

# Christ Church, Frederica COVID-19 Update, April 22, 2020

## Worship

With current and continuing guidelines around social distancing, we will continue to refrain from holding any public services through the month of May. Our Bishop has also shared that parishes in the Diocese of GA are not able to shift to in-person worship until the Georgia Department of Health recommendations around a two-week decline in new cases and the availability of widespread testing is met. This will give us time to come down from the peak and evaluate the impact of the relaxation of other social distancing guidelines. With our high-risk population, this seems prudent. We will return to the church to broadcast services in May. We will evaluate when we might be able to return to Communion Under Special Circumstances or other limited in-person worship opportunities later in May.

Current online offerings via Facebook include:

Daily: Evening Prayer, 5:00 pm

Sundays: Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer, 9:15 am; Kidurgy (recorded) 10:00 am

Sunday services are streaming live to our Facebook and YouTube pages.

## Pastoral Care

We continue to reach out to members of the parish individually. Clergy and lay members of the parish are continuing to make periodic check-in phone calls with parishioners. If you haven't heard from anyone, it may mean we don't have up-to-date contact information for you in the database we are using. Please call us to provide us with your information.

All of our pastoral care is being done over the phone and via video. Please let us know of any pastoral care needs, or if you or someone in your family is hospitalized, or in need of pastoral care, and how we can reach you/them. We are making in-person visits to administer Last Rites, and are limiting non-emergency visitations through May. Keep us up-to-date on pastoral care needs by calling the office.

Please continue to reach out to your friends and acquaintances at Christ Church during this time. Call the folks you are used to seeing and share the love of Christ through fellowship. We must all care for each other and our neighbors during this time.

## Fellowship and Learning

All groups that can move their meetings to Zoom are encouraged to do so. We can help set up the meetings with the church's Zoom account. Details for groups can be found in each week's News You Can Use. NOTE: recurring meetings will use the same

meeting ID for all of their meetings. Once you have the meeting ID number, you can write it down in your calendar for future meetings. Current, scheduled offerings include:

Mondays, 11:00 am: Adult Study with Rev. Bob Brown; *The Walk*

Wednesdays, 10:30 am: Men's Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1:00 pm: Women's Book Study with Mtr. Ashton; *Keep it Shut*

Thursdays, 5:30 pm: EC 101 with Mtr. Becky

Sundays, 10:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour

We know that Zoom will not be accessible to everyone, but it is the best option we have at the moment. Other Zoom opportunities will be announced as they are scheduled. Any group that cannot utilize Zoom is effectively cancelled until social distancing recommendations have been lifted.

## Operations and Pledging

The Parish Office will remain physically closed, although staff is still working and available via phone and email. Please don't visit the office at this time. Meetings with clergy or others can be scheduled, of course, but the staff has been encouraged to work from home as much as possible to further lower the risk of transmission.

Thank you to those who have been able to continue their giving during this time. We hope that many of you will be able to continue to support the church financially by electronic pledge payment or by mailing pledge payments to the church. Spending has been adjusted to reduce where we can in the short term. Many of these cuts are temporary and are only deferred to a later time as we anticipate a rebound in the months to come. The Vestry also established an emergency line of credit last year to be used in such situations to ensure that we remain liquid and pay our staff.

If you have not made an Annual Pledge for 2020 and are willing to do so, they are helpful as we try to evaluate what we are facing for the rest of the year, especially now. We do not have a capital pledge phase end date for our Rooted. Growing. Building. Campaign. We will keep the pledge windows open indefinitely, as we all watch the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic. Fortunately, we have plenty of time before our projects were slated to begin.

## Outreach

We are establishing a Pandemic Outreach Fund to be administered by our mission committee. Gifts to the Pandemic Outreach Fund will be used to support individuals affected by the pandemic and its effects, especially economic effects. If you receive a stimulus check that you don't truly need, please consider giving it to the Church through the Pandemic Outreach Fund.

We invite all parishioners to support community relief efforts as they are able. We are doing the same from the church's perspective and will continue to do so. The new Shelter in Place order has placed Backpack Buddies and food drop-offs for the food pantry up in the air until we learn the specifics of the order. We will communicate needs as we can.

We are also continuing our face mask drive for healthcare workers. A previous email to the parish has details on how you can support that effort.

Two local non-profits (there are others) that are doing good works to address this current crisis include:

FaithWorks – many of you know FaithWorks and their many outreaches, from The Well, to Sparrows Nest and much more. <https://faithworksministry.org>

Firebox – a relief organization here in Glynn County, started by the folks as Southern Soul to support restaurant workers in need. Many restaurant works are still out of work. <https://ssbbqfirebox.com>