



Holiday Island Presbyterian Church
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Our mission is to proclaim and demonstrate the inclusiveness of God's love to the people in the Ozarks and the needy of the world.

April 02, 2020

My fellow brothers and sisters in Christ:

I hope this letter finds you in good mental and physical health. Below, you will find a few points that I intend on hitting on in a recorded public service announcement for YouTube and Facebook later this morning. That said, I would like to make you all aware of the following:

- **Sunday Morning worship:** Sunday morning worship will continue to be recorded and posted on my YouTube channel (“Bradley Rito”) and a link posted on the church’s Facebook page. A link to my YouTube channel is available through the church’s website (hipcark.com) under the “Sermons” tab along with the written sermons themselves.
- **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday:** In addition to Sunday morning worship recordings, I will be recording and posting via the same channels condensed services for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Those services will be posted by 6 pm (when the services were originally scheduled to be held) on their respective day.
- **Offering:** The Session and I would like to remind you that, though we are not taking it up in person right now during Sunday morning worship, everyone’s weekly contributions are necessary to not only pay salaries but pay for utilities and make regular contributions to other non-profits in our area. In addition, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is being collected during the Lenten season (i.e. through Easter, though contributions can be made after that point) and the Pentecost offering will begin making its collection starting on Monday, April 13th. So, it is strongly encouraged that you all continue to make your contributions to both regular and special offerings as you would were we not facing this pandemic. You can either mail in your offerings to the address at the top of this letter if you are not doing so already or use the online payment option on our church’s website. The Session and I thank you ahead of time for your continued support during this time.
- **Sunday school:** In an effort to continue to support you all during this time of self-isolation and social distancing, I will begin recording Sunday School lessons next Monday and post them Monday through Thursday by noon. The lessons I intend on recording and posting (with dates) are as follows:
 - **Pain and Suffering: Where is God When It Hurts?**
 - **Harsh Realities:** 4/6
 - **When Will it End?:** 4/7

- **Hard Questions:** 4/8
 - **Finding God:** 4/9
 - **Comforted by Others:** 4/14
 - **Things Can Change:** 4/15
- **Whol-I-Ness: With Myself, Others and God**
 - **Spiritual Life:** 4/16
 - **Physical Life:** 4/20
 - **Vocational Life:** 4/21
 - **Emotional Life:** 4/22
 - **Relational Life:** 4/23
 - **Volitional Life:** 4/27
- **Current Situation:** I was made aware this morning that there is one (1) confirmed case of COVID-19 in Carroll County. However, there didn't seem to be any indication as to where in Carroll County it was. Regardless of that fact, it is more important than ever that you all use common sense in regards to this virus. That means:
 - Though the governor has not officially put into effect a "Shelter in Place" order, it is best to operate as if it were in place. So, if you are not feeling well or you are afraid of contracting the virus, stay home. If you are unsure, stay home. You are allowed to leave the house to go for a walk/get some fresh air, go shopping, and get medical attention. Outside of that, stay home as much as you can to prevent any spreading of this virus.
 - Whether at home or outside, be sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap. If you are unsure, wash them again. I'm trying to get in the habit of washing my hands as soon as I get home or get into the office just to be sure to wash of anything bad I may inadvertently have touched.
 - If you need to go shopping, try to go during off hours (early mornings/late evenings and not during the weekends).
 - If you are exhibiting symptoms (fever and coughing), wear a mask if you go outside and speak to a medical professional as soon as possible.
 - If you have to cough or sneeze, use a tissue and immediately dispose of it, followed by washing of hands for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer. If a tissue is not immediately available, sneeze into the fold of your elbow or your upper sleeve, but never into your hand.
 - Avoid touching your face (especially eyes, nose, and mouth) as much as possible.
 - Carry a packet of tissues and a small bottle of hand sanitizer with you in your purse, car, etc.
 - Wipe down any hard surfaces that are frequently touched, including (but not limited to):
 - Tables/counters
 - Telephones/remote controls
 - Door knobs/handles
 - Bolt locks
 - Faucet knobs
 - Light switches

I hope that this letter doesn't instill too much more fear than we all are feeling on some level. Your Session and I are all here to support you as much as we can, just as your fellow congregants are. If you are feeling lonely, call either me, a Session member, or a fellow congregant. The best way we will make it through this time is together, even if we are physically apart. As always, the peace of Christ be with you all.

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Bradley W. Rito.