

NSC Update, March 21 – Weekly Word

We need a little humor, so a few funny things sent to me in past days:

On Tithing: **“Remember, if you bought 30 rolls of toilet paper, you owe three to the church.”**

On “Virtual Preaching:”



On the ending of sports:

“Day 2 without sports: Found a lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she’s my wife. She seems nice.”

Some Updates:

From Pastor Ryan Bigham (Smyrna, TN):

“Everyone here in Smyrna is well! While my congregation is quarantined, I am checking in with them about every other day. We have teamed up with Grace Church to record combined services — I will be teaching a Bible Study for both congregations, so long as this continues. On top of that, I will be recording occasional devotions, speaking to our world situation, and I will post it on YouTube for my people to see.

I have taken some time to check in with my 90 year old neighbor — with a phone call, rather than in person. I am also checking in to see what my people need, since they are all older and in need of supplies!

All the while, I am having to keep working at the school. Someone's gotta disinfect for 3 weeks of closings..."

From Pastor Mark Driskill (Oakdale – Jackson, KY):

At Oakdale our situation is a little different, but here is what we are doing in addition to online classes. I post an online devotion every morning at 7 a.m. (Just go to Oakdale Free Methodist Church page.) Also I am offering time and space for people to video chat if they have need of prayer or counsel. This is for the community and the students. I am using FB chat to contact people daily who need a word of encouragement. I also preach online on Sunday. This week we will have services and I hope to stream those. Since our closed community is all together anyway having a service won't make any difference as far as virus control. But I am still taking precautions to keep people healthy. I feel like this crisis affords me time and space to preach and teach online so I am doing that daily.

From Pastor Joe Ritter (Waynesville, NC):

I want to put a sign out in front of the church to the effect of, "Open for Prayer." When I'm here, I would not have a problem leaving the sanctuary door open. So far, our community seems to be taking it all in stride, but we are likely not as hard hit as other communities. Asheville to the east is closing many more businesses because cases are on the rise."

Church of the Week: Pastor Rovin Rhodes leads a church that meets in our Murfreesboro facility. Please pray for this good group of brothers and sisters.

[Click here for a word from our Bishops.](#)

Conference News:

Your BOA and MEG have met this weekend via Zoom video meetings, to which the conference has a subscription.

(By the way, if you would like to schedule a group meeting of some kind and use the conference Zoom account, please contact me. Note too that you can use Zoom meeting service for free up to 40 minutes per meeting. It then cuts you off, but you can re-start.)

Some things that have come out of those meetings:

- Charlie Fiskeaux has been approved as our interim Treasurer with Stan Welton vacating that role in his move to Florida.
- The Bishops have recommended that we do some digital / video alternative to Annual Conference instead of meeting together in-person. I will be sending a proposal to all delegates in the days ahead.

On Thursday, the governor of Kentucky issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings until further notice, which means that it's no longer up to us to determine when we'll meet together for worship in person again. There was no timeline given, obviously, so this also means we should be planning for virtual gatherings for the foreseeable future.

Here are links to my message for tomorrow – [the Youtube version](#) - or - [the Truthcasting version](#) should you be interested.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs – Lots of people are hiring, including Kroger, Sams Club, Costco, Fedex, UPS, Amazon – please pass the word along to those who have been laid off and temporarily need work.

Blessings all,

Daryl