

Madison Heights Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
149 Main Street  
Madison Heights, VA 24572



---

## MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 4

March 31, 2020

George B. Harris, Minister  
Email: [bernerdharris@yahoo.com](mailto:bernerdharris@yahoo.com)  
[mhcc16@yahoo.com](mailto:mhcc16@yahoo.com)  
Church Telephone: (434) 845-3855  
Minister's Telephone: (434) 215-4846

Pam Hubbard  
Music Director

Brenda Harris  
Administrative Assistant

---

### Game Changer

The COVID-19 global pandemic is a game changer. It has affected each and every one of us. Many of us forced to stay indoors and some of us might be facing financial instability. In hard times, a community needs to come together and support those who are less fortunate. I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to the finances of your ministry when we were unable to hold services. I also thank those of you who continue to contribute to the vital outreach ministries.

I read where a nurse posted on Twitter 03/26/20 "I worked 12hrs in the ER today. We intubated 5 patients, 4 people died. Seasoned nurses were found hiding & crying in storage rooms. I'm literally in a war zone & the battle has only just begun and the front line is failing." A tearful young mother posted on YouTube "How am I supposed to diaper my baby." Brenda and I have had our own fears as she had a fever. Luckily she tested negative for the virus.

The church is in an unusual position that it has never experienced in its history. I continue to work but since I cannot make visits, pastoral care is now done by telephone. Since the governor ordered closure of non-essential businesses and banned public gatherings of more than 10 people, we cannot hold our traditional church services.

I have planned a three prong strategic approach to keep the ministry thriving during these difficult times. The first strategy is to have our worship services live on Facebook. This means we can gather together and connect with each other as a community of faith, chat with each other, see who else is online with us, and participate together. This is done through the church's Facebook group page. A link to that page is found on the church's website. I will be working on ways to improve and develop this vital aspect of the ministry. The second strategy is to set up Zoom for Bible study and other group meetings. We could have Sunday school, Friends meeting, board and elders meetings through Zoom. I have set up a free Zoom account and have tested it. We can start using it whenever you or a group within the church wants to meet. The information needed to sign in will be provided at that time. The third strategy is to set up on-line giving. This has not been set up yet because the two services that are ministry friendly are "Tithe.ly" and "Givelify" and they both charge 30 cents per transaction plus 2.9% of the offering. It is imperative that we set this up as soon as possible. On-line giving allows for people to support the ministry that otherwise would not have contributed. The ideal scenario is that you would receive more than enough in additional contributions to make up for the service fees.

This is vital to the church's survival now and into the future. These three strategies allow the ministry to reach beyond these brick walls, out into the community, and beyond. We can connect with our people who are outside of the area and we can reach people that we have not been reaching through our traditional means. The novel corona virus COVID-19 is killing people, it will kill businesses, and it will kill some churches. With your help, this ministry will not be one of them.

*George*