



ST. PETER'S CHURCH - FOUNDED 1768  
THE REVEREND DAVID MICHAUD

## St. Peter's Church

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St. Joseph's Day, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Peter's,

I want to update you on the status of St. Peter's operations and ministries in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

As of yesterday, the Bishop of Easton has ordered all churches in the Diocese of Easton to be closed through May 10, in accordance with the CDC rule that gatherings of 50 or more be restricted for the next eight weeks. **St. Peter's will remain closed to in-person worship through May 10.**

St. Peter's will continue to **livestream on Facebook a 10am Holy Eucharist every Sunday**, and will **livestream our Wednesday noon Healing Service** throughout this time. Note that you do not have to have an account on Facebook to access the livestream (a screen will pop up when you first access the parish Facebook page asking you to sign in or sign up, but even if you don't have an account you may ignore that screen and scroll down to the video section of St. Peter's Facebook page and you will be able to access the livestream).

This means the church will be **closed for Holy Week and Easter**. I am making arrangements for blessed palms to be made available in advance of Palm Sunday for people to pick up at the Parish Office. I am also planning to **livestream the services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday**. More details will be forthcoming.

We are living in a new reality where keeping physical distance is crucial to slowing the infection of the coronavirus. It means doing church in new ways. Please be assured I am doing everything I can to keep us together as a parish in ways that are safe and also feed our souls and help us to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives.

The Vestry at its monthly meeting last night (by conference call) approved the following:

- No **weddings** will be scheduled at St. Peter's within the next six months.
- **Funerals** may take place during this time, but only the immediate family will be allowed in the church with the option to livestream the service for others.
- The April 26 **Annual Meeting** has been postponed
- All **meetings of parish committees and ministries** are to be conducted via conference call or Zoom conferencing – the Parish Office can help you set these up.
- St. Peter's facilities are now **closed to all outside groups** for meetings and events until further notice.

- The **Parish Office will remain open** regular hours Monday-Thursday 9-4 and Friday 9-2. The staff is here to serve you. Those conducting business are urged to contact staff by phone, email, mail or other remote means. Those who are sick or have been in contact with individuals who have the coronavirus will not be admitted to the Parish Office.
- St. Peter's is setting up **Shepherding Groups to facilitate regular communication with parishioners.** We are seeking shepherd volunteers who would be responsible for calling a dozen parish households each week to check in on parishioners. How about you? If you would like to volunteer to be a shepherd, please contact Rev. Adele at [revadelehatfield@gmail.com](mailto:revadelehatfield@gmail.com) – we are doing a shepherd orientation Monday at 530pm.
- We are seeking volunteers to help with delivering meals and transporting items to homebound parishioners and those in need. Contact Rev. Adele if you can help.
- The Eucharistic Visitor ministry is suspended. Only critical pastoral visits will be undertaken, supplemented with regular phone and video calls to parishioners needing pastoral care.

Should you have any questions, concerns or ideas about how we are conducting ourselves as a church during this time please don't hesitate to contact me. You are all in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

-Father David

The Rev. David Michaud  
Rector  
St. Peter's Church, Salisbury Parish