



Panora United Methodist Church

119 E. Main Street, P. O. Box 601
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March 17, 2020

Dear Panora UMC family,

We greet you with the grace and love of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Our world, nation, state, and community are all facing an unprecedented crisis with the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. Because it's a new disease, none of us has immunity, and it seems to be more fatal than influenza, especially for those over 65. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) and our President, have asked us to curtail gatherings of 10 or more. Some experts say gatherings of any size should not happen.

So... until further notice we will gather for worship online only. <https://www.facebook.com/panoraumc/>. If you cannot access online worship, please request a written manuscript of the message. We encourage small groups to cancel too. These changes are acts of love for each other.

Between Sundays, while you are self-isolating, please worship at home: read your Bible, pray for others and yourself, sing hymns, and read your Upper Room or d365.org devotions.

An important part of worship is your response to God and God's mission on earth. Consider how God is calling you to give your love, your skills, your time, and your financial support. If you have been laid off without pay, don't short yourself by giving. If your income is continuing, now may be the time to assist your neighbor and give more. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality." (2 Corinthians 8:13). Mail your giving to Panora UMC, Box 601, Panora, IA 50216.

We've enclosed a form for electronic giving to the church if now is the time for you to do this. We encourage your electronic giving to be your *tithe* (percentage of your income). Additional *gifts* may be given for special offerings, building fund and mission projects, as you are able.

Please notify Dennis or Jane with your concerns and prayer requests. With your permission we will forward them to our prayer chain. Know that while we're apart we are praying for you individually by name. We ask you to pray for us too. While we are physically apart, may we draw closer together spiritually.

In Christian Love,

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