

Posted: March 17, 2020 @ 6PM

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All of you know as much, if not more, of what I know about Covid 19. You too, have heard directions coming from the CDC, our President, Governor, and other State and World Leaders. Finally, I have received the following video explaining directives from Bishop Trimble, Bishop of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, and even as I write this directive, from our local Union County Health Department.

Accordingly, I have cancelled any and ALL meetings, gatherings, Pre- School Classes, and Worship Services until Monday, April 13th. Sadly, this includes but is not limited to ABLBH, our Good Friday Cantata, Sunday School Classes, Palm Sunday, our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Easter Sunday Worship, both Sunrise and 10:00. As the Senior Pastor of EMUMC I am accepting sole responsibility for these decisions, but rest assured I have gathered information and opinions from more sources that I can remember, let alone count. I know many will not agree with these decisions. Feel free to direct your disagreements, anger, arguments to me...and me alone.

The eighth decade of the 1800's...until now. A very long time, indeed And each and every Easter Sunday since has found the citizens of Union County, Indiana worshipping God, many at what is now known as Edwards Memorial UMC. But, Sunday, April 12th, 2020...will not be business as usual.

And it breaks my heart. Saddens my spirit. Burdens my soul.

In times such as these I often turn to our United Methodist Hymnal, and if you can believe it (for those who know me know I can't sing...a lick!) to page 707...and begin to sing.

"In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree.
In cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free.
From the snow and cold of winter there's a spring that waits to be.
Unrevealed until it's season, Something God alone can see.

Every Sunday. Every Sunday. Every Sunday...is a Little Easter Sunday. And Brothers and sisters in Christ, this I promise.

There will come a Sunday, be it in April or in October...when we will join together in our Sanctuary, and the world will hear us sing...

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA!

I say this day...the grave could not hold him, and neither can these troubling times.
For Christ is alive...AND HE IS COMING BACK.

Pastor Scott Bell

The bishop requests that churches suspend their regular worship services over the next four weeks.