Dear Friends –

Since we last worshiped together in person on March 15th, a lot has changed in the world. At that point, we were just learning how to social distance and only medical personnel were wearing masks. That day, there were approximately 4,500 identified Covid-19 cases in the United States and only 142 in Florida. As I write this, there are over 31,000 Florida cases and nearly 1,000,000 in the U.S. Things change! But be encouraged, for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He is the Alpha and Omega. Through this time of uncertainty, worry and change, God’s Word remains strong and sure.

Even though it is true that there are many things to be concerned about right now, there is much for which we can be grateful. I am especially grateful for you, your faith and your encouragement – I pray for you each day and thank God for you. I am also grateful for our strong church leadership. Our Staff, Session and Deacons have been working behind the scenes to ensure that our faith community stays strong and safe. Session and Staff have conferenced (by phone and Zoom) nearly every week to assure that we are continually moving forward and following God’s guidance. They faithfully coordinated the slowing down of activities for our safety, and are now discussing how and when we will (safely) open the doors of the church again. In the interim, new technology has allowed us to reach out and enhance online worship opportunities.

As we do talk about moving forward, there are a lot things we do not yet know. We do not yet know when the Sanctuary will reopen, but we believe it may be relatively soon. With that in mind, there are a few things we have discussed. When we begin meeting, we believe that social distancing will still be a necessity. Session leaders are considering how we will:

- Social distance our seating arrangements
- Handle offering and Communion
- Limit the amount of items handled by more than one person (i.e. hymnals, etc.)
- Keep our greeters, volunteers and guests safe
- Possibly eliminate greeting and coffee fellowship for a period of time
- Inform the congregation and visitors of precautions

Once the decision is made to open the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship, we will continue to offer a strong online presence, since not everyone will be ready to attend in person. We will also delay the re-start of other activities until we are able to assess and plan for the safety of all.

Please be patient as we move forward together through these changes. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. Please feel free to email me at: deniselay05@gmail.com or call the church at (813) 782-7412.

In the name of the One who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow,

Denise

“May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.”
— Teresa of Ávila
STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a Christ-based ministry of our church, listening to people with a heavy concern for what they are feeling. Our Stephen Ministers who have Care Receivers at the moment, while social distancing, are still meeting them; some are using the phone for their visits.

In this world of local and worldwide pandemic that we’re in, it seems that all of us have heavy concerns on our minds and need to get closer to the Lord.

If you would like to talk to someone about your situation, your thoughts and your own personal concerns, you can call a Stephen Minister, not as a part of the Stephen Ministry program, but just a conversation, friend to friend, about the effects of this pandemic.

Stephen Ministers

Bette Armon (813) 716-7002
Mary Clark (217) 343-1157
Terry Clark (217) 343-1157
Rev. Catherine Coffey (813) 312-1894
Joanne Combs (813) 788-3532
Barbara Crum (813) 334-2807
Pastor Denise Lay (813) 782-7412

Mike Heath (352) 206-6952
Patty Joyce Home (813) 258-8565, Cell (727) 254-1288
Roy Marks (352) 206-0464 - Call 24/7, seriously, because sometimes concerns are worst at 3:00 in the morning.
Lois Rosa (813) 416-2280
Vera Wilson Home (813) 778-6349, Cell (607) 760-8523

We are here for you.

“Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.”
— Teresa of Avila

Saint Teresa of Avila, was a Spanish noblewoman who felt called to the monastic life and became a Carmelite Nun. Though she lived in the 16th century, people have found hope and inspiration in her words throughout the centuries, for they are timeless.

May

Anniversaries

05/01 Charles & Pat Smith
05/17 John & Shirley Hilbrandt

Birthdays

05/03 David Petryna
05/05 Liz Geiger
05/06 Lela MacLeod
05/07 Elizabeth Hughes
05/10 Megan Hall
05/12 Char Brown
05/16 John Hilbrandt
05/16 John Neiswender
05/21 Debbie Edwards
05/16 John Hilbrandt
05/21 Larry Stickwood
05/23 Pat Reifsteck
05/21 John Hilbrandt
05/27 Jan Chambers
05/30 Ruth Gravengood
05/21 John Hilbrandt
05/30 Sandy Thiese
Thank you all so very much for your powerful prayers and thoughtful cards! I had my last AV node ablation heart surgery on April 21. Our awesome Lord (as always) blessed me with His presence in the hospital, and now I trust Him to go forward with me as we enter this new chapter of my life. Lee and I very much appreciate your love and concern – AND PRAYERS. Hope to see you one of these days...

Love & prayers,
Suzann and Lee Parrish

OFFERING
Thank you for your faithful financial support! Many of you have continued to mail or drop off your offering; some have used the "online offering" option on the website. Through the online offering, you can use your credit/debit card or your checking account. It is also possible to set up a recurring offering, and you have the option of paying the small fee on behalf of the church. You can also designate where you would like your funds applied: tithe, building fund, food pantry, etc. We continue to serve our community to the fullest extent that we are able, and your generosity makes that possible. Thank you!!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
PRAISING AND SERVING!
God has blessed our church with the ability and desire to serve our community! Thanks to your support, we have been able to open our Food Pantry each week on Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We also offer take-away meals on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. In partnership with Samaritan Project, we will soon be able to serve meals on an additional day. Be on the lookout for more information! It has been exciting to see how God is so graciously providing for this ministry. We have received monetary donations, donations of canned goods, and toiletries, pastries and breads, homemade cookies, milk, salads and much more. What a blessing to all who receive!
“Together We Serve”

Office Closed Except by Appointment
Office: (813) 782-7412 E-mail: Firstpcz@verizon.net
Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM at: Firstpcz.org

Church Staff:
Rev. Denise Lay, Pastor
Cheryl Heath, Office Administrator
Debbie Edwards, Director of Music
Jason Edwards, Choir Director
Tracy Clemmer, Nursery Attendant

May 2020
First Word

Deacons
Joyce McDonagh, Moderator
Class of 2020
Maggie Andersen
Ron Bergstrom
Class of 2021
Catherine Coffey
Bob Crum
Donna VanTassel
Class of 2022
Mike Heath
Audrell Howard
Joyce McDonagh

Session
Barbara Crum, Clerk of Session
Bob Crum, Treasurer
Class of 2020
Doug Dorgan
Mardell Franke
Rhonda Register
Class of 2021
Mary Margaret Trice
Roy Marks
Class of 2022
Barbara Crum
Tracy Linderman