

First United Methodist Church Perkasio

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Come Here for the latest Information!

NEWS about what First Church Perkasio is offering to help you through this time of isolation for your spiritual needs, worship life, and to continue our small group gatherings virtually.

Church Community

As you all know, we now face a pandemic. In keeping with the guidelines offered by the CDC and Peggy Johnson, our bishop of the Philadelphia Area, First United Methodist Church of Perkasio will not be conducting public worship until at least Sunday, April 19. This means rehearsals for the choir will not resume until April at the earliest. These dates are changing rapidly so we will keep everyone posted via this newsletter, on our website <https://www.fumcperkasio.com> . We will also be sending this newsletter to our members who are unable to access online resources. Let the church office know if someone wants to receive the newsletter and is not currently receiving it.

Perkasio UMC Mission Central: AKA The Church Building

The office will remain open during this time via phone and email only (215) 257-4626 office, fumcperkasio@verizon.net and the Pastor Suzanne is available via phone and email (610) 825-1514, rev.dr.s.duchesne@gmail.com . Please stay in touch. We will do our best to care for one another, even if that means doing so remotely for a while. This is new to all of us.

In an effort to keep each other safe, we will be limiting the number of people who come into the church. As a result, if a Perkasio UMC family member needs to be present in the building, please be in touch with Alanna or Bernie so that we know who is in the building.

Additionally, we will no longer be holding either church meetings or outside group meetings at least until May 11, the day after Mother's Day. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have been notified.

For those who need to access the church building, we continue to clean doorknobs and surfaces with COVID-19 approved disinfectants in a timely manner. Send a shout out to Matt Shaffer and Judy Schonheiter, if you can, for all the hard work they are performing to keep us safe!

Perkasio UMC Mission Central FISH DONATIONS

We know that the most vulnerable are those who are elderly with respiratory and underlying issues. However those who suffer from food insecurity are also at risk during

this time. FISH is still open so if you have donations and want to contribute, please take them directly to FISH for drop offs and let's keep our "2020 lbs. in 2020" going by letting them know that you are giving from Perkasio First. Donations may be brought to Penridge FISH at 800 W. Chestnut St., Perkasio (215) 257-7616. Monday and Wednesday 3-5 pm, Thursday 6-8 pm, Friday and Saturday 9-11 am.

Future Opportunities to Gather Together

Because our time together physically is suspended, we will be postponing our Game Night until we can come together in person. Unfortunately, our Easter Sunday breakfast will also have to be cancelled. However, in the weeks ahead, we will be offering some other ways to come together online and via phone so keep a lookout for the following offerings:

A special Maundy Thursday dinner on April 9 at 6 pm to eat, pray, and worship together. Learn about the Seder meal, in relation to Jesus' Last supper with the disciples, and join us in a Love Feast from our homes.

An online version of Game Night on April 4th at 4 pm to play a game together and enjoy informal conversation over coffee or your favorite beverage.

Easter Morning Breakfast. Since we cannot get together in person, what if we send in our famous recipes that we were going to share Easter morning? Send your recipes to the church email and we will distribute them in future issues of this newsletter. It probably won't taste like yours but we can try. Of course, if it's a secret recipe then save it for a time when we can eat together in person!

Preaching and Worship Will be Different.

We are worshipping with Conshohocken UMC together online. Worship is at 10 am Sunday mornings. You can view the services through the Conshohocken UMC church website <https://conshyunitied.com> by clicking on "Watch Livestream Here" and you can view later by clicking on the red "Watch Sunday Service Here" below.

You will also receive a bulletin every Thursday and find them on our webpage <https://www.fumcperkasio.com>. We are also mailing bulletins to some of our members who are not connected – please let the church office know if there is someone who is not receiving worship bulletins and would like them. These bulletins will contain the prayers and liturgy that we would have used if we were worshipping together on site but they will differ from the worship format with Conshohocken. You may want to utilize these prayers for your personal devotions throughout the week as well.

Some of the songs may be unfamiliar to some members of our Perkasio church family but I encourage you to meditate on the words if you do not know the tunes. The music will be provided in links on the YouTube channel so you can learn the songs if you wish.

Offerings Will have to be Different

We won't be together to pass the plates. You can mail offerings to the church office, at First UMC 501 Market Street, Perkasio PA 18944.

If you've not already done so, sign up to give electronically. There is a link on the church website (<https://firstchurch501.breezechms.com/give/online>). Even though most of our staff are working from home, we are conducting business as usual for the most part. Please continue to support our mission, *Embrace the Community with God's Love*, even if it is via phone and the internet with your gifts. Your offering is so important and so appreciated.

Bible Studies

There may be one blessing during this time of social distancing. It means that we have made our Bible Studies available to everyone and we can expand our time together virtually and via a toll-free telephone number from our landlines. We will send out emails weekly in addition to the information below so that you can schedule them into your calendar and "Zoom in" directly. More may be added, so keep checking your newsletter and email for new opportunities to come together. The Bible studies and meetings from this week are currently on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/fumcperkasio/>

PERKASIE BIBLE STUDY

Tune in Wednesdays at 10 am via ZOOM meeting, Facebook live through our Facebook webpage (<https://www.facebook.com/fumcperkasio/>), or our toll-free number below.

Time: Mar 25, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time and Every week on Wed at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting on computer, ipad, tablet, or smartphone.

Use this link on your computer or smart phone <https://zoom.us/j/826698176>

Meeting ID: 826 698 176

Or you can use one of these "one tap" mobile numbers for your cell phones

877 853 5257,,826698176# US Toll-free

888 475 4499,,826698176# US Toll-free

And now you can dial toll-free from your landline!

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 826 698 176

You can also download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://zoom.us/meeting/tZYrceCgrzwsOQyoFdmEm2ay1gllgMV4SA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqqD0jEtWStl3ta7QqE6_qbOH2kV5_s6x7mBLADnJSe1LxH8tFH4Qrl_mB

CONSHOHOCKEN Midweek Connection

Tune in Wednesdays at 7:30 pm via ZOOM meeting, Facebook live through our Facebook webpage (<https://www.facebook.com/fumcperkasio/>), or our toll-free number below.

Time: Mar 25, 2020 7:30 PM Eastern Time and Every week on Wed at 7:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting on computer, ipad, tablet, or smartphone.

Use this link on your computer or smart phone <https://zoom.us/j/944420371>

Meeting ID: 944 420 371

Or you can use one of these “one tap” mobile numbers for your cell phones
877 853 5257,,944420371# US Toll-free
888 475 4499,,944420371# US Toll-free

And now you can dial toll-free from your landline!

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888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 944 420 371

Prayer Opportunities

Please pass on your prayer requests via phone or email to the office and we will include them in this newsletter. Also, continue to reach out to *Embrace the Community with God's Love* with each other, families, friends, and neighbors via phone to check in and encourage each other.

Sadly, we received news of Gene Soliday's passing. See the obituary here:

<https://www.suessfuneralhome.net/obituary/eugene-soliday> . Presently the family is planning services at Highland Park in May but we will keep you posted with the latest.

Other Prayer Requests: Gene's Family, Chris Ocasio for Healing for Seizures and Epilepsy. Our elders that they may be safe and remain healthy. For all healthcare providers and First Responders.

Some Final Words from Pastor Suzanne

While our time apart may seem like a penance during Lent, perhaps we can see it as a Sabbath time. This is a prayer from our Evangelical Lutheran brothers and sisters with whom we have been in full communion since 2009:

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,
grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance.
Where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance.
Where distrust twists our thinking,
grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.
All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Much love to you – remember I will be calling you all and my cell phone has a 717 area code so don't forget to pick up. I am enjoying our conversations and look forward to connecting with all of you in the days and weeks ahead. Suzanne