

## **Report of the Lead Pastor for March 2020**

Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

April 14, 2020

Baptisms: none  
Funerals: none  
Weddings: none

Well what a difference a month makes! Within four days of our last Council meeting Trinity closed down the building on recommendations from the governor as the Covid-19 virus spread.

Within two weeks the staff, with help from great volunteers, completely changed our ministry model to become an online, virtual church. Streaming worship, multiple online faith formation classes, daily Facebook pastoral check-ins, staff messages, Zoom staff meetings, youth group meetings, online children's programming. The pastors continued to visit the sick and dying, though we are now restricted from visiting our members in nursing care facilities.

I know you appreciate what has been accomplished in a very short period of time. I certainly do.

But we all need to understand what this represents. The church and how we do ministry is changing before our eyes and I think it would be foolish to think when the restrictions are lifted we should simply go back to the way it was before.

Our congregation's online presence and ministry offerings should become the new normal. We are seeing the impact we are able to have. The numbers don't lie. We are reaching more people today than we were before the shutdown. Incredible isn't it?!

I hope we seize this opportunity. I hope we invest in this opportunity.

In the meantime we continue to grow in our learning how to navigate this new reality. I am encouraged.

Soon, I hope and pray, this pandemic will be over, but we will be changed. We should be prepared and ready to meet the future.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Jack Horner