

Dear Friends and Members,

I must begin with an apology, in that I was trying to ‘fly under the radar’ with a foot surgery I had planned months ago. While I was tempted several times to postpone it, best advisors suggested I go forward with the surgery. I am happy to report that I’m healing well at home after foot surgery on Friday, and am grateful to Chris Macfarlane for helping to guide the congregation through church closure and worship options.

We will continue to update you on the website, via email, and with Facebook posts as we discern further options for April. Many thanks to Kevin Upton and Jeff Uecker for getting information out as quickly as they could.

In these unknown days, we are called to rely on one of the hallmarks of life together at The Old Scotch Church – community. I know that might sound like an odd call since we can’t actually get together, but I’m reminding all of us that there are a variety of ways to connect, and we can engage those ways in the weeks to come.

If you are reading this, you have an internet connection and an email or Facebook account. Please use these tools to make personal connections with others. Pull out your church directory or scan the website (www.oldscothchurch.org) for people ideas, and make a list of someone different to contact every day. This can be who you always sit with in the pew, or someone in the choir you’ve wanted to get to know, or someone you miss seeing at church. This can be an elder or a deacon, or someone on the prayer list. This can be a child in the congregation or another committee member or the ushers from last week. Please make a list to make contact with at least one person, and more if you’d like. I’m trusting the Holy Spirit to help us contact each other if the majority of us pitches in. And, please, if someone emails you – answer back!

Next, think of those who are not electronically connected. Most of us carry with us, everywhere we go, not only the Holy Spirit, but cell phones! Who might you call to talk with who will not get this message? Who might want to listen to a sermon over the phone with you? Who might need to hear this letter so they can make their own list of people to call? Our Outreach and Member team just worked on putting together an accurate phone number list, so contact Jeff if you need a number. And if you call someone who has a need, please email me (traciebullis@oldscothchurch.org) or Chris Macfarlane (chris@oldscothchurch.org) and we will coordinate on help. In addition, if you are willing to be a part of helping meet needs, either through acts or helping from home, please also email me or Chris.

Finally, if you’d like a pastoral call, please email me to set up a time for that. I’m happy to meet over the phone, and I can FaceTime if you’re able. If I have too many calls requested, I will ask Chris Macfarlane to help. But I think if we’re calling each other, we will care for each other as The Old Scotch Church has done for almost 150 years. May it be so.

Grace and peace,

Tracie

(Home phone is 503.430.7435, which is printed wrong in our church directory!)