

March 12, 2020

Beloved People of God,

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic grows, Mayor Bowser and Governor Larry Hogan have issued a Public Health Emergency requesting that non-essential mass gatherings be postponed. **Moreover, out of an abundance of caution, our Episcopal Leader, Bishop Latrelle Easterling, has directed that all United Methodist churches in the District of Columbia and Maryland refrain from gathering in their church buildings for the next two weeks.**

At this time we have received no reports of members or guests who have visited the church having exposure to or contracting the virus. We believe Asbury should take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of its members. **Our plan is to suspend all activities including worship through March 31.**

### **Worship**

- The planned Women's Day Celebration has been postponed to a later date.
- Sunday Worship opportunities will only be offered online.
  - 10:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship via live-streaming at [www.asburymcdc.org](http://www.asburymcdc.org)
  - 5:00 p.m. – Bridge Contemporary Worship via Facebook Live
- Choir rehearsals will be suspended until regular worship resumes.

### **Bible Study & Prayer**

- Bible study opportunities will be offered through conference call or Facebook Live.
- A Daily Prayer Line will be available at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.
- Prayer concerns may be emailed to [prayers@asburymcdc.org](mailto:prayers@asburymcdc.org).
- The Stephen Ministry & Lay Visitation Team will suspend home visits and minister to the sick and shut-in via telephone.

### **Discipleship & Outreach**

- All Ministry Area and Committee meetings will be held by conference call.
- The Food Pantry, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Breakfast, and any food fellowship activities will be suspended during this time.

### **Personal Care**

We ask that you forego coming to the church until our suspension period ends. You should consult with a medical professional if you are symptomatic with fever or upper respiratory illnesses. We encourage everyone to monitor updates and take hygiene precautions as suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fact sheets regarding the Coronavirus may be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

This will be a difficult time for us but we are a people of resilience. **During this time we are prayerful that you will continue to support Asbury financially as personnel and facility expenses will continue during the two week period. You may give via U.S. mail or online through our website, [www.asburyumcdc.org](http://www.asburyumcdc.org).**

The Coronavirus pandemic is a rapidly changing situation and we want to assure you that we will continue to communicate with you as changes occur. If you have questions or a pastoral concern, Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills, Senior Pastor may be reached by cell phone, (202)317-0902 or by email, [imills@asburyumcdc.org](mailto:imills@asburyumcdc.org).

Faithfully in Christ,

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