

March 27, 2020

Dear FPCP Family and Friends.

Both the Old and New Testaments call us to “**Cast our cares on the Lord**”.

Years ago, on a beautiful blue clear lake in British Columbia, a friend tried to teach me how to fly fish. During my first few attempts at casting, I caught a tree, my friend’s coat, and then the collar of my own coat. It took four tries before my fishing line found the water, but with perseverance and patience I ultimately was rewarded with a beautiful fish.

Clearly, God is not calling us all to fly fish in this season of sheltering at home, but **God is calling every single one of us to cast our worries and concerns on Him. We are called to cast our prayers to God with both perseverance and patience** recognizing that God alone knows how long this season in our lives will last.

We cast our cares on God because: “He cares for us” (1 Peter 5:7) and God has promised to “sustain us and keep us from falling.” (Ps. 55:22) We hold on to these promises while we abide by Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order to *Stay Home, Stay Safe* through April 13th.

This of course means that our upcoming Holy Week services will be unlike any other in our church’s history: Our Palm Sunday service (April 5th), Maundy Thursday Service (April 9th), Good Friday Service (April 10th), and Easter Sunday service on April 12th will all be on-line. You can access these services at: www.fpcp.net/resources/sermons.

We will continue to practice loving God and our neighbor while we stand apart from each other. However, our prayers for one another and for the healing of our world will unite us as one family of faith. Rest assured that the ministry of our church carries on even while the church building and Thrift Shop remain closed. The Session of our church and many of our committees, programs, and Bible Studies have met or are in the process of switching over to Zoom meetings.

I urge you to stay connected in these uncertain times. Every Friday there will be an update of our worship and meetings schedule. Every Wednesday, a devotion will be on offer for your spiritual refreshment. Thank you to everyone who responded last week to our plea to remember the church in your giving even while we are apart. There are many different options for giving including by text, by app, on our church’s website or by mail. Further information about these options can be found here: <http://fpcp.net/give>.

Please know that as a church, we stand with you. We are praying for you and for your families. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any type of help or support. Together, we cast our cares on God, trusting in His mercy and grace.

Wishing you the deep peace, strength, and comfort of Christ today and always.

Your pastor,

Emily