

Ministry in the Time of COVID-19

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Facebook streaming, Zoom meetings and Fellowship time, e-mail and phone calls. Ministry in the Time of COVID-19 is all about technology. St Andrew offered our first Facebook worship experience on March 15th and from that first offering of announcements, scripture and sermon we have evolved into a more complete service with all of the traditional elements of the worship we experience in our sanctuary with the exception of music. While there are many pastors who are successfully incorporating music into their services I have not ventured into that arena. Perhaps if my piano were still in our dining room or my guitar had not been gathering dust for years it might be different. All in all, the worship experience we've been able to offer has been good, both for our members and for me.

What has been a surprise and a joy is how our members have embraced Zoom! It was a no brainer for session to hold their meetings using that format, but Donuts with Dixie, our regular Monday morning fellowship time is now happening via Zoom. We now have our own license and soon our Wednesday morning Bible study group will be using that format. I'm considering offering post worship Zoom lunch gatherings each week, as one of the traditions of SAPC is going out together for lunch following worship. I think it would be well attended!

Lest you think we're leaving out our less technologically adept members behind cards, letters, and phone calls, not to mention social distancing delivery of masks and "goodies" have been on the uptick. It is a joy to see the saints at St Andrew be the church during this challenging time.