

“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:1-3

Ascension Day 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In my neighborhood, there has been an increase in walkers. Early morning walkers, noontime walkers, after work walkers, sunset walkers. Couples, individuals, and families. With dogs and with kids. With earbuds and with strollers. Many of my neighbors are out walking. I often walk in the morning by myself and later in the day with my family. I know many of you are walking as well. The benefits are innumerable: exercise, awe for God’s creation, time for prayer and meditation, connection with your family, or perhaps, space away from your family! I found myself meditating on the passage from Paul’s letter Ephesus at the top of this letter calling the church to WALK. Walk with patience and gentleness, humility, and love, finding unity through the Spirit in peace.

As we approach our 10th week of the church being closed for essential business only, it is understated to say this has been challenging. Many of you serve in frontline roles; we give thanks to God for the ways you are caring for others. Others of you have been touched through you, your family members, and friends who have been lost jobs or been afflicted with COVID 19. Still, others have taken precautions for themselves and their families. You have been praying and engaged in spiritual care and discernment. Amid that complexity and nuance, we may find that among our congregation and community, there is a diversity of understandings of how best to care for ourselves and our families at this time.

At this time, the Administrative Council has determined the safest and healthiest decision for everyone for the church remains closed for all but essential work until July 31st. The team understands that Chester County is currently in the red phase and may go to the yellow phase previous to that date. It requires time to prepare, evaluate, and plan for opening. This is already underway and includes conversations in transition with Rev. Tim Anderman, who will begin officially on July 1st, 2020. The Administrative Council has been and will meet monthly and review the latest information received from our national, state, and local authorities as well as our denominational sources. We will communicate regularly with you as we seek to care well for each other in body, mind, and spirit.

In the meantime, the church continues in worship, study, care. If you are having trouble connecting in worship, please let us know. We want to make sure that you can connect. If you do not have access to technology, please let us know. We want to make sure you can join.

Let us continue to walk together, even during this time, when we see each other dimly (1 Cor 13:12). Let us pray together in the same Spirit as bear one another in love.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica