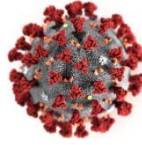




Memo: Coronavirus, Update #6
March 26, 2020
From the Desk of Pastor Chad



Greetings, New Song Family!

I miss you guys! I can't help it! I'm praying hard for each of you.

As of noon today, we have heard from our Bishop that United Methodist Churches will remain closed for in-person worship in accordance with the Governor's protocols laid out in his recent press briefing.

1. Live Stream, **through 4/26**
2. **Sunrise**, LiveStream, 6:30am
3. Easter **cancellations**
4. **Good Friday**
5. **Communion**
6. **Hearts, Hands & Feet Sunday**
7. **Contact, Giving & Resources**
8. **Psalm 116:1-2**

What does this mean for New Song?

We will continue to hold online/livestreaming services through the **end of April**. The decision to proceed with in-person worship will be re-evaluated before May 3; we will communicate a clear plan for moving forward in light of any changes at that time as it pertains to re-entry.

But what about Easter?

Unfortunately, in-person worship services will not be a possibility. The medical community in charge of keeping us as safe as possible concludes that a rushed timetable on in-person worship will mean dramatic increases in COVID-19 cases and exposure to not only community spread and symptoms, but, also, increased rates of hospitalization or worse. After review of all available directives, the choice to proceed towards May 3 is clear.

Easter will be a very different day for us... Hollywood Cemetery has asked that we not bring hundreds of people to their location for **Sunrise Services**, so we will be streaming that service. I am serving as this year's preacher for that time in worship, so I do hope you will tune in at **6:30am on Easter Sunday** to our service.

Secondly, this change also shifts our 9 & 10:30am in-person services to one, **Livestream service at 10:00am**.

Thirdly, we have had to cancel many of our **Easter special events**... our April 4th Eggstravaganza and PEEP Show have been tucked away for this year. For more information, check our website out for additional details: www.newsongumc.org/events

Fourthly, our **Good Friday** service will take place via **LiveStream at 7pm** on April 10.

Fifthly, we are planning **Communion** to occur when we can all be back in place. Everyone has had such creative ideas for worship and different elements; however, our tradition remains very focused on having Communion together and in-person. We will honor Communion in ways that keep us "legal" within our denomination – but in the meantime, we invite you to be mindful of Christ's presence with us in all times and spaces, especially now.

Lastly, we'd like to put materials in the hands of KIDS & FAMILIES!

On **Palm Sunday, from 3-5pm**, I invite you to join us for an afternoon of being Christ's presence in the form of **HEARTS (Ministry), HANDS (Palms) & FEET (Shoes) SUNDAY!** The Bible calls us to be salt & light, to be the hands & feet of Christ... and now we're asking you to put all of these together. **Help us help our Community:**

- + A Drive-Thru **Gift Card** Drive: (anything that can help others in their time of need: gas, food, Walmart, etc.)
- + Soles4Souls **Shoe** Drive: remember - any sized pair of shoes in gently-used condition, adult or child
- + **KIDS** Packet Pick-up: we have a special treat for Kids just ahead of **Easter** – PARENTS: come on by and pick up a craft, lesson and a food item just for the KIDS!
- + Non-perishable **food** items: all items will again be collected & go to the Food Banks & Backpack Ministry

Come on by – **no need to get out of your car!** We'll have bins for each item – pick-ups and drop-offs accepted between **3-5pm** on Palm Sunday, April 5.

For those who might prefer to give without leaving your house... here's another way to assist our community: Gift Cards can be sent to the Church directly via certain websites.

Kroger (which helps with both food and gas) is one example at:

<https://giftcards.kroger.com/our-store-cards/kroger>

Have your cards sent directly to the Church as the Shipping Address & we'll happily add your card to the stack.

These efforts will immediately make their way back into the community as we support local residents in need.

To view our **LiveStream worship**, simply click this link:

www.vimeo.com/newsongumc

or try our **Facebook** page:

www.facebook.com/growingnewsong

To donate/**give** to New Song's ministries and community efforts, go to:

www.newsongumc.org/give

You can also **give** through your phone via our app:

Text: newsongchurch to this number: [77977](tel:77977) (and follow the prompts)

You can complete an **E-Connect Card** via our website at:

www.newsongumc.org/connect-card

Sign-up For Your FREE **RightNow Media** Account Today:

www.newsongumc.org/rightnow-media

I'm so sad to not be able to get us back together sooner. We want everyone to be protected and safe; this has been a huge transition for many of us, and I grieve we're not able to do what many of us have taken for granted for so long. I have nothing but love for you and yours; looking forward to in-person worship again VERY soon – in the meantime, *I'll see you through the screen* on Sunday morning.

I'll end with a **Scripture of comfort** from Psalm 116:

¹ *I love the LORD because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.*

² *Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!*

God sees us; God holds us – stay safe, wash your hands, and carefully do your part – see you soon!

Faithfully,
Pastor Chad<><