

Friends,

As we enter into this season, there are many uncertainties when it comes to our daily schedules. Life as we know it will be changing for all of us for an unknown period of time. As we are all readjusting and changing schedules at a moment's notice, I wanted to share some weekly and daily events on the Conference's calendar that we would love for you to take part in.

Starting on Monday, March 23, at 10 a.m. I invite you to join me along with Conference staff, clergy, laity, and friends of the AWF conference for a brief daily devotional, sharing of joys and concerns, and a pastoral prayer. These daily digital devotions will last no longer than 20 minutes and will end with all who are assembled reciting the Lord's Prayer in unison. Please rest assured that this is simply a resource we are offering to you and there is no expectation that people will take part every day. Join in as your schedule allows.

On Monday evenings at 6pm I will do a check-in with our clergy. This will be a time for clergy to share, as they are comfortable, "How is it with your soul?" I will share a brief Word and Rev. Allison Posell will give a weekly tip on self-care and resiliency. Again, this is not required but is a resourced offering to all clergy in the conference.

Also starting next week, a daily "Did You Know?" Facebook tip will be posted on the Conference Facebook page. These daily tips will highlight doing ministry in a creative way while practicing "social distancing" during this time.

A link to each of these offerings can be found on the Conference website and will be sent out via email to all of those who receive our Conference newsletter.

As we go through these trying times, it is important that we are there to support each other in various ways. One way that we are asking churches to help and support each other is through the sharing of resources. We are asking that clergy send us a list of resources they have used and some of their best ideas that they have been able to implement while practicing "social distancing". Particularly, we would like links to online worship not already listed on the Resource Page on our Conference website. Additionally, we ask that you provide links to online prayers or Bible studies that people throughout the conference could take part in. Finally, we are asking clergy to send the video and/or manuscript of one or two of your most loved sermons. We are working to develop a sermon bank that can be used by other clergy who may not have the ability to do livestreaming.

Friends, as we go forth through these uncharted times, I cannot encourage you enough to adhere to our request to suspend in-person worship, meetings, and Bible studies. We all desire to be in

fellowship with one another and to gather together to study God's word and worship all that He has done for us. However, we must be selfless and consider the health of others, namely the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Please take the necessary precautions to combat the further spread of the COVID-19 virus. We can best do this by self-quarantine and refraining from having gatherings of large groups. Again, this is the perfect opportunity for you to take part in some of the weekly and daily gatherings we will be hosting virtually that were mentioned earlier in the video.

Finally, I ask that you keep your focus on mission and ministry while not letting the influx of information ramp up your anxiety. Meditate on Philippians 4:6. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Know that myself along with the Conference staff and Cabinet are praying for you and your ministries continually and are here to offer assistance however we can.

Be blessed!