

A Letter from Session

Dear Members and Friends of MWPC:

As you are probably aware our Church building is currently closed for public meetings and services, in compliance with the Safe-at-Home directive. However, as you know, the Church is much more than a building, it is people working together for Christ. We are still fulfilling our functions. Chips has been conducting regular services we hope you have been able to watch on our web site (mwpc.org), YouTube and Facebook, and sending devotional thoughts or Pensées via email almost daily. Staff members have been working primarily at home. Session recently met using ZOOM, and its various committees remain active. Our Christian Ed Leader has been providing suggested activities that can be done at home by our youth. Deacons are phoning members and friends of the church to help support them. We continue to help in the funding of local food pantries and domestic shelters. If there are personal or family needs we should know about, please contact one of us.

Session decided that our building should remain closed until the pandemic safely passes the area, which appears to be no earlier than June 1st of this year, and may need to be extended beyond that date. In addition, opening the barns for Fleazaar collections, which usually begins in early May, will need to be delayed. At this time even the usual date for Fleazaar on the third Wednesday in July is in question.

Not surprisingly another impact of the pandemic is its effect on our Church's finances. Historically we have relied on three major funding sources—member and friend contributions, investment portfolio earnings and Fleazaar sales. All three of these are now simultaneously experiencing negative impacts. As is usually the case this time of year, our expenses are running more than our income. Session decided on a number of “belt tightening” actions to help alleviate this situation, primarily by postponing expenditures wherever possible. These include such things as:

- 1) Postponing the Per Capita payment to Presbytery until later this year.
- 2) Postponing planned, non-essential mission contributions and Deacon's expenditures until later this year.
- 3) Turning down all heating thermostats in the Church Building, except the Office area.
- 4) Postponing other non-essential purchases, such as office supplies and equipment, new Fleazaar tents, and, if possible, the planned replacement of one of our furnaces.
- 5) Distributing this letter via the Chit-Chat and our web site, rather than as a separate mailing.

Session would also encourage everyone to consider additional giving at this time. We realize that some of you, particularly those with closed businesses, may be undergoing financial woes of your own. But if you are in a position of having any funds beyond your regular giving that you could donate to the Church over the next several months, it would help our situation considerably. Please mail your donations to: Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church, PO Box 69, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

Thank you,

Session Team