

Greetings, Westminster Church Family and Friends,

Today, Governor Hogan's press briefing informed us that schools will remain closed until April 24, 2020. Shortly after the governor's press briefing, Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling sent us a message detailing that all churches in the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church are to refrain from gathering in our facilities through April 26 ([click here to read the statement](#)). This means that we will not meet in our sanctuary on Easter or any of the other scheduled services for the month of April. It is hoped that we will be able to resume gathering in person for worship on May 3; however, the ability to do that will depend upon the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact in our local area.

Thankfully, we are becoming more proficient with our online opportunities for worshipping together each week. Further, our bible studies and church meetings are still able to take place via video teleconferences. And while the church is not available for gatherings, the governor has determined that soup kitchens are an essential need and therefore our Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen is now coordinating bagged lunches for our patrons. I am thankful for the many ways in which we are finding creative means to remain connected.

Our staff continues to work, many are working remotely. I am thankful for their dedication and faithfulness. You can contact the staff by email or telephone through their extension at the church number. If you are in need of assistance (picking up medicine or groceries), then contact the church and dial extension 65 and someone will be in touch to help.

During this time, I have repeatedly stated, "The church is not a place we go to, the church is who we are, where we are!" This is never truer than at this time. I am looking forward to the day when we can gather together, in person. Be assured that while Easter Services may be delayed they will not be neglected. Easter celebrates the resurrection and we will celebrate with a powerful Easter Resurrection Service on the Sunday we can gather at church together in one place.

Be well, be safe, be the church!  
Pastor Malcolm

[Click here to read the BWC / Bishop's statement.](#)

[Click here to access the BWC Corona Virus Resource Webpage.](#)

For assistance as noted above, dial 410-848-8325, x65.