

April 1, 2020 Temporary Funeral Policy

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ connected with St. Peters,
The church council adopted a policy regarding funerals during the current COVID-19 crisis. The policy was approved first by the deacons, and then voted on with unanimous approval by the council. The policy takes into consideration the recommendations of the CDC and the Governor's Stay In Place order along with recommendations for the Funeral Home Organizations. The temporary policy is as follows:

- 1. No funeral services at the church at this time.*
- 2. Funeral Homes do offer video services to be posted, a place for the family to post condolences and video messages plus grief counselors all for free or limited cost depending on the funeral home.*
- 3. The church can do a memorial service once the emergency orders are lifted and it is safe to do so.*
- 4. The church will weekly remember and pray for all who have died.*
- 5. The Pastor is available for phone counseling in the event of a death in order to walk with the persons who are grieving.*

Once social distancing is no longer necessary and it is safe to gather together as a congregation, this temporary policy will end and our normal Funeral Policy will apply to funerals again at St. Peters.

This is a hard decision, but one we think is loving in Christ at this time. This is not a decision that I think any of us are happy about, but one we think is necessary given the circumstances. I hope you can see in this policy that this is not abandonment or a lack of care, but rather a desire to still bring the good news of Christ to one another and to our neighbors. I, as your pastor, promise to walk with you all in love through whatever happens in the days ahead in these uncharted circumstances, because Christ promises to walk with us by his Spirit.

Peace be with you all.

In Christ,
Pastor Chris Weber