**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

As of March 19, there are 390 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Florida, 41 of them within the bounds of Central Florida Presbytery--Orange (15), Osceola (9), Seminole (8), Volusia (9), Lake (2), Brevard (1), and Sumter (1) Counties.  We have seen rapidly changing advisories as related to social distancing.  On Sunday evening, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that gatherings be limited to 50 or fewer people.  Early this week, President Trump urged that gatherings be limited to ten or less people.  You can [click here](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/96dd742462124fa0b38ddedb9b25e429) to keep up on the situation in Florida.

(1) CFP Church Sessions have been discerning the best way to respond to this pandemic.  Many congregations have done that through the end of March or into the early part of April, perhaps hoping that some form of service can be held on Easter Sunday (April 12).   With schools currently closed at least until April 15, this pause has the chance to stretch further out.

Sessions that have cancelled worship services are providing alternatives, including:

* Livestreaming services, such as by Facebook Live.  If you would like information about options for livestreaming services, contact Rev. Katy Steinberg or Rev. Ryan Gaffney
* Recording sermons and some other elements of worship and posting them as YouTube videos.
* Providing written sermons and other devotional materials.

Cheryl Carson has been collecting the information from our congregations on responses to the coronavirus pandemic.  All information from churches, that we have received, is posted on our [CFP website](http://www.cfpresbytery.org/church-info-covid-19.html).  If you haven’t responded for your congregation or you notice an error on the website with regard to your congregation, please email Cheryl.

(2)  There are certain things to consider if you are livestreaming worship.  Not all music is permitted to be livestreamed, even if you have a basic license.  You need to have a license that includes permission to livestream music.  If you are using Facebook Live or YouTube and do not have these licenses, you could get flagged for copyright infringement.

This information has been provided by the General Assembly:
Copyright Permission. Be advised that a standard license for congregational songs from OneLicense or CCLI will not cover rights and permissions to live-stream the words or music of copyrighted hymns/songs; a special broadcast/streaming license must be purchased. Additionally, anthems, hymn arrangements, and other musical offerings under copyright are not covered by such licenses. These require further permission to broadcast. For this reason, leaders just beginning to explore live-streaming are advised to select hymns and songs in the public domain. For service music and anthems that will be live-streamed, consider using a hymn in the public domain. Rights and permissions for the Glory to God Hymnal and the Book of Common Worship can be found [here](https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/14564/Hymnal-and-Book-of-Common-Worship-Rights-during-Covid19-Pandemic.aspx).

Gratis streaming licenses [are now available](https://news.onelicense.net/2020/03/13/one-license-offers-gratis-licenses-to-help-cope-with-covid-19-challenges-valid-through-april-15/)from OneLicense through April 15. This will cover a great deal of the copyrighted material in Glory to God. (You can search here to find out what is covered: [https://www.onelicense.net)](https://www.onelicense.net/)

(3)  We have been receiving some creative worship ideas in the event we are unable to be “face-to-face” for Easter. In fact, an on-line Easter service from Louisville has been confirmed. This is an excerpt from a communication going out from J. Herbert Nelson (Stated Clerk) and Diane Moffett (Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Dir):
“Please note that we will hold an online Easter service from the chapel of 100 Witherspoon in Louisville for those of you who would like to be part of a national experience. Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11) and called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). There is much new happening in the world around us. We pray for God’s comfort and grace as we walk forward together during these uncertain times.”
Other ideas include having drive-in worship in the church parking lot, using some form of public address system or for Palm Sunday having a processional using cars with people waving palm branches out the windows.

(4) Central Florida Presbytery is limiting access to our office at this time.  We are holding all meetings using Zoom conferencing.  Most staff are still here (in our new location) during usual office hours, but if you need to stop by, please call or email first. Staff emails can be accessed by [clicking here](http://www.cfpresbytery.org/cfp-staff.html). Each week during our staff meetings we pray for our congregations and fellowship groups. And we stand ready to assist in whatever way we can.

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