

April 10, 2020

Dear FPCP Family and Friends,

Today is Good Friday. Today is the day when we remember Christ's crucifixion and death. On this Holy Day, I am often asked the question: "How can this day possibly be seen as good?"

My answer to this question has always been, "Although this day clearly is not good for Jesus Christ; his sacrifice brought about **the greater good** of our salvation and our eternal communion with God."

Friends, our need to follow Christ's example of **servicing the greater good** has never been more essential. Yesterday, we heard from the governor's office that the *Stay Home, Stay Safe* order has been extended for three more weeks until May 1st. For our church this means we will continue to worship on-line, and as a church staff, we will continue to work from homes, and our church's Thrift Shop will remain closed through the end of the month.

This isolation is not only how we stay safe and healthy; this is also how we serve the greater good and "love our neighbor."

Although we are far from each other, please do not forget that we are never far from God. We remember this hope tonight in our 8:00 pm Good Friday service and we celebrate it on Sunday beginning at 9:30 am in our Easter service.

Thank you to everyone has already taken part in our Maundy Thursday service. Thank you for emailing your images of communion within your homes this year. These pictures serve as a beautiful reminder that even in isolation, we are "one family of faith."

Friends, it is not too late to join in this Maundy Thursday practice. When you have the time, all of our Holy Week services can be found at: www.fpcp.net/resources/sermons

In this time of isolation, our church family is here for you. We are praying for you each week. We are working in committees via video conferencing to ensure urgent needs are being met. As a church, we will be reaching out to you by phone to see how you are doing very soon. Please do not be surprised if you receive a phone call from either a church Deacon, Elder, staff member, or volunteer in the coming week.

God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13: 5b)

This is the love and the hope we celebrate this Holy Week and always,

Emily