

Hi - I am Jim Johnson from the stewardship committee of Saint John's Episcopal Church. In this disorienting time, we need to remember that though the doors to the sanctuary are closed, the church is not. The church is all of us, the people of God. To quote John Pavlovitz, "The church has always been the people who gather together to do the work of compassion and mercy and love and justice, regardless of where and when they gather. They are living, breathing, animated sanctuaries who house divinity."

While we are not meeting in the building for worship and our current worship together is virtual, which may strike some of us as tenuous, we know God's love and presence sustains us. St. John's building, however, continues to be in use. Loaves & Fishes continues to provide meals and hygiene items. This is a visible sign to the most vulnerable in our city that they are not forgotten .

The bills still come in and need to be paid and the staff still need to receive their salaries. Expenses continue and the only way to meet them is through our continued contributions. If you have signed a pledge card and are able, please continue to meet that pledge. If you have not, please donate anyway. You can do this by mailing a check to the office at St. John's or by going to stjohnsithaca.org/donate.

Another very important thing to do is to be a prayer steward, taking time out of every day to pray for our world, nation, our community and each other. All of us can find or make the time. Use it to remember those who normally sit around you during worship services. Use the time to thank God for the blessings we all share. Petition God for the strength to overcome the fear of this pandemic. But above all remember that we are all held in love by God. We are Easter people and have the new life of Christ within us.