



First Presbyterian Church – Muskegon, Michigan

As we all adjust to these trying circumstances, I pray you are well and managing with a sense of hope and Christ's peace.

Session has made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship services until further notice. We encourage everyone to be in touch on the internet and by phone to stay connected.

Session also voted that any church meetings be held electronically to the extent possible and that in-person participation be limited to no more than 10 while practicing safe social-distancing. Sanitizing wipes are available at the church for surface cleaning.

I have become familiar with the "Zoom" cloud meeting app, a computer/smartphone way of gathering electronically which allows for interaction by face, voice and chat. It's a free application, and I recommend FPC friends and family download and install it so we can make use of it together. I hope to hold Zoom gatherings on a frequent basis.

Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. there will be a live stream video from FPC's Facebook page – *First Presbyterian Church, Muskegon* (and another website...read on). I will give a message and a prayer. It won't be a full worship service, but if this works well we will expand it in the coming weeks. For anyone who is not able to view the Sunday morning message via Facebook, they can go to <https://fpcmuskegon.freeonlinechurch.com/live>. As our first streaming attempt, we expect glitches but we will try to learn on the fly and improve from week to week.

At 11 a.m. we will have a virtual fellowship time via the Zoom Cloud Meeting app. If you have a smartphone or a computer with a camera and microphone, please join us! Keep connected electronically with the church family!

Some of our members are not connected by the internet, so please reach out by phone and let us know if there are needs we can address. The deacons have asked our shepherds to be in contact with people in their groups as one way of maintaining a loving connection.

Faith, not fear, is a helpful phrase to repeat, but it's also okay to admit that many of us are afraid to some extent. Richard Rohr, in his daily blog for March 19 said, "Our feelings of urgency and devastation are not exaggeration: they are responding to the real human situation." God, as always, is with us in this valley.

The church will be active in this time, and you are a part of that as you pray and reach out to others by phone and in other ways. Staff is committed to continuing the work of the church and session will review our position monthly.

Blessings to you all in Christ,
Pastor Jim