

Dear Friends,

I am writing this to update our worshipping community at First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown about **Coronavirus - COVID19** and our congregation. In an effort to help reduce public risk and lessen risk to our own congregants we are cancelling worship on March 15, 10 am. This will include Sunday School and Fellowship hour after service.

Our congregation is doing this cancellation in addition to our cancellation of the Men's Breakfast and the St. Patrick's Day dinner. It has been an agonizing decision for me, but I agree with it wholeheartedly. As more information is known I will also send the congregation information about upcoming worship schedules.

Please note that we will be live streaming a service on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FPCHackettstown/>. Hard copies will also be available on Sunday to be sent by email if requested to [fhprezpastor@gmail.com](mailto:fhprezpastor@gmail.com). This is also the email address you can use to send any prayers that I will lift up on Sunday. The scripture readings will be Exodus 17:1-7 and Romans 5:1-11. All sermons will be posted on our web page at: <http://www.fpchackettstown.org/library.html>

For your offering you can send it through snail mail to  
FPCH  
298 Main Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Electronic giving can be sent using the green Donate button found on this page.

The leadership of this church has been following this virus closely and know that things are changing rapidly. It is an unprecedented time for both our church, country, and the world. Our responsibility is to be faithful to God, rely on the wisdom of science, and to spread accurate information. This virus has spread and has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Their definition of a pandemic is, an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people."

President Donald Trump and Governor Phil Murphy has declared a State of Emergency for the United States and the state of New Jersey. More information on the Caronaviros can be obtained from these locations:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200309b.shtml>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/what-new-coronavirus-n1119081>

[http://www.pensions.org/news-and-events/articles/coronavirus-message?fbclid=IwAR27Y27jJGq3gYBFOQ-VnGo14CVK\\_5P7MuPprHsHU5y5Y3-mvgS1kHVn2Tk](http://www.pensions.org/news-and-events/articles/coronavirus-message?fbclid=IwAR27Y27jJGq3gYBFOQ-VnGo14CVK_5P7MuPprHsHU5y5Y3-mvgS1kHVn2Tk)

Our hope is in the Lord. Keep each other in prayer, look out for our most vulnerable, and show a willingness to be of service in this vital time in our community. My prayers are with you and my love of you is steadfast. Let me know if there is any way I can serve you in this time of anxiety.

Peace,

Rev. Brian Merritt