



March 23, 2020

Grace and peace to you! As you are certainly aware, the COVID-19 virus is wreaking havoc on many lives these days. The major concern at this point is to “flatten the curve” by social distancing so that our hospitals and health care facilities do not become overwhelmed with people and to protect those most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 due to age or compromised immune systems. Your church leadership has had to make some difficult but necessary decisions to keep everyone safe.

Please note the following updates and cancellations:

- All worship services and activities at St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, are cancelled until further notice.
- The church office will be closed to the public as well. Please remember that our congregation has financial obligations to meet even when we do not gather. Your continued generosity makes ministry possible at St. Paul's UCC, and our ministry is needed now more than ever. Offerings can be dropped off at the mail slot in the office door or mailed to the church and online giving is available through a button on our church website, ([www.stpaulsuccsm.com](http://www.stpaulsuccsm.com))
- Breaking Bread Community Meal will be on hiatus until further notice.

As a church called to love, we will continue to take measures to care for persons who are vulnerable.

- if you do not feel well, please contact your health care provider, especially if you are in the at-risk category.
- if you are isolated, for any reason, and need assistance with getting food or personal items, please contact Pastor Rhonda at [rhainer@bright.net](mailto:rhainer@bright.net) or contact the church office at 419-394-3811. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need conversation or care.
- If you are low-risk and not one of those especially susceptible to this virus and would be willing to volunteer to assist those in need, please let us know as well.

*St. Paul's United Church of Christ*

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-Some of our members do not have internet access. If you would be willing to be a phone contact for one or more of these households to convey information and offer support, please contact us. It is our hope to contact every member/ household through phone calls, email, our website ([stpaulsuccsm.com](http://stpaulsuccsm.com)) and our church Facebook page at **St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Marys, Ohio**. Speaking of our church Facebook page, be sure to check it out as recently several of our church family have recorded videos of children singing, praying, reading. The Spencer Family reminded us to keep God as our vision by singing "Be Thou My Vision" and Jim Huckemeyer performed an inspirational instrumental solo of "The Lord's Prayer" on his trombone, all for your viewing pleasure.

In Romans 8, the apostle Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not famine nor nakedness no peril nor sword—and certainly not COVID-19. God is with us individually and as a faith community, and we will get through this time together by embodying God's love for one another.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Rhonda ([rhainer@bright.net](mailto:rhainer@bright.net)), Congregational President Luke Leffel, or Consistory President Ralph Heckler or the church office at 419-394-3811.

Immanuel,  
Pastor Rhonda