

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Psalm 23: 1-3

Dear Ones,

you are in my thoughts and prayers as we live through this unprecedented global challenge called COVID 19. My hope is that everyone is navigating personal decisions with grace-filled responsibility as all levels of leadership make decisions in hopes of "flattening the curve" so that our healthcare systems can adjust for this new virus and better take care of patients.

Therefore, we will join with others in observing the most updated guidelines from the Center of Disease Control and local officials as we adjust our methods of ministry.

Leander UMC is suspending all weekly activities, including Sunday activities, until March 30th. At that time, we will reevaluate the status of things and make decisions accordingly.

We made this decision because:

1. It is the right thing to do.
2. Leander UMC involves many people in a variety of leadership and ministry settings, and we can manage anxiety for many by giving time for planning and new implementation.
3. We want to support/encourage our local leaders who are making the same kinds of decisions for their areas of responsibility.

Leander UMC is going to be part of this large effort to encourage people to practice social distancing and thus "flatten the curve," or slow the spread of the virus enough to accomplish two things:

1. First, we want to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities from the spread of the virus as much as possible; and
2. Second, we want to protect medical personnel and facilities from being overrun by critical care patients infected with the virus as much as possible.

It does not appear that we can stop the spread of the virus, so we want to do our part in the hopes of slowing it down through our social distancing for two weeks. This doesn't mean that the mission of the body of Christ called Church is closed. It means we are finding new ways to be the church in a limited human world with a Limitless God who is not bound by our gathering terms.

WORSHIP:

During this two-week period (March 17-March 30), we will live stream a worship service each Sunday morning at 8:30am through Facebook Live.

Since our church isn't meeting for the next two weeks, we know you will want to stay connected to your Bible study or small groups. You have here some simple options that will be quite effective.

REMOTE TEACHING:

We are working to help classes that want to teach do so remotely through video conferencing software. Or you may want to use email to share lessons and links for discussion. Let us know if you need help. We are all learning new things.

Children's groups may not be able to meet this way, but resources will be shared. Please let Vanessa Foskey know if you have any favorites. We are working on providing lessons through video recordings and/or Facebook. Check updates as we get these in place.

Youth and Confirmation – we will find ways to keep connected during our regular times through digital means. You can join us at: www.join.me/preacherlady on Wednesday, 6:30 pm and Sunday at 4:30 pm.

TEXT, E-MAIL, FACEBOOK AND PHONE CALLS

Stay connected to class members and how they are doing. You can still get together in small groups and pray, meet, eat, and share concerns. If you need a class contact list, contact the church office between 9 am-noon at office@leanderumc.org or 512-529-1284.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be operating on our regular schedule for now. Mon-Wed: 9-4 pm, Thurs: 9-3 pm; and Fri:-9-Noon.

MDO

(Pre-school Mother's Day Out Program) will follow the protocols form NAEYC/ TxAEYC protocol for licensed childcare centers on a national and state level and continue to provide needed care for families who need our ministry in order to go to work. We are also instructing families and employees to make their best decisions for health. As we prepare our goal is to keep people safe and working families supported. In short, MDO is following this current plan:

- Closed one additional week after Spring Break.
- Have staff that is willing to return to preschool, come in for 3-4 hours on Thursday March 26 to clean, organize, and train on new protocol.
- Reopen our doors to families on Tuesday March 31.

GROUPS

Groups using our facility for gatherings of more than 10 people will be suspended through April 6th and then re-evaluated. The Church Board will meet Saturday March 21st in the Upper Room and via video conference.

GIVING

- Leander UMC relies on the tithes and offerings of its members. We encourage our members to continue to support the church financially during this down time. Gifts can be made through our online giving option, accessed through our website www.leanderumc.org. This will take you to our secure online giving portal. If you have never given this way before, you will be asked to create an account.
- Or you can set up electronic transfer with your bank. And also sending a check by mail works: Leander United Methodist Church, 107 S. West Dr. Leader, TX 78641.
- Or text to give simply by sending a text to 833-843-1316 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so thankful to serve you and trust that God's faithfulness will sustain us as always.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura