

**Report of
Pastor for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
April 2020**

Life in the time of Covid:

Like many of you, I've been dealing with lots of meetings on Zoom: weekly meetings with other pastors in our West Shore conference (including one with Bishop Dunlop); weekly production meetings for worship and for staff. My Mutual Ministry group met online. I've conducted three pre-marriage sessions, either via Zoom or simply a conference call (unfortunately, one of those couples has chosen to postpone their wedding until a later date, due to the pandemic). I led the weekly *Points to Ponder* discussion (the sermon followup).

Related to online meetings, I have (obviously) been involved with weekly streaming worship, which I feel each week improves upon itself. I believe Holy Week and Easter worship went well. There were some technical difficulties with the audio & visual aspect of Palm Sunday worship, which we were able to correct for our next live stream. We have heard from some members who do not have internet connections, and so in order to accommodate those folks, we have begun making DVDs to give to those who ask for them. We have also purchased three portable DVD players to loan out on a first come, first serve basis.

The pastors met with the heads of altar care to discuss how we will distribute communion whenever we begin to gather together again for worship. At this point, we are planning on eliminating intinction, and move entirely to pouring chalice and individual cups. This will be used in all spaces of worship. We have ordered more cups and trays. Of course, it will not be until we are able to gather physically that we will see how well this will work.

I've also been in contact with members by phone and email, as well as looking at all of the responses we have received to the April mailing. There have been many positive comments.

I hope you all are doing well with the quarantine.

God's peace,
Pastor John Brock