



Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church

136 East Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210

(276) 628-3361

March 26, 2020

Dear Sinking Spring Church Family:

Earlier today, I participated in a videoconference with my ministerial colleagues in Abingdon Presbytery about how each of our congregations are responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in our area. The meeting was very helpful and informative. During the meeting, two things became very clear: First, every one of us is going to be affected by this crisis. Second, it is essential that we stay connected to each other.

In that spirit, I want to share the following helpful advice and information that I received from my meeting:

1. Continue to practice good hygiene. Wash your hands throughout the day. Wipe down surfaces that you touch throughout the day.
2. If you have symptoms of the virus, call your primary care physician and ask for their recommendations. You will probably need to be tested.
3. If you have lost your employment, immediately apply for unemployment benefits through the Virginia Employment Commission. You may apply online at www.vec.virginia.gov or by phone (866-823-2363).
4. If you are needing food, you may do the following: 1) Text FOOD to 877877 and you will be given the closest feeding site to acquire food. 2) Contact the Service & Outreach Team or the church office so that we may assist you.
5. If you are needing other types of assistance, call 211 or visit www.211virginia.org. You will be able to speak with someone who may help you acquire the resources you need for your family (shelter, food, childcare and senior care, etc.).
6. Through the Department of Social Services, you can go to www.commonhelp.virginia.gov and apply for multiple programs and services. There are no age restrictions for these programs.
7. United Way is working on setting up resource options too. To see our local United Way website go to www.unitedway.org/local/unitedstates/# and type in your zip code.
8. If you have a small business and need an Economic Disaster Loan, Virginia is offering loans at 2.75%. You are encouraged to apply now and not to wait. This is through the Urban League of Virginia and the Small Business Administration. You can also call 800-659-2955 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week.

Those are a few of the resources that are available in our community and state. If you have need of the above services and have difficulty accessing them, please do not hesitate to contact me (pastor@sinkingspring.org) for help. I am here to assist you.

With every good wish and blessing for you,

Rev. Kevin M. Campbell
Interim-Transitional Pastor