



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

815 East Grace Street,
Richmond, VA 23219

804 643 3589
stpaulsrva.org

April 1, 2020

Updates on Gatherings at St. Paul's

Dear Friends,

In light of our Governor's recent announcement, I wanted to update you on how these new guidelines will impact activities in and around St. Paul's. I realize that during this holy season, we all wish we could come together for the very physical nature of our Holy Week liturgies. We want to see our church adorned with beautiful flowers. We want to share symbols of Christ's love with our friends and neighbors. We itch to resume our regular activities. While I wish that we could use this time to come together and experience, physically, the mysteries of the season, safety measures and other mandates don't allow it.

St. Paul's wishes to support our Governor's ordinance to stay at home. Any ministry or activity that involves leaving home should be avoided. To this end, I remind you that activities happening within and/or on the campus of St. Paul's are restricted to personnel necessary for live-streaming worship, for ministries that address food insecurity, and essential administrative responsibilities. St. Paul's continues to maintain meticulous cleaning rhythms and adhere to all CDC guidelines.

Online Worship: Our Bishops have consulted with the offices of Governor Northam regarding the practice of live-streaming or recording services in our houses of worship. Our jurisdiction allows for such offerings provided that:

- No more than 10 persons are present in-person for any service.
- Those participating are not at high-risk for contracting the coronavirus.
- Physical distance of six feet or more is maintained at all times, with hands washed and surfaces cleaned.
- No services of public worship are to be held until further notice.

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Food Insecurity Ministries: With regard to ministries attending to food insecurity, our Emmaus Luncheon is operating, but we are not using volunteers at this time. We are also in partnership with Underground Kitchen ([click here to read more](#)). No more than five persons will be in the St. Paul's kitchen at one time, and our staff is providing support on a limited basis. The same standards of social distancing apply.

Pastoral Care: We are emphasizing phone calls, emails, and cards as safe ways to stay in touch. Many of our ill and homebound parishioners are in facilities with restricted access. We want to offer care that is consistent with infection control, especially with our most vulnerable members.

Thank you for your flexibility and patience during this time. Thank you, also, for your prayers. This pandemic is affecting so many people in very different ways. It's hard to know what to do, but I trust that even, and especially, in our staying home, we are doing what is needed and necessary.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 20:20, 21)

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Charles T. Dupree