



UNITED PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL:

Light of Christ  
St. John's Windish  
St. Peter's

## **A report on the Special congregational council meeting!**

July 1, 2020

Greetings and peace my friends!

At a special council meeting of the UPG Parish Council and the St. John's Windish Lutheran Church Council held on Monday June 29, 2020 at 7PM on the St. John's Windish campus a few vital decisions were made regarding how our community of faith will continue moving through this unprecedented time of pandemic.

Based on the most recent information shared by the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding the recent rise of COVID19 cases, it has been decided that we will not return to "in person" worship in the month of July 2020. The councils agreed to meet again during the last week of July to determine if we can return to "in person" worship in the month of August. This decision was made with heavy hearts as we long to see our sisters and brothers in Christ gather again in the safest and healthiest way possible. We hope and pray that you will remain supportive and patient as our leadership attempts to guide our community of faith through this time.

The councils also approved the purchase of higher quality "live stream" equipment. Once installed this equipment will allow us to produce live stream worship which has the potential to include projecting portions of the worship bulletin, various and better angles of the video unit, and including graphics and images as part of our live stream. The total cost of this equipment is a little more than \$14,000. The cost will be divided between the three campuses of the community of faith and will be housed on the St. Peter's campus. We are looking forward to making the advancement of the gospel through technology a more permanent and higher quality ministry of our community of faith and ask for your continued prayers guiding our decisions in this area.

The councils also discussed the possibility beginning a new ministry entitled "Bring It Home!" This ministry, in conjunction with Verizon Small Business solutions, would place in the hands of people who do not have the internet or access to technology a cellular device which would be pre programmed for simplicity and allow an individual to access the UPG website and the UPG live stream worship with the touch of one button! The council approved allowing our staff to survey the population of our community of faith who currently do not have access to our ministries via technology to verify their interest in this exciting new ministry. More information on this ministry will become available as this information is gathered.

Once again, my friends we can all thank our Lord for the many blessings that have been shared with us. The Lord has granted us the desire, will, and necessary resources to continue a vibrant ministry even during a time of global pandemic and we give thanks and praise! The Lord has gifted us with dedicated researchers and medical professionals who continue to tirelessly work to defeat the spread of this virus. The Lord has shared with us leaders who are truly placing the

welfare of our people at the forefront of decisions being made. The Lord has blessed us with leadership within our community of faith who prayerfully and thoughtfully discern how best to maneuver through these difficult days. Indeed, while many things in the world seem to be in chaos, God's presence is working to unite and heal the world.

For now.

We keep trusting our Lord, washing our hands, and being at peace!

Pastor Jerry Kulp

Pastor Suzanne Trump

Ted Birchmeier

Nancy Kostas

Gina Brockway