

You are the salt of the earth... Matthew 5:13

April 24, 2020

Fellow Saint Elmo United Methodist Church Worshippers:

I hope this communication finds you and your loved ones well and safe.

We have found ourselves in unusual times, for sure. States that have mandated shut-downs of businesses, parks, etc. are now talking about re-opening. This may raise the question about when we will resume our face-to-face worship services.

There are many experts, all seemingly with contradictory information. Knowing just when to "resume" any/all activities, including worship services is difficult.

As a member church of the Holston Conference, we are listening closely to our Bishop, Dindy Taylor. Her most recent communication (received April 22nd) stated "We will continue assessing the situation within our conference bounds and will reopen as soon as we feel it is safe."

What this means for us right now is that we are not ready to resume face-to-face worship services.

The Leadership Council of SEUMC has continued to communicate via FaceBook and Zoom meetings. If you have a need of any kind, we are here to serve you. You can call the church or reach out to us via FaceBook or through our website (<u>www.saintelmo.org</u>). Our website will also provide you with information about how to join in virtual worship via FaceBook Live or on our YouTube channel (St. Elmo UMC). You can also check out our new hashtag campaign #LivingLoveHere on our website.

Something to be celebrated is our high school senior. Richard Williams will be graduating from Howard High School this year, and might I add, he is doing it with great accomplishment. Richard is in the top 10% of his class. Congratulations, Richard on a job well done!

We hope to have a celebration for Richard, so please check our website for information about that as it becomes available.

While there is indeed much uncertainty in our world today, there remains much certainty as well. Our Savior is indeed risen and continues to sit at God's right hand and make intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)

Please take care of yourselves and each other, as much as possible. As Pastor Debra said in a recent sermon, our church is not the building; it is the people. If you need something, let us know.

Blessings and peace,

Cheri Harr, Scarlet Farr and Angela Davis SPRC Co-Chairs and Council Chair