

March 20, 2020

Dear FPCP Friends and Family,

**“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.”** (Ps. 46: 1-2a)

These words from Psalm 46 are worth memorizing in these days where our world seems to change with each passing hour. These words affirm God’s power and deliverance.

The Psalm repeats, **“The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”** (Ps. 46: 7 & 11) We live into this truth even while we worship apart from each other recognizing that loving our neighbor at this time in our church’s history means limiting our contact from one another in an effort to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Although this could change, **the plan is that we will limit our worship and meetings to online only gatherings through Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday we will post the sermon by 9:30 am on our church’s website, under the Sermons heading. The direct link is [www.fpcp.net/resources/sermons](http://www.fpcp.net/resources/sermons).**

**The church and the Thrift Shop will remain closed through April 5<sup>th</sup>.** The church staff will continue to work from home. The Session will hold an on-line meeting early next week to make recommendations regarding upcoming Holy Week and Easter services and future services. As decisions are made regarding future worship services, we will send those out to you. The Session will also discuss the financial challenges that come from the suspension of our live Sunday worship services. To that end, please remember to keep giving to the church as you are able in order to further the mission of loving our neighbor in need. (You can send your contributions in through the mail but also via app, text, or directly through the website. All ways of giving are explained at <http://fpcp.net/give>).

In this time, where we may not be able to give our time and talents in ways that we are used to, consider this an opportunity to reach out in new ways. Instead of seeing time sheltering at home as a necessary inconvenience, consider it a holy time of rest and reflection. Psalm 46 calls us to not only place our trust in God but it also calls us to be still in God’s holy presence.

On Wednesdays, I will be sending a link for a daily Bible reading and prayer that I hope will help us all stay focused on God while we are at home. As Paul wrote “there is nothing that can separate us from God’s love,” which includes this virus and worshipping from home!

May God bless you and keep you today and always,

Your pastor,  
Emily