

“Do not be afraid.”

Words spoken to Abraham, to Mary & Joseph, to the Shepherds, to Thomas and to YOU today.

St. James Coronavirus Plan

3/11/20

Kentucky's Governor today announced churches will not hold public worship starting this weekend.

Knowing this could happen in Montana, probably sooner than later, we are formulating a plan for holding worship.

Starting 3/15.....

Understanding the roll of passing the peace in the liturgy of the church, we still will not pass the peace. We have withheld the practice during flu season for 2 years.

Altar guild will be instructed to wash hands with soap and water before preparing the elements. Dishes, trays will be washed after worship with hot water and soap.

Plans for worship when we are told to cease:

For as long as we can, Pastor will FB live the service. Musician will play hymns. When this is not possible – due to quarantine - a manuscript will be on web page and emailed to congregation. Communion service will be included along with appropriate U-Tube hymns, photos, and/or videos will be put together and put on web page and emailed to congregation.

This fits in well with what is already sent out each week. Our Prepare for Worship includes Prayer of the Day, confession, and readings. Together, for those who wish, a close to complete worship service can be attended each Sunday.

When we are faced with quarantine:

We will continue caring for one another by reaching out personally via phone, email, and text. Social contact will be important. Church Leaders – Pastor, LPA's, and council members will divide up our membership and contact everyone assigned to them once or twice a week. This will help serve both the spiritual and social part of why we are church. We will feel a call to ministry and help people feel they continue to be a part, an important part, of St. James.

All members are encouraged to reach out remotely - call others, text others, email them, Facetime them, Skype them. This may open up new friendships as we take advantage of this situation to reach out and get to know others.

We encourage regular calling, texting or emailing networks so we can all stay connected and in contact with our church family

On the gruesome side – people will be reminded to continue their offerings to the church, by mail or bill pay through their bank. We will also introduce one of the on line giving programs.

Peace be with you all.