

Dear Emmanuel Church and Friends:

Greetings, everyone, and God be with you!

I hope everyone is staying physically well, mentally happy, and spiritually active.

As I said in my initial letter to the church two weeks ago, we need to stay connected as best we can through these times of living physically apart from one another. I hope you are keeping in touch with people and especially reaching out by phone, letter, or email to folks who live alone.

Here are some notes about the parish:

1. No in-person services for the foreseeable future. We need to wait until government and health officials give us the all clear.

2. That means we will have to find other ways of observing Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

3. Emmanuel's vestry has communicated to approve the treasurer's reports and other items. The vestry is in touch with each other.

4. Father Jerry is available to talk if you would like to speak with him. He misses everyone. If you need his numbers, contact me and I'll text them to you. If you just want to chat, that's fine. If you need a priest for anything, he is available to talk. Father asks that you not call after 9 p.m. if possible.

5. I am also available to talk anytime, to answer questions, to chat, whatever you want,

6. Many people are using our Facebook group page: Emmanuel Church Family. Please join if you are on Facebook. Share a devotional, favorite Bible passage, or prayer with the group.

7. No groups are meeting at Emmanuel these days. Ron Jerome and John McFadden are checking the facilities periodically. However, First Place held a virtual meeting using Zoom technology and will continue to do so.

8. If you need to visit the building to do business, please do so.

9. Many of you have accessed online services in one form or another. I provided a list last week on the Facebook group page. The Diocese of Central New York has provided quite a number of services to access. Here is how you do it:

- Google the Diocese of Central New York website. First page you will see is Faithful Response to COVID-19 coronavirus.
- Click on Resources for congregations and clergy.
- Scroll down to Building online community and alternatives to worship in-person.
- Click on A list of churches in our Diocese and beyond that are offering online worship and formation.
- Go to Online worship and formation opportunities. There are several you can click on, including one led by Bishop Dede.
- If you scroll down to the wider church offerings, you could access a service at the National Cathedral in Washington.

10. There are also the services I provided last week that are still on the Facebook group page. Refer to the links on the Facebook group page or call me if you need more help.

11. Again, I would recommend using your Prayer Book for Morning Prayer services, Noonday service, Evening Prayer and Compline. Maybe call a friend and read the service together.

12. I hope this helps you know that Emmanuel, while being physically apart, is spiritually united. Call a friend. Stay in touch. Spread God's love.

13. Please let me know if I can do something more to help you or our situation. I am ready to do so.

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You,
John McFadden