

Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury
Important Message from the Session

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these difficult and trying days we want you to know that we are holding all of you in prayer. We hope you, like us, take heart from Paul's words to the church in Corinth: " We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed,...struck down but not destroyed...So, we do not lose heart but...know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God." (2Corinthians 4:7-5:1 excerpted). Because we know your faith is central to your lives, we are sending this important message regarding the decisions the Session has made in response to the present situation related to the coronavirus. Our priorities have been guided by our commitment to your well-being both physically and spiritually.

Until further notice we will not be worshipping in the sanctuary and the church house also will be closed. While this is true, we hope and expect to continue our ministry and mission. The notes that follow begin to outline the ways in which we can accomplish this together.

WORSHIP-Beginning this Sunday, March 22, at 10:00 AM, we will worship together online. We are setting up user friendly access which will allow two-way communication and which can be accessed by computer (picture and audio) or by telephone (audio only). Worship leaders will be conducting the service from remote locations and you will be able to participate from your own home. We are working to find ways to make participation possible for all members of the congregation. Rev. Lindner will continue to preach, Elders will continue to serve as liturgists, Marcello will continue to provide musical leadership and, we hope you will continue to join us in prayer and praise. You will receive another email with information about how to join in as well as a bulletin for the service.

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE- On the recommendation presented by Ken Gibbons on behalf of the PNC, the Session gratefully calls for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday May 10 for the purpose of voting on the extension of a call to a new installed Pastor. In preparation for this vote the candidate will lead worship on May 10 and will be our guest at a reception on May 9 from 3:00-4:30. Because of the current coronavirus pandemic we may find it necessary to alter these plans in a number of ways and you will be hearing more from the PNC directly. Today we wanted you to know about the call for the congregational meeting and to join us in our gratitude to those who served on the PNC and have brought it to this very hopeful conclusion.

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES- Some activities of the church have been postponed and will be rescheduled as seems appropriate; the choir and bell choir have suspended rehearsals, the Chili Cookoff has been postponed and meetings at the church house will be reformatted as online meetings. Bible study previously held at Panera will resume March 24, in an online format. Other committees and activities are invited to be in touch with the office by email and we will be happy to provide you with the capacity to hold online meetings. While the Office will be closed, Billie will continue to work in the

office and from home, and both she and Rev. Lindner will receive your messages. You may contact Rev. Lindner directly by telephone at (201) 417-1969 or by email: ewlrev@aol.com . Do not hesitate to make contact.

PASTORAL CARE- In addition to worship our care for one another is among our most important expressions of Christian faith. The Deacons, Worship Committee and Rev. Lindner are working together to discover ways to help members of the congregation with the very real issues born of isolation and limited ability to carry out daily tasks like food shopping, banking and medical appointments. All of us can be a part of supporting one another through prayer, phone calls, notes and emails.

There are more details to be worked out as we live through this rapidly changing context. As we develop more information, we will share it with you. Feel free to contact Session members or Rev. Lindner with any questions or concerns. Most of all it is our hope that you will take care of yourself and maintain contact with others even while maintaining social distance. The Apostle Paul was right, we do not lose heart for our confidence in God and our faith in God's purposes remain strong.

The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Shrewsbury (list names)

Session

Libby Andia	David Apy	Lisa Barnes	Don Barnes
Joyce Davies	Kim Davies	Ted Dellinger	Lori Hirce
Jules Plangere	Sean Starke	Bob Suarez	Carol Streeper

Clerk of Session Gretchen O'Kane

Moderator Dr Rev Eileen Lindner