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April 14th, 2020

Dear St. Matthew’s parishioners,

We are in unusual times and hope you all are well and keeping safe at home. We want to update you on your Q1 pledge contributions and encourage everyone to continue to support St. Matt’s through our online contribution [(click here)](https://www.stmatthewswilton.org/pledge-payments/). As you know, although the church building has had to close temporarily, our activities and costs continue, and your ongoing support is essential to keep our church community vibrant and healthy. Thank you for helping us keep our virtual doors very open to the whole community!

As you’ve seen on our website and in the e-news, our life together continues in a full and very engaged way. We’re all learning how to connect virtually and it’s working! We’ve had Zoom meetings to bring us together on Sundays with the help of Dave Cristini on technology, multiple readers, Scott and Emily delivering music and Marissa, Don and Meg delivering prayers and sermons. Easter was absolutely beautiful, with trumpet, harp, and our Choirs joining in. Then there was a joyful “parade” in the parking lot and around town to celebrate the day, and it was so good to see each other even from afar!

Samantha has reached out to engage our youth with weekly virtual group sessions for both 6-8th and 9th-12th graders. She’s also created a series of videos and children’s messages, and she’s working with our nursery staff to continue to reach out to our youngest members. On Tuesday nights, we’re livestreaming a beautiful sung Compline service at 9pm and there is Morning Prayer on Facebook Live on Wednesday mornings at 9am. Scott has continued both the children’s and adult/youth choir practices online and during Holy Week he prepared a series of live musical broadcasts. There many opportunities each week for adult formation and fellowship on Zoom as well.

We had to cancel the Easter Party at Open Doors, but our youth group did a great job dropping off a whole carload of groceries to support them. We also dropped off Easter baskets filled with eggs so the families could have their own ‘hunt.’ And unfortunately, we’ve also had to put our remodeling work on Maddie’s room on hold with Circle of Care – but we will get back to it as soon as we can do it safely. In the meantime, we have already donated more than $24,000 to our Mission Partners and Beneficiaries this year to support their ongoing work at this critical time. We also sponsored a dinner for staff at St. Vincent’s Hospital and ice cream for the staff after their Easter dinner at Danbury Hospital. However, we remain committed to supporting all of our Mission partners and beneficiaries now and in the coming months.

Until we can be together again, connect with us online! And don’t forget to continue making contributions against your pledge by going to our [website](https://www.stmatthewswilton.org/pledge-payments/). It’s critical that we have your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Sato @ [tsato@optonline.net](mailto:tsato@optonline.net).

Stay well!

Andrea Sato

Associate Treasurer for Pledge Records