

March 18, 2020

Dear Sixth Street Christian Church Family and Friends,

Last Thursday, March 12, I received an email from Rick Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister of the Disciples of Christ, recommending that we suspend worship in the church building for the time being. He asked the question, "What does love require?" He answered in part by saying the following:

1. **We are called to protect the vulnerable** – Those over the age of 60 are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and its most severe symptoms. Currently 84 percent of our congregation's participating membership is 60 years old or older.
2. **We are called to seek the common good** – Suspending worship is meant to slow down the spread of the virus so that our health care system can keep up with caring for the infected.

With all of that said, I believe staying connected with our church family is now more important than ever. I met with the several church leaders to come up with a plan so we can continue to support one another in our faith and stay in touch. Here are some of the ideas we came up with:

- We have created an **expanded "prayer chain"** that will allow you to reach out if you would like to have prayer or need support. You can also call the first "links" of our more traditional prayer chain if you have prayer concerns; please contact Virginia Rawlings at (765) 779-4683 or (765) 425-1263 and/or Peach Vandergrift at (765) 354-2500.
- We will post **daily prayers** on the church's website (www.sixthstreetchristian.org) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/sixthstreetchristian/>).
- We will post **weekly meditations** on church's website and Facebook account, and send them in the mail.
- We are exploring **alternative ways of tithing and offering** – Rather than taking your offering to the church in person, we encourage you to send it to the church's postal address (PO Box 26, Middletown, IN 47356). Online giving will be available soon.

As it stands now, I will be working all day at the church on Mondays and possibly other days as well (please call or text me first). Our church secretary, Andrea Smith, will be keeping to her regularly scheduled office hours of 9:00a-12:00p on weekdays. Choir practice and worship services are suspended until further notice. Please check our church sign, website, or Facebook account to see if we have resumed worship services, or you can call the church office at (765) 354-2171 during Andrea's office hours.

I pray to God daily for not only our church family and friends but all of God's children during this time. With God's help, I know we can continue being disciples of Christ regardless of what happens.

Peace,

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