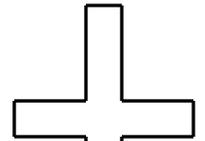


THE REFORMED CHURCH OF PORT EWEN

P.O. Box 580 | 160 Salem Street | Port Ewen, NY 12466

Reverend Kevin Slusher
kevin.slusher@rcpe.info
(845) 331-2782



March 18, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

We — your consistory and I — want to update you on recent decisions we have made. ***At this time we have decided to cancel Sunday worship and all other meetings and services at the church (including Wednesday Bible Study, Lent Soup & Bread and prayer, and Ruminare) indefinitely.*** We make the decision out of an abundance of caution, in sacrificial love for those most vulnerable among us, and to follow the recommendations of President Trump's administration, which as of Monday has recommended to avoid in-person gatherings of 10 or more.

Even though we will not be able to gather for worship in person here is how we will continue to serve you:

- ❖ Provide weekly resources for in home Sunday worship via email, Facebook, and our website. There will be written prayers and readings, along with recordings of the hymns/songs and a short mediation by Pastor Kevin.
- ❖ Provide mid-week morning prayer service weekly with prayers, readings, and meditation by Pastor Kevin.
- ❖ Weekly check-ins for all in our congregation from your elders, deacons, and/or Pastor via phone call.
- ❖ Pastor Kevin (and your elders and deacons) is available via phone and text (517-398-0986), or email (kevin.slusher@rcpe.info), for pastoral care. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need to talk or to pray.

Other important announcements and implications:

- ❖ ***Church accessibility*** — *The church is closed entirely*, unless approved and arranged by appointment, to all non-staff persons. Cheri is out of the office this week, but will be back in the office Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM - 2 PM beginning next week.
- ❖ ***In person pastoral visitation*** — Pastor Kevin will not be doing any in-person visits at this time, unless it is an emergency or is needed for end-of-life pastoral care. If Pastor Kevin is sick, he will not do any visits.
- ❖ ***Financial restrictions*** — We have put a freeze on all non-essential spending at the church.
- ❖ ***Tithing and contributions*** — Insofar as you are able, we ask that you continue to contribute financially to the work and mission of the church. Pastor Kevin, Linda (organist & choir director), Cheri (office administrator), and Mary (custodian) are still hard at work during this time serving you and fulfilling their calling and contract obligations. We know that the economic effects of the pandemic are just beginning to be realized and that for

many of you, the impact may be significant. If you are in financial need, please do not hesitate to let Pastor Kevin know. We ask that for the time being please submit your tithing by check via mail to:

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We love you all! We will miss seeing and being together with you in worship. We are praying for your safety and protection. We join with the prayer of the psalmist who prays: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

With love in Christ,
Pastor Kevin and the Consistory