Most of Central Florida Presbytery’s congregations have cancelled in-person worship and are providing alternatives, from livestreamed services to prerecorded videos to printed materials to be used by individuals and families for worship.  CFP has been collecting information on these options, which can be accessed [here](http://www.cfpresbytery.org/church-info-covid-19.html).  If you haven’t sent us what your congregation is doing for alternatives to worship, please email Cheryl Carson.

I watched a couple of services yesterday morning for my worship experience, one a livestreamed service and the other a service that was recorded Saturday and made available on the congregation’s web site by Sunday morning.  Both pastors did an exceptional job in what certainly is a somewhat challenging situation.  Preaching professors talk about the congregation “feeding” the pastor during a service by how engaged they are in the message.  That important part of the equation of worship is absent in these times, but our pastors and worship leaders are doing their best to provide engaging and inspiring worship.  Well done!

A major concern for many congregations is how much of a financial hit they might take during the pandemic.  This is especially acute for congregations that have preschool programs that currently are not meeting.  Pastors and Sessions want to keep paying their staff, but circumstances are very uncertain at the present time.

Robert Hay, our regional representative from the Presbyterian Foundation, recently wrote that 78% of the average congregation’s income is given through the weekly in-worship offering.  Robert wrote an article titled [Stewardship in a Pandemic](https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/stewardship-in-a-pandemic/).  Check it out for ideas that your congregation may want to pursue.  Here are some additional resources from the Presbyterian Foundation:

* Click [here](https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/information-and-resources-on-covid-19/) for Presbyterian Foundation COVID 19 resources
* Click [here](https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/onlinegiving/) for Online Giving through the Presbyterian Foundation

Presbytery Council will be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, April 14.  We will be discussing ways in which the Presbytery can support its congregations during the pandemic.  (Like what is happening on the federal level, much is unknown at this time.  Will Congress’s stimulus bill include support for small businesses, and will that be open to churches/non-profits?)  One area that Presbytery will surely discuss is something we have seen other presbyteries considering, some form of reduction in the presbytery per capita for 2020.  Updates on what Presbytery is able to do will be made when they are available.

As noted previously, Presbytery has closed our office to all meetings and will be holding meetings using Zoom conferencing.  I am working most days at home, given my level of risk regarding COVID-19 (imminently 65 and diabetic).  I am available by email and by cell phone: (321) 247-1119. Staff members Cheryl Carson and Christina Greenawalt are working mostly from home but sometimes in the office, and Nina Wilson Jones is working mostly in the office. You can access all staff contact info on our [website](http://www.cfpresbytery.org/cfp-staff.html). Stay safe, everyone!

Dan Williams
Executive Presbyter / Stated Clerk