

Good Day Friends,

As we navigate through these worrisome times, we hope this finds you well and in positive spirits. Our priority is to continue to keep you updated on the day to day operations at Zion. As most of you know the streaming of Worship Services took place the past two weekends. The various streams were well received by the folks who could access it. The low volume issue experienced by some viewers last weekend has been corrected. Beginning this Sunday March 29th we will be offering two streams, a Contemporary Worship stream at 9 a.m. and a Traditional Service stream at 11 a.m. on Sundays. We urge the Saturday 6 p.m. worshipers to choose the Sunday service of their choice to worship.

The Governor on Monday ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses as of 5 p.m. Monday. We have not determined where we stand in this closure order, but have changed the office hours to 9 a.m. till Noon Monday - Thursday and closed on Friday. The Doors at the top of the ramp will be locked, but the parking lot ramp door will be open for Foodbank deposits and to pick up Youth and Family Items, Printed bulletins, Announcements, and the new "Christ in our Home" devotionals. We will offer updated information and do our best to provide the latest safety information to our members and guests as it becomes available.

As a precautionary measure the church building is in lock down mode at this time with only one staff member allowed in the building at a time. The decision to move in this direction was made in order to follow the Governor's wishes and to offer the highest levels of safety and wellbeing for the staff. We have put the staff in a work from home mode with Jim Hoover available during office hours and in the case of an building emergency. If you have a Pastoral need please call the office during office hours, In the case of a Pastoral emergency outside of office hours call the church office and you will be given further instructions. If you have a keypad code, it will not work because it is temporarily disabled. If there is an urgent matter and you need to visit the church offices, the ramp will be open during office hours. Please proceed up the ramp and push the button on the call box and the Church Administrator will meet you at the door to assist you as needed. All Church events are cancelled until May 15th, and events after that will be considered at that time. While we are streaming our worship services the placing of Flowers on the altar per the flower chart continues to be suspended. If you or someone you know is a high-risk individual or part of a high-risk family and has physical and/or spiritual need please contact the church office so we can be of assistance to them during this time of uncertainty.

As we continue through this time of uncertainty the church still incurs the usual operating expenses to be paid to continue the ministries of Zion. We are in need of your ongoing support through the following options: the US Mail, hand delivery by sliding your offering through the opening between the doors at the top of the ramp, or use our online giving mobile app GIVE+, or use the give option on our web page. Both online options are secure and easy to use. We have supplied links to these options below.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob

GIVE+ mobile solution for smartphones and tablets

Go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and search "[give plus church](#)"

Giving via our Website www.Zionmiddletown.org

<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/4157f915-5b29-4435-8f1f-fc1312f>

Youth and Family news

Youth and Family Update. During these unprecedented times we are working hard to stay connected to our families while complying with the CDC and state of Maryland guidelines. It is with great sadness that we report that all scheduled youth and family events that are coming up, Family Movie Night, Footprints Sundays, the Easter Egg Hunt and monthly youth gatherings are cancelled through May 15th.

However, even though we are canceling these in-person gatherings we are working hard to stay connected to one another. We will continue with the weekly Wednesday mid-week videos posted to Facebook to include an activity packet that will be available on Thursday mornings. These items will be placed in the Mid-Week Lenten Family Activity Bags bin outside the double doors off of the rear parking lot.

We are working on setting up a private Facebook group for Zion Families. Stay tuned for this! On this site we will set up daily challenges and fun games and ways to celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter with each other virtually. *Wendi Kishimoto*