



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino
1900 N. D Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405
(909) 882-3308 (message); www.fpcsb.net

We will get through this together.

A lot has happened recently, and a lot has stopped happening recently, due to the threat of coronavirus or COVID-19. We have been ordered to stay at home. We are practicing “social distancing,” remaining 6-10 feet from others when we do venture out. We are confused, and a little frightened.

And we can’t worship together. Because of the threat of this virus, we can’t even come together to praise God, petition God, and exchange the peace of God.

But we *can* remember Mr. Rogers’ advice and look for the helpers. “There are always helpers.” We can encourage others by phone, or by text message, or e-mail. We can reach out to ask for help in the same way.

While we are temporarily refraining from our Sunday services, we continue to serve. The food ministry carried on with the monthly food distribution, not wanting those most vulnerable to the coronavirus outbreak to be deprived of this source many of them depend on to feed their families. The leadership of the church is hoping to keep paying staff who have been told to go home due to virus restrictions, or because we are not holding services. Many are working from home when possible. The utility companies continue to send the bills and the various missions we support need our support more than ever.

One of the things affected by this shutdown is the Sunday offering. We cannot come together and give to the work of God as we are used to, and this creates a challenge as we try to carry on.

We know that some of you are suffering economic setbacks, so please don’t think we are asking you to “give until it hurts!” We are not. You need to keep your lights on and food in your house. And we thank those of you whose gifts keep arriving.

But the average church receives 78% of its income from the offering plate. If you are not giving because you cannot be in the sanctuary while the offering plate is passed, we would like to offer some alternatives:

- **You can set up an automatic payment** with your financial institution and they will send a check to the church on a regular basis.
- **You can enroll in bill pay online** and authorize your payment to the church. Your financial institution will mail us a check.
- **You can go to the church’s website** (www.fpcsb.net) and click on the ***Make a Donation*** link on the left side of the home page. That link will take you to PayPal, where you can donate by credit or debit card, set up an automatic payment, or donate with your own PayPal account. (PayPal charges us 2% of each donation, so if you feel generous, you can add a little to your donation to cover that. Or not.)

We are keeping the lights on, answering the phones as much as possible, and making decisions which allow continuation of daily operations; so that when the restrictions are lifted (as they certainly will be!), we can be ready for us all to come together again to worship in joy. What a celebration that will be!

So, whether you have sent in your donation, are planning to send in your donation, or simply cannot; get ready to celebrate. The day is coming; we will be here; and we will want to see you!