

Someday we will turn to one another and say, "Hey, do you remember the Coronavirus Panic of 2020? How weird that was!"

But in the meantime, let's think of this as a truly Lenten experience. It's so interesting that all of this is happening during our Christian season of Lent, which began a couple of weeks back with Jesus being tested in the wilderness. I want you to think of this as our own wilderness. If you're up to it, the wilderness can be a place of mystery, awakening, and wonder. It can be an opportunity for us to break from our regular patterns, spend time in solitude with God, and reflect. Yes, I know, the wilderness can also seem disorienting, lonely, and uncertain. But we are not alone. In every wilderness, God is with us. And as a church family, we are in this together as a Christian community.

We will not worship in person this Sunday, March 22nd. There will be a livestream worship service on Facebook at 10 a.m. Visit our website (CPFUMC.org) for all the details. We will probably not worship in person for the rest of March and April. All other in person events will be moving to a digital format via Zoom videoconferencing. Our church website has all the details on this, as well.

I realize that not everyone is a "digital native." Some of us struggle with using technology. But we are blessed to be a church that has a number of people who possess tremendous technological skills, like Neil Howard, Todd Greer, and Dave Sidney. If we are using a platform that is new to you and you need help, please pick up the phone and ask for the help that you need. This can be a time for new learning and real adventure, so I am issuing you a challenge. Don't mope around the house, don't succumb to all the fear, but take the Pastor's Challenge: learn a new skill, embrace a new way of doing church, prove the adage wrong that "old dogs can't learn new tricks."

As your pastor, I want to be here for you. If you need me, call or text me (512-965-7747) or send me an email (Peter@cpfumc.org). We are all in God's hands, and with God's help we're going to make it, especially if we journey through the wilderness together.

Wash your hands. Practice kindness. Stay safe.

God's Peace be with you,
Peter