

## **Branchville & New Hope UMC's Approach to the Covid-19 Situation**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Following the guidance provided by our Bishop, in coordination with his Cabinet, we will be suspending in person services through March 31<sup>st</sup>.** We will continue to monitor and assess the situation, and determine our best course of action that enables our continued effective ministry.

### **The following is our plan for church closure:**

Efforts are being made to publish a pre-recorded sermon to both church websites at [www.branchvilleumc.com](http://www.branchvilleumc.com) and [www.newhoperowesville.org](http://www.newhoperowesville.org) . **We will have a link for online giving that is secure on each website** so that our offering isn't adversely affected. You may also mail a check to the address listed below. Please remember that this is a great time of need, and our missions and church operations require our continued giving.

We are also suspending our meals to shut-ins, the food pantry, Bible Study, and other outreach programs until it is safe to continue. All group meetings will be cancelled including Sunday school, choir practice, and other activities.

Any Community Meetings, Circle Meetings, Social Activities, or related group meetings at the church will also be on hiatus until regular operation resumes.

Visitation will not be made to hospitals, nursing facilities, or homes in order to prevent the spreading of germs from one room, location, or person to another. The pastor is available for phone calls, texts, and Facetime if needed. Call, text, or email at any time. (803)439-2600/ [kliles@umcsc.org](mailto:kliles@umcsc.org).

**Most importantly, please be in prayer for one another. Please remember that taking these steps means avoiding face-to-face contact but not avoiding all contact. We should take active steps to communicate with each other by phone, email, and texting in support of one another. As always, stay in prayer for the sick, our community, our church, and our nation.**

We will continue to follow this plan until further notice in order to protect the church and community.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- If you do not feel well or have been sick within the last 24 hours, please consider staying home in an effort to protect our vulnerable church members.
- Use your best judgement based on your personal health concerns when attending group gatherings of any type.
- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds frequently throughout the day.
- Use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth.
- Avoid physical contact with anyone who has been ill.
- Wear a mask **if you are sick** to prevent spread through coughing or sneezing.
- We will not be serving Communion until further notice.

## **HOW TO CONTINUE GIVING**

- **Online Giving:**  
Visit our websites at [www.branchvilleumc.com](http://www.branchvilleumc.com) and [www.newhoperowesville.org](http://www.newhoperowesville.org) and look for the link for making contributions.
- **Mail Offering to:**

Branchville UMC	New Hope UMC
P.O. Box 87	P.O. Box 54
Branchville, SC 29432	Rowesville, SC 29133

## **INFORMATIVE LINKS**

**CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

**SC DEP. OF HEALTH:** <https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

**UMC SC CONFERENCE:** <https://www.umc.org/en/content/coronavirus-what-to-know-how-to-help>