

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

York, PA

The Office of the Rector

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Grace be to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

As I noted in my letter dated March 13, 2020, the steps we are taking to address the continued spread of COVID-19 are changing very quickly. Within a few hours of sending my letter yesterday, Bishop Audrey Scanlan, our Diocesan Bishop, sent an email to our entire diocesan family. In this letter she outlined steps that was implementing diocesan-wide. The full text of her letter may be read here: <https://diocesecpa.org/parish-news/coronavirus-facts-precautions-and-prayers/>

Bishop Scanlan's directions include the suspension of all worship services in the diocese beginning Monday, March 16, to include all weekday services and all Sunday services on March 22nd and March 29th. Bishop Scanlan also suspended all diocesan and parish meetings scheduled during this period of time as well. These decisions will be reevaluated as we approach March 29th, and any changes will be relayed to you as quickly as possible. You will read in Bishop Scanlan's letter the steps taken to arrive at this decision.

For us this means the following:

- A) Sunday, March 15.
 - a. Both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services will be held as usual (with the previously implemented precautions).
 - b. There will be NO Lenten Forum between the services.
 - c. There will be NO Sunday School to include J2A and Rite 13.
 - d. There will be NO Coffee Hour.
 - e. The hike and the Book Club gathering will occur as previously planned.
- B) The Week of March 16-22
 - a. NO Bible Journey
 - b. NO Wednesday Morning Service or Bible Study
 - c. NO Thursday Evening Service, Supper or Program.
 - d. NO Vestry Meeting
 - e. NO Choir Practices
 - f. NO Services on Sunday, March 22.
 - g. NO Bezalel Crafting Ministry
- C) The Week of March 23 - 29

- a. NO Wednesday Morning Service or Bible Study
- b. NO Thursday Evening Service, Supper or Program.
- c. NO Services on Sunday, March 29
- d. NO Choir Practices
- e. NO Saturday Evening Service

Your parish leadership and I are working to provide resources for you during this time to attend to your spiritual needs. This will include opportunities to have virtual bible study, worship from home, and additional resources. We are working on and hope to have in place by next Sunday a way to stream (or at least post videos) of worship here at the church.

More information about all of this will be forthcoming as we grow into this new reality and set plans in motion in the coming week.

Please continue to pray that all shall be well in a timely manner. I will keep you posted, and I am always here when you need me.

Let us pray:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Faith of Christ,

The Reverend T. Grant Ambrose
X Rector