

## A Note from Your Pastor on March 29, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We continue to live in this Coronavirus world with the unwelcomed and uninvited Covid 19 guest, a world with unprecedented challenges that confront us, and a world full of uncertainties that are overwhelming. St. Andrew's

hasn't escaped this world either. We have not been in worship together since the Third Sunday in Lent on March 15<sup>th</sup>. I miss that! We continue to be the Body of Christ that goes beyond the building and strive to worship while practicing self-distancing and sheltering at home. Usually it's been, "why don't you join us for worship" and it's "please stay home" and love your neighbor by washing your hands and avoiding social contact. That's very different, isn't it?

I am not a Pollyanna Christian who pastes a smile on for every adversity that comes along. I am more of a realist and will confess that this valley is real and downright scary, there's no denying that reality. Yet just as the valley is real, so is the Good Shepherd who walks with us casting out all fear.

As we walk in this valley, allow me to offer some scripture passages for your encouragement.

"Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

"Do not be afraid, I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you, your troubles will not overwhelm you." (Isaiah 43:1-2)

"God, who by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

"Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

There are many more scriptures that offer encouragement and courage for the living of these days and I'm sure that you have your own scriptures to lean on in times like these.

I am also finding encouragement in the world around us. These crocuses were planted last fall and are now just poking up after a cold winter, affirming the promise of Spring. It's a hopeful sign!

Since we are the Body of Christ and are called to lift up one another, even while practicing social distancing; I am inviting you to offer a scripture passage or share a picture that might bring encouragement to the congregation. Send your encouragements to the church email at [cadams@standrewsdexter.org](mailto:cadams@standrewsdexter.org) or by snail mail at 7610 Ann Arbor Street, Dexter, MI, 48130, so that they can be collated, shared and presented at a later date. Please give permission as to whether we can include your name or not.



For the sake of public safety, we will continue to follow the Governor's and President's executive orders to stay home other than going out for food, medications and essentials until further notice, which means that all ministries at St. Andrew's are canceled. This includes Holy Week special services, Palm/Passion Sunday (April 5) and Easter Sunday (April 12).

Cindy Adams (734.426.8610 or [cadams@standrewsdexter.org](mailto:cadams@standrewsdexter.org)) and I (201.888.7364) are both working from home, but can be reached by phone or email, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. AND please continue to offer your prayers for the church, community, nation and world!

Peace and Prayers,  
In Christ,

Pastor Bigelow