



# Petoskey United Methodist Church

1804 East Mitchell Road  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Tel. 231 / 347-2733

info@petoskeyumc.org · www.petoskeyumc.org

Pastor: **Dr. James P. Mitchum** · Ministries Director: **Doug Mantha**

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The Psalmist prays,

*In you, O Lord, I have taken my refuge... deliver me in your righteousness.*

*Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue, be my rock and refuge, a strong fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me...*

*Love the Lord, all his saints!*

*The Lord preserves the faithful... **Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.**—Psalm 31*

*Be strong and take heart.* To the Psalmist, let's add Paul's instruction, *Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else... Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus... Hold on to the good... May God, the peace of God, set you apart through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*—1 Thessalonians 5

Paul was writing out of sense that the Thessalonian church had this idea that the world would be ending soon. Didn't happen then, isn't happening now. Although in these days, there are probably some who think along those lines. Paul realized the world was not coming to an end despite the times and misguided expectations. And so Paul also writes to his Christian brothers and sisters, *And we urge you speak to those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

Dear Ones, these are difficult and challenging times. These are days to encourage one another by reaching out with phone calls and letters. These are times to use "idle" time for growth—read scripture and other uplifting material. Try to think of someone who is timid that may be feeling isolated at this time. Be patient and live in faithful trust. **If anyone needs someone to shop for them or pick up medications, call James or Doug. There are a number of people willing to go out for you.**

This week we have needed to close the church office. You can still reach the church staff via the church phone (347-2733) or call James (231) 330-0420 or Doug (231) 838-9113. While worshipping at the church is postponed into April, the worship service can be heard on 1270 AM or 102.3 FM at 11 AM or you find the live broadcast at [www.wmktthetalkstation.com](http://www.wmktthetalkstation.com). We hope to livestream worship from our website, [petoskeyumc.org](http://petoskeyumc.org), beginning this Sunday. Check out the website while you tune in on Sunday morning.

*We exist to seek and nurture lifelong followers and servants of Jesus Christ.*

Please continue to support the church with your offerings via the United States Postal Service, the church's website, your bank's online "bill pay" or text "PUMCoffering\$100 to donate \$100 (or any amount). While these are difficult times, we will do well together in faith.

While we live out the "stay at home" order, let us do so knowing that we have the purpose of slowing down the virus. "Staying home" is not an easy task for most of us. Embrace the opportunity to have time to pray, read, connect, share time with family where/when possible, spend quality time with the ones you love, go for walks.

Let's use the time well.

These are not easy days, but they can be days when we embrace the love of Jesus and offer that unconditional love to others. These days will pass (they will), and we will be people of greater love, grace, and courage.

We have a strong, able and sufficient God in Jesus Christ. God bless you and our shared community as we live into this challenging time. Be well. Stay well.

In Christ's love and care,

  
Pastor James

A note from David Meyer:

*The Petoskey United Methodist church has been a part of my whole life for 66 years. Growing up in the church, my parents, Herman and Hazel, always gave my brothers and me quarters and dollar bills to put in the offering plate when it went by. So a few years ago when the opportunity came up to do direct deposit to the church, I felt uncomfortable with the idea of the bag passing by and not putting any money in it.*

*Finally I accepted the fact that the church has expenses 52 weeks a year and that I should support the church even though I might not be there.*

*During this time when the church is closed, the staff is still working, the overhead expenses are still there. The church stills needs the cash flow to keep operating.*

I would encourage all members to consider changing your way of giving. The church office can help you. Cathy and I have our account set up so that the church receives our contribution once a month. I have become very comfortable with that.