

March 16, 2020

Beloved,

How our lives have changed in such a short time. Covid19 has altered our ways of life, including that of our church. Effective immediately, we are cancelling meetings, events, and worship services through March 31, 2020.

We are making contingency plans for worship, our staff, and our buildings as we speak. I have asked Kathleen Hacker and Lynn Clock to assist me with putting a weekly sermon podcast on our website ([lompocumc.org](http://lompocumc.org)). On Sunday mornings you will be able to go to the website and listen to the sermon for the week. This Sunday I'll share a sermon entitled, "Does Christ Live Here?" based on John 2:13-22. I hope you will join me.

Our office is open, but you are asked not to come to the church unless it is an emergency. Instead, please call or email us. Our secretary, Sam, will be in the office Monday-Friday, from 8:30-2:00 both weeks, so you can reach her with any questions. Because I am in the "high-risk" group, I will mostly be working from home, but will spend short periods of time at the church, as needed.

If you need pastoral care, you should call my cellphone (1-562-322-0334), or email me at [pastorjoy@lompocumc.org](mailto:pastorjoy@lompocumc.org). We will work together to find the quickest and safest way to provide for your needs.

Watch your emails and our website for updated information. These will be the two primary means of communication from the church and me. Those who do not have computer options, we will send letters and make phone calls to you. If you have yet to give your March offering, please mail it to the office.

I want to remind you of two things. First, we are all in this together. Some of us live alone and self-isolation is very depressing. I encourage you to find new, fun ways to reach out to your friends. When you find a good solution to brightening someone's day, let me know so that we can share your idea with others. Be kind and gentle to each other, as Christians we are called to help the sick and to pray for the afflicted. Also, be kind to yourself, take a walk every day for your own peace of mind and health.

Second, please remember what I say at the end of every Sunday worship, "You are never forgotten, you are never alone, and you are always blessed." In this frustrating, fearful time, those words ring more true than ever. Now is our opportunity to show others how, even in the face of danger, Christians live with hope through the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Be the Hope,  
Pastor Joy