

Dear Ones All:

We fully understand that many of us are in the most vulnerable categories, and for health reasons cannot attend services even with masks and keeping a social distance of 6 feet. But we wanted you to know that we are doing everything possible to reduce the risk of exposure. At the outset we removed all the books and fabric from the church sanctuary before having it professionally disinfected. And since then we have been wiping down all the surfaces that were touched using the same profession grade liquid disinfectant, and hand held UV wands. The new AC unit for the sanctuary has a UV device to clean the circulating air. But we fully understand if you are not comfortable. Give us a call to talk about your concerns any time.

The policy of keeping the office closed is still in effect. Generally only one person is at work at a time. We share your impatience with the current restrictions, and, like you, we pray that they can be relaxed in the near future. We had hoped to have gatherings of ministry groups with no more than 10-12 persons by now, but the high infection rate here in Lake Charles has squashed those plans. Just so you know, we do follow strictly the guidelines the Bishop has given us, and his guidelines are based on the Governor's advice. The Bishop's office had opened with only one staff member present at a time, but this week they have gone back to working from home. So we ask your indulgence as we navigate this new world of living during a pandemic, and the policies needing to be changed constantly. We all know of someone who has had COVID19, even maybe someone who has died. The Bishop shared his biggest loss during these sad times. A number of the Episcopalians under his charge throughout the diocese have died, but, to him, the most tragic was a 19 year old. We want you all to stay safe. We pray that there is no loss of life in our parish due to the coronavirus. So wear your masks and prevent the community spread of the virus. We wear masks and keep social distance to protect those around us. We all do these things because we love our neighbors, and we want to protect each other.

Do not lose heart.

God is with us.

Know that you are loved.

Jo+ and Jim+

--

Who we are is our gift from God. Who we become is our gift to God.

The Reverend Jo P. Popham

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Lake Charles, Louisiana

941-445-0253 - cell