



SAINT PAUL/ ST ELIZABETH CHARGE COVID-19 OPERATION PLAN

Rev. Eugene M. Boger, Pastor

2 April 2020

INTRODUCTION

Praise the Lord, Saint Paul and St. Elizabeth Faith Community. I am sending this communication as a “manual” to help us navigate through the new norm we are facing as pastor and people. Because of the global pandemic-COVID-19, and the restrictions placed on local residents, this information is provided to structure our congregation in a manner that creates clarity and ease to fulfil our mission as a Faith Community.

The information and structure being presented is not a haphazard response to the current circumstance. It is the result of prayer, time, and assessment. Prayer is always the starting point. I prayerfully reflected on how God desires for the church to operate in light of COVID-19. Saint Paul/St. Elizabeth Faith Community is unique and highly concentrated with those considered the most vulnerable. The goal is to keep this truth in mind, while being able to pivot the congregation’s ongoing ministry efforts in new ways to fulfill our responsibilities as Disciples of Jesus, as well as have our needs met. Primary actions on my part were to:

- Identify the current ministries and activities of both churches, and assess best efforts to continue.
- Use existing communications methods to remain connected and inspire amid the concerns.
- Care for my people’s spiritual, emotional, physical, social, and safety needs.

With this, please consider the following procedural suggestions in the areas of Worship, Administration, and Nurture, and Outreach:

WORSHIP



*To faithfully model our response to safety of members in Meridian/Lauderdale County, the Saint Paul/ St Elizabeth Faith Community will engage in **Virtual Worship** until otherwise advised after consultation. As such, the following opportunities will be offered to you each Sunday Morning:*

1. Sunday School- 9:30 am

a. Via Facebook Live

i. Choose/click one of the following links to access:

1. <https://www.facebook.com/emboger>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/SaintPaulUMCMeridian/>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/StElizabethSouthside/>

b. YouTube Live

1. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4Atr8hydmrccuU2Gby-hQ>

c. Conference Call

i. *Dial-in numbers will be provided.*

2. Weekly Worship Experience - 11:00am

○ **Via Facebook Live**

▪ Choose link

- <https://www.facebook.com/emboger>
- <https://www.facebook.com/SaintPaulUMCMeridian/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StElizabethSouthside/>

○ **YouTube Live**

▪ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4Atr8hydmrccuU2Gby-hQ>



II. ADMINISTRATION



Having a system in place will greatly assist the effectiveness of the ministry.

A. Communication Strategy

- Mass Communication from the pastor will take place via email on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sunday Evenings

1. Emails

- "Stay Connected, Stay Inspired" video message
- Activities for the upcoming Week
- Prayer List
- Opportunities to Give to the ministry
- General Information

2. Text

- Links for those who do not have/use email.

3. Calling Post Phone Tree

- A voice recorded message that will provide information.

4. Social Media

- Facebook

B. All Administration Meetings will take place via Conference Call. (Call-in Number will be provided)

○ Meetings

1. Saint Paul Trustee meeting will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm, and will be facilitated by Co-Chair, Mrs. Josephine Virgil.
2. Saint Paul Finance meeting will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm, and will be facilitated by Mr. Oliver Peebles.
3. Admin Council meetings will be facilitated by Pastor Boger.
 1. Saint Paul – Third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm.
 2. St. Elizabeth- Tuesday after 1st Sunday at 6pm.

C. Committees

- Trustees - Please assign a trustee to drive by and observe church grounds as the committee deems necessary.
- Finance
 1. 3 Methods of payments
 1. Online
 - Saint Paul-
<https://saintpaulumcmeridian.churchcenter.com/giving>

- St. Elizabeth-
<https://stelizabeth.churchcenter.com/giving>
- 2. Mail
 - Saint Paul- P.O. Box 1694 – Meridian, MS 39302
 - St. Elizabeth- 1210 28th Avenue- Meridian, MS 39301
- 3. Class Leader Pick-up
- 2. Deposits will be made weekly.
- 3. Church bills are schedule for automatic draft (Saint Paul).

III. NURTURE



We aren't created to go through extreme stress alone, so this is also a time as part of God's family to care for each other. Part of the commitment of the church is to live out the faith journey together. Consider the following ways we can do this:

A. Class Leaders – *Your class leader will contact you.

Class leaders will assist with the following responsibilities:

- a. Congregation Care
 - i. Spiritual nurture and care are critical during this time. With social distancing and stay-in order in place, class leaders will assist in ensuring that members remain connected to the Church. This will take place by way of Phone calls and prayer.
 - 1. Visitations should be limited to phone calls as much as possible. In cases of in-person visits, place practice the advised precaution of keeping a 6ft distance between you and the other person.

***Note: Please contact the Pastor in case of emergency. (404) 307-6515**

- b. Offering Collection
 - i. In order to continue to fulfill our membership covenant to support the Church with our gifts, Class Leaders will be available to receive tithes and offering from members who are not able to give online or via mail.

B. Bible Study (Virtual Wed 6p)

- a. Our online Bible Study will begin during Holy Week, Wednesday, April 8, 2020.
- b. <https://saintpaulstelizabethumc.teachable.com/>

IV. OUTREACH



The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic does not have enough power to impeded or interrupt the mission of Christ's church. Let us continue to find ways to engage in ministry beyond our walls.

- Persons in need of resources and/or assistance, please contact the pastor directly to have the matter addressed. (404) 307-6518.
- St. Elizabeth Food Bags will continue distribution on 2nd and 4th Thursdays.
- Identify persons in your family and/or community that need assistance.

CONCLUDING WORDS

The current Pandemic is a serious global issue, and should be taken as such. Likewise, as disciples of Jesus, our response is to continue to push forward with faith and wisdom. Faith in the God who is our Strength and Guide, and wisdom to discern right decisions that will keep us safe. God is still actively involved in God's world. Let us use this time to seek the Lord and embrace His redemptive power. In the meantime, we will continue to BE THE CHURCH. The Church has left the building!

Prayer: God, guide us into and throughout this process with your peace. God, help us listen intently for what you're asking us to do and plan realistically for what we can accomplish.