, light switches, and other high-contact surfaces. We have closed water fountains. We will suspend coffee/snack time and fellowship meals.

- In our childcare and children's ministry spaces, materials, toys, and fixtures are cleaned daily with a child-friendly sanitizer. Staff and volunteers will observe frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer throughout the day.
- We will suspend communion temporarily. We have purchased individualized communion elements and will use them to transition to traditional communion.
- We continue to suspend auxiliary meetings such as Scouts/AA/AI-Anon/Wonderful Wednesdays, Confirmation Class, and Bible Studies.

To help protect the broader community, we will continue to limit pastoral visitation to nursing homes, assisted living homes and rehabilitation centers. Many of these locations have already made it public that they are either prohibiting visitors, or strongly urging that visitors stay away. Should there be a life or death situation, we will still make the visit. Our intent is not to unknowingly pass along the virus to those who are most vulnerable.

Here are some important steps for your household to observe:

1. Stay home if you are sick. If you exhibit any symptoms of illness, we urge you in the strongest way possible to refrain from visiting our campus. You must be completely free of symptoms and have a normal body temperature for at least 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine before returning.
2. For the foreseeable future, you should make a habit of frequent, thorough hand washing with hot water and soap. Use hand sanitizer regularly between washings.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If a tissue is not readily available, use the upper part of your arm/sleeve. Please do not carry used tissues around in a bag or pocket. Discard tissues immediately after the first use.
4. If you are traveling abroad, please pay attention to travel notice warnings from CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) If you or a household member visits a country under Level-2 or Level-3 warnings, we urge you in the strongest way possible to wait 14 days before returning to our campus.

We thank you for your help, patience and prayers as we work together for the welfare and benefit of all concerned.

In Christ's Name,

Rev. Scott Bratton, Pastor



1629 West Palmetto Street, P.O. Box 5446, Florence, South Carolina 29502-5446  
 Telephone Numbers: Church Office (843) 669-3134, Fax (843) 669-5676  
 E-mail: [stpmed@bellsouth.net](mailto:stpmed@bellsouth.net)