

*“God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out,
His merciful love couldn’t have dried up.
They’re created new every morning.
How great is your faithfulness!
I’m sticking with God (I say it over and over)
He’s all I’ve got left.”
Lamentations 3: 22-23 Msg Translation*

After consulting with the members of our consistory and witnessing the dramatic news unfolding day by day, together we have decided that we will not have in person worship until further notice. We hope and pray you understand the importance of doing our part to protect our people and make a witness to the way God is with us during this season. We are not alone.

In an effort to enable us to worship and be the family of God together in a time of physical distancing, we will try to stay connected with you during this time in a variety of ways. We are planning to set up a phone line beginning Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 9:30 AM that you will be able to call and hear some music, prayer, and some reflections from me. The instructions for establishing this connection are listed at the bottom of this letter. You will also continue receiving our monthly newsletter. If you would rather receive a written copy of the Sunday morning message, please call the church office 570-966-2880 and leave a request. We will gladly send one to you!

It is my hope that you all will make an effort to connect with each other using phone calls, emails, and hand written notes as well. It is so important to let one another know that even though we cannot be close in proximity we can be close in thought and in prayer. Hearing a familiar, caring voice helps us to know that we are indeed loved and remembered in this time of uncertainty.

We are indeed still the church trying to serve others and fulfill God's mission in a hurting world. The Food Bank continues its operation and the Backpack ministry for our area youth is now needed more than ever as many children are not in school. These ministries need your continued support.

Our church also needs your continued support even though we are not meeting together each week. We realize that finances are a concern for everyone during a time such as this so we appreciate any help that you can offer. Please forward any donations for our ministries to the church address: Emmanuel UCC 326 Market Street, PO Box 329 New Berlin, PA 17855.

Many of us have high levels of stress and anxiety due to this COVID-19 threat. This concern is real, and it brings much uncertainty and many disruptions to our lives. *"So wherever we are this day, let us join our hearts together as we pray for our world, our nation, our churches, and our lives..."*

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jim

Beginning Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 9:30 AM if you wish to join our brief worship experience please dial toll free number 1-866-589-0901 and when it answers then dial 8227893# and you will be connected!