4.5.2020

Hello Everyone!

It is hard to believe that we have been doing this for almost a month now. I miss each and every one of you. It was so good to see those of you who came to pick up a palm leaf for Holy Week. I hope you are all doing well. I know this is a time of uncertainty and fear. Please know God is with each of us and we need not worry with him on our side. Prayer for ourselves and our neighbors is very important now more than ever.

It is another sunny day as I type this. Although as I look at the temperature it is still a little chilly. I am also listening to another churches online service. I miss being with each of you on this Sunday morning, but it is kind of nice to be able to enjoy a Palm Sunday service as well.

At this time all church services and activities will be suspended per both Bishop Laurie’s directive and the recommendation of the CDC to not have any gathering over 10. We will follow this indefinitely. We will continue to reevaluate and make decisions based on recommendations from people who know much more than I do!

I am going to include a few extra announcements.

* I have had a few questions on offerings. If you would like to continue your offerings during this time, please send them to the church.
* I have started a youtube channel for our churches. It will have a weekly sermon, scripture, prayers and music. At this time, we may not have an email for you to send you a link. If you have an email and would like the link, please send me an email and I will add you to the list.
* If we don’t have an email, we will weekly send out a paper copy of the sermon and scripture. Next week you will get both Good Friday and Easter Sunday in one mailing.
* I am also asking for help in keeping in contact with those that are at our care centers and assisted living centers. I would ask that you take the time to write and send a letter or card to them weekly through their quarantine. We have talked before about the struggles of those that need human contact most, not getting it.
* If you know someone who would like this letter but may not be getting it, please let me know.

Joys and Concerns:

* Happy Birthday to: Sheffield: Clyde Allen 4.1; Beverly Wiseman 4.3;

West Fork: Rylie Petersen 4.2; Tony Krukow 4.6; Pauline Parks 4.8; Aubree Kreimeyer 4.8; Kevin Worley 4.13; Hank Peterson 4.13

* Happy Anniversary to: Sheffield: Gerald & Diane Nuehring 4.2

West Fork: Kevin & Brenda Gast 4.5

* A huge thank you to all of our essential workers- health care, truck drivers and those working in other required essential workers. We all continue to pray for you!
* Thank you to Gina for all her extra effort of getting these letters out to those as quickly as she does! I couldn’t do this without you!
* Thank you to Mhari- without her I could not do the electronical part of our services without her!
* Thank you to all who continue to keep members of our congregations in the loop- I know we are still missing some members with all the information, but each of you is doing your part to help keep everyone in the loop!

Sheffield Care Center

100 Bennett Drive

Sheffield, Iowa 50475

Dorothy Alden, Phyllis Armstrong, Jeanette Collins, Maxine Groesbeck, Darla Kammrad, Lorraine Malone, Carla Plagge, Larry Tull, Merlin Plagge

Hampton Assisted Living:

Carl Heeren

1724 Central Avenue

Hampton, Iowa 50441

Ken and Bonnie DeVries

1724 Central Avenue E., #12

Hampton, Iowa 50441

If there is someone I missed, please let me know as soon as possible.

Our church is not the buildings, it is the people

 “The church is not empty. The church has been deployed.”

This is the time to live as a disciple of Christ. Love your neighbor and look out for your neighbor. Give what you can to who you can. Pray. Study. Meditate.

God is with all of you and so am I.

Please reach out to me for anything- 515-320-4470; pastorshannonSWFUMC@gmail.com

Love, blessings and prayers to you all-

Pastor Shannon