

Dear church family,

We all know that our world can change fast and when we least expect it. This has come true in the past few weeks where we have gone from life as normal to life as not normal. Just in this past week we have seen all dining rooms in restaurants close. Who would have thought that all food this week would have to be cooked at home, taken out or delivered? Who would have thought that all groups would be asked to be less than 10 to even meet? And we have all learned about “social distancing” more than we want to know. We are part of a very loving church where we hug and shake hands with each other. When we are advised to stay home it goes against what we are used to doing. I take solace in the fact that our inconvenience might make the difference between life and death to someone. I am encouraged that we have a history of doing what it takes to be a faithful witness in this world. That does not make life easy but it makes it possible. I am requesting a few things of you during this time.

First of all pray for those around the world who are infected with COVID-19 and their families. Pray for our country and for all who have lost income during these times. Pray for the medical community as they treat the needs of the sick. Pray for our children, teachers and parents as they navigate the closing of schools and making ways to continue to meet the educational and basic care needs of our children through college students. Pray for our church that even though we may not meet face to face, we are still salt and light to the world around us, and are important part of the Church. Continue to pray for your prayer partners during our Forty Days of Lent Prayer Journey.

Secondly, do all you can to protect yourself from the virus and prevent sharing it with anyone else. Of course, to do that we can't expose or be exposed to large groups and to keep our distance from those outside our households, and wash our hands often with soap and water or use antibacterial cleanser.

Thirdly, I appreciate your generosity and concerns for the needs of your church community. Most all of our expenses continue whether we are able to meet or not. Thank you for your sensitivity to those needs by your tithes and gifts. We have a website portal for electronic giving at the church website, www.standrews.me. Or you can mail your contributions to the church at POST OFFICE BOX 6, OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 38655.

I have several volunteers who can deliver things you may need at home. Please feel free to call me on my cell, 662-507-0513 if you have a need that we can help with. On behalf of the entire staff at the church, we appreciate each of you.

Lastly, worship with us on our Facebook page for a live stream of music and the sermon. You can make comments during the service and let your friends know you are there. We had around 300 people watch last week's service which remains available on the page to be viewed at your convenience indefinitely. If you need help getting to the page, please call before Sunday and we will be happy to help get you connected. Services will also be available for viewing on our church website by the afternoon. Invite your friends to join us online as well. God bless you through these days. We will make it through this with the grace of God and the great folks of St. Andrew's working together.

Yours in Christ,

Billy