

Dear Second Church Family,

Buenos dias les de Dios. I hope this finds you effectively adapting into our temporary, new normal. You may have assumed, but it is important for you to know that all group activities at the church are suspended for the time being. This means no worship, fellowship hour, meals, bible study, presbyterian women men, or committee meetings. When any of this changes, I will be in touch immediately with the good news.

Just because we cannot meet as usual, your leadership is as busy as ever. Throughout history, the church is often at its best during challenging times. The deacons have reached out to everyone in the congregation. If a deacon did not reach you, please let me know: pastor@secondpresabq.org or 505-363-5368. In a time that staying connected is as important as ever, we want to make sure everyone is connected.

Last night, the session met via zoom videoconferencing. We covered several items regarding how to best function for the moment. I want to share with you some of what we discussed:

Worship

I continue to plan Sunday worship with other Presbytery leaders that will continue to be live-streamed Sunday morning from Covenant Presbyterian Church. I know that many of you watched, though in some cases with technical difficulties. Last Sunday's service was viewed, at least partially, by 1,900 computers and tablets in New Mexico and around the United States. Actions are being taken to improve the quality and more steps are being taken for safety of those conducting the worship. For example, everyone speaking will have their own microphone this week and there will be no choir. We are making sure to rotate leadership. So you will see me some weeks, but not others. We want to give all leaders opportunities to be seen

by their own congregations. This Sunday you will see Karmen who will be the keyboardist! More churches are joining in, including the First Presbyterian churches of Albuquerque and Santa Fe and the White Rock church. To access the worship, you may go to our website: <http://www.secondpresabq.org> or the Presbytery website: <http://www.presbyteryofsantafe.org> . This Sunday, the service starting time has been moved to 10am, but if you have difficulties, you can always wait and watch it recorded at your convenience.

Study

Our very own Pastor Kay Huggins will still teach. If you go to our website: www.secondpresabq.org you will find a link to the Bible Study class that she is recording from home. Pastor Kay is also kindly providing daily devotions that you can also already begin accessing from the website. Each daily devotional includes reading a Psalm, other scripture passage, and prayers. This is a wonderful way we may spiritually ground ourselves each day!

Pastoral Care

Since hospital visitation is not permitted at this time, if you, or someone else from our community is hospitalized and would like a visit from a Presbyterian chaplain, please contact me at: pastor@secondpresabq.org or 505-363-5368 and I can make arrangements with a chaplain at most of our area hospitals. Many of you know that the Rev. Jaime Martinez is at the University of New Mexico Hospital and she has kindly offered to make visits. Also, our deacons will continue to be available for contact. If you have a need, please let your deacon know. Whether providing food, rent support, doing an errand, or if you are simply would like some company over the phone, please let me or your deacon know. We will help if at all possible.

Budget & Offering

The session took action, for the time being, to continue with normal payroll. That will be revisited later if it becomes necessary. Many have asked how to continue giving to the church. Our session is committed to providing three options. The first, send your check in the mail to the church (812 Edith Blvd NE, 87102). The counting team will use new protocols to be able to count and deposit on a regular basis. Two other options are coming soon. Within a week or so, you will have the option to give to Second Presbyterian online. As soon as we have that up and running, we will let you know. Also, you can make arrangements through your bank to make electronic transfers (EFT's). If you are interested in that option, please contact Lynn Gatewood: dldmngatewood@aol.com or 505-259-2634. She will be glad to help you facilitate that giving option.

Updates

Ary & Beidy thank you for hosting them and for all you did for them during their Albuquerque stay. While here, they were able to participate in and lead church and presbytery activities. Beidy was able to meet with Rep. Ben Ray Lujan to update him on the reality inside Cuba. Although Beidy feel a bit ill for a couple of days, her health is back to normal. Ary & Beidy left early and are safely in Miami until tomorrow, when they are scheduled to fly back to Cuba. Please keep them in your prayers.

I am keeping touch with our church staff and community partners. Know that the women in the Candelaria Wing apartment are doing well. And Family Promise continues its work to provide training and housing for homeless families. Family Promise developed a contingency plan that includes safety protocols.

The newsletter will continue to be sent out and I will keep in touch with you by email from time-to-time.

If you have a prayer concern you would like prayed for during Sunday worship and/or during Kay's daily devotionals, please let me know: pastor@secondpresabq.org or 505-363-5368.

Our current plan is always subject to evolving as God shows us how to better remain a connected community and be church while not gathering in the same building.

Que Dios los bendiga/God Bless you!

Pastor Rob