

March 18, 2020

Dear members and friends of our Laurens and Varina church families,

After much prayerful consideration of government and denominational reports, we will suspend all our activities—meetings, worship, Sunday school, Lenten studies, and in-person gatherings—with the hope that we will be able to reopen for Easter Sunday service in Laurens and Varina. Funerals will only be held at the funeral home for immediate family only and without meals. Most of our business will be conducted by phone, our web page, and Facebook. It is important that you take the time to mail your offering to the church as we still have salaries, utilities, and other expenses that must be paid.

We are investigating being able to offer a worship experience online each week as well as a possible Bible study online. On the resource page of our church website are two links to daily devotionals. It is our hope that beginning Sunday, March 29, we will have a new sermon posted by 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning on the church website: [laurensumc.org](http://laurensumc.org). I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity to worship each week and maintain our connection with one another as the body of Christ. For those of you with families, take to time to watch the church service together.

Please check Facebook and the church website for updates.

Please take an opportunity to pray with your family every day as a way to alleviate anxiety. Consider doing family Bible study to pass some time. The Gospel of John followed by Acts is a good place to start. Remember to call those who are alone and unable to get out during this period of hibernation.

Since this current situation is something that is totally unfamiliar to everyone, Pastors Ed and Kris will be working together to formulate creative ways of doing ministry during this difficult time.

Philippians 4:13 reads “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” By limiting our social contact with others and remaining home, we each do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19. This will be harder for some of us than others but Christ will give us the power to do our part in limiting the spread of the virus.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ed

Facebook: Laurens United Methodist Church

Website: [www.laurensumc.org](http://www.laurensumc.org)