

To the people who are Culpeper Presbyterian Church,

The Church office has been made aware that we have members of our congregation that have tested positive for COVID-19. The COVID response team, which includes both our office staff and medical experts in the congregation, is working on informing members of our congregation who may have been exposed. We know the source of the original exposure was not within our congregation limiting the risk of additional infection. There is no cause for alarm at this time, although there is plenty of cause for prayer.

We feel that there is no cause for alarm because we have been vigilant and faithful in our COVID safety protocols. We are all in this together, one body with many members. Our COVID safety protocols are our immune response to this infection. They ensure that when one of our members tests positive, the infection is isolated and does not spread throughout the entire church body. Even though we long to relax these measures, we are still in a time, as Ecclesiastes 3:5 describes, to refrain from embracing.

One additional measure of protection we are taking, effective immediately, is closing the Church office to all non-staff persons. If you need something from inside the church building, such as committee supplies, please contact a staff person and ask them to retrieve it for you. If you have a key to the building, we encourage you not to use it until further notice. This is for the protection of our church staff and for our community as a whole.

In a continued effort to keep this infection from spreading further throughout the body, the Session has authorized us to suspend all physical gatherings at the church until further notice. Worship will continue to be live-streamed each Sunday, and we encourage you to continue to gather digitally until it is again safe to gather physically. Committee meetings, Sunday school, and other small groups will meet via Zoom during this time. Strategies are being put in place to allow the Manna ministry to continue to function on a limited basis until Christmas, and we will re-evaluate those practices in January.

I urge you, therefore, to put your faith into action by praying for the families that have tested positive, and for all who are suffering as a result of this pandemic. Keep the faith by keeping up with our anti-COVID practices. That way we can continue to share the faith by spreading the Gospel without spreading the virus.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Joseph W. Taber, IV
Pastor, Culpeper Presbyterian Church