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Dear Church Family,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to update you on some important changes at our church in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consultation with our Session and our Coronavirus Response Task Force, we are suspending all church activities for the foreseeable future. The task force will continue to monitor the situation and make recommendations to Session for when these activities should resume. Please see below for more information.

Worship

Our Session has suspended in-person Sunday morning worship services for the foreseeable future, but we are still able to worship together digitally. We will have an online worship service every Sunday and will e-mail a link to our congregation each Sunday morning. These weekly e-mails will replace what has been sent out on Thursday and will contain other news and announcements as well. The worship service will also be posted on our website. You can watch this service at any time after it is e-mailed, but I would encourage you to watch it on Sunday morning with the knowledge that you are worshipping with your FPC family.

Staying Connected

We encourage our classes, teams, and groups to stay connected through e-mail, phone calls, and other forms of communication. Make a plan for how classes can meet together online and share those plans with us. If you need help on how to meet online, please reach out to Pastor John — john@fpcpensacola.com.

I'd also encourage you to reach out to your pew pals and other church friends to check in, stay connected, and see how we can support each other during this time of isolation.

Church Office

Our church office will be closed from March 18 through April 1. Our Human Resources Team will monitor the situation and determine if this time period needs to be extended.

Our staff is diligently working from home during this time. We have spent the last couple of weeks preparing for this eventuality and I am thankful for their hard work.

Pastoral Care

Pastor John, Pastor Joan, and I are still available for pastoral care during this time. We will not be visiting retirement homes or making home visits, but we will be reaching out to those we know are in need of support. I'd encourage you to reach out to us if a need arises in our church family so that we can care for you and others.

Giving

Your continued financial support of our church helps us to serve you and our community in these uncertain times. You can give online (either a onetime gift or set up a recurring gift) through our church's giving page: http://www.fpcpensacola.com/give. There has never been a better time to set up an online reoccurring gift to FPC. If you prefer to give by check, please mail it to our church: 33 East Gregory Street, Pensacola, FL 32502. Our staff will be coming in once a week to sort and check the mail. Thank you for your faithfulness to our church and to our God.

This is a fluid situation. We will continue to send out updates and encourage you to check out our website for the most current information www.fpcpensacola.com/covid19.

During times of uncertainty, it is calming to know that we worship the Prince of Peace. Let us pray for each other, our community, our country, and our world in the days and weeks ahead. I will close with one of my favorite passages of scripture that speaks powerfully about how there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, not things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8: 37-39).

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert Thomas Quiring Senior Pastor First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola