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**News from St. Peter's Lischey's U.C.C.**  
**This is the first edition of a bi-weekly news update.**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2020**

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*Church Council and Staff are endeavoring to send out this bi-weekly update because, due to the current circumstances resulting from the quarantine, and not knowing what safety standards will be in place when we may be able to gather again, long term planning is not possible. Committees will be meeting via Zoom to consider options and how to implement social distancing for future events and worship.*



**Message from the Pastor:**

*"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete, be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.*

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2: 1 -5*

The church at Philippi was one of the first Paul established on European soil and struggled from its inception. The words he writes are to encourage persistence in faith and a sense of community within the body of Christ in these times of struggle.

These words spoke to me in the midst of the larger church's current situation. Worship, particularly Sunday worship has been the center of the church's life in community. Churches EVERYWHERE are struggling with the same questions: What does it mean to worship God? How can we be in community, love one another and love our neighbors while using social distancing? Churches everywhere are seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for creative ways to worship and maintain community in the Spirit of our Risen Lord. One of the ways we will try to maintain community is by offering a bi-weekly newsletter at this time to stay connected.

The early church was persecuted. Early followers had to meet in hiding. Through all of this, the church survived and grew. Paul writes in Ephesians, the church is the body of Christ (gathered or scattered) and Christ is the head! In these times, when not just the body of Christ is being challenged to find new ways of being community, let us take heed to Paul's words to be of the same mind and same love, show humility, acceptance and understanding.

In the peace of Christ, Pastor Cathy



*This section is intended to update the congregation and respond to questions that have been raised during these times. Please email the church office at: [lischeys@gmail.com](mailto:lischeys@gmail.com) with your questions and concerns.*

❖ **Why aren't we providing messages on Youtube or Facebook?**

*There are several reasons in reply to that question. The first is a lack of equipment such as a camera and recording devices to produce a message. Secondly, when services are streamed or recorded for internet sharing, it is important to have a copyright license for hymns, music, and liturgy that allows that sharing. Zoom is what is available to use at this time and it does allow the church to be in community with one another. While it is not perfect, Zoom allows the community to see one another and share greetings while maintaining the weekly discipline of worshipping together.*

❖ **What's happening?**

- Staff - Nancy Cherry is utilizing this time to catalogue choral music, 19 drawers in all. Michele has done some work on the website and is setting up a children's lending library in the gathering area. With the help of Council members, Michele is also updating email addresses which is important moving forward to maintain communication.*
- Council and the Profile Committee are meeting almost weekly via Zoom. Jean Gross has applied for the Small Business Loan that churches qualify for in this time of crisis. Thank you to Jean, because this has required a lot of paper work! The Profile Committee has had to modify its original plans to gather input. It is currently collating the information from the surveys. Thus far we have received 99 surveys. A reminder, if you have not completed your survey, please do so.*
- At the April 27 meeting of Council, it was decided that the Election Day food sale be cancelled at this time because we do not know what safety precautions may need to be in place. Council also decided Messy Church and VBS should be postponed at this time until options can be considered.*

❖ **What is E-tithing?**

*The introduction of e-tithing has been on the Council agenda for several months. Council was planning to proceed with introducing this to the congregation before the pandemic. E-tithing is a good stewardship practice because it enables faithful giving on a regular basis. On the following pages, you will see a Question and Answer page for you to review. Implementation of e-tithing cannot begin until banks resume regular operation. In the meantime, please communicate your questions to the church.*

**ST PETERS (LISCHEYS) UCC**  
**E-GIVING**  
**INFORMATION SHEET**

What is E-Giving?

E-Giving (Electronic Giving) is an alternative method of giving to St. Peters Lischeys. Offerings are automatically deducted from your checking or savings account and transferred to the church. This method is similar to paying your monthly utility bills electronically.

How Does E-Giving Benefit You and the Church?

- E-Giving gives you peace of mind that Lischeys still receives your offering when you are out-of-town or on vacation.
- E-Giving is easy and convenient and it saves time as you do not need to prepare your offering each week.
- E-Giving contributions may be made from your account at any bank.
- E-Giving contributions will appear on your monthly bank account statement.
- E-Giving maintains a more consistent giving pattern for the church.

Is this method of giving secure?

- Yes, E-Giving is very secure. To ensure confidentiality, all authorization forms and offering deductions will be handled in house only by the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Offering deductions are processed using a secure internet connection.

Is there a minimum dollar amount required to use E-Giving?

- To aid in maintaining costs and efficiencies, it is suggested that the minimum dollar amount for e-giving be \$5.00 per withdrawal.

What if I want to change my offering amount or discontinue e-giving?

- Simply complete a new authorization form indicating your intentions and return it to the church at least one month prior to the change.

May I still place something in the offering plate?

- Yes, you are invited to continue in the symbolic act of bringing your offering to God during our worship service. You may use one of the small crosses or e-giving cards that are available to you as you enter the sanctuary. Also, if you feel moved to increase your offering during a worship service or would like to give toward a special offering, envelopes are available in the pews.

How do I handle Special Offerings?

- Cash or check contributions are acceptable for Special Offerings as e-giving is only for our Current, OCWM and Building for Service offerings.

