

Dear Friends in Christ

The church has always prayed for the ill (Matthew 25:31-40). And we are quite familiar with praying for those who help us and aid us in our well-being. But yesterday as I was keeping distance and yet doing what was necessary, I found myself deeply aware of the gratitude we should have for a group of people who are not usually in our prayers. So let us give thanks today for people who work in grocery stores and pharmacies.

Few of us perhaps have ever thought of these hard working people as providing an essential service but, of course, they always have been. And in this moment when we are asking almost everyone to stay away from their workplaces we ask that grocers and pharmacists continue on as though nothing has changed. What struck me in the store yesterday was how pleasant and thorough the people working there were doing their jobs. Often in the Bible it is angels who announce "Be Not Afraid." Angels today are operating cash registers, and refilling shelves, and bagging groceries, and filling prescriptions. And they are doing it with a smile and immense courage. Thank God for them.

I'm going to be using email this week but hope to expand our ways of reaching out to our community in the weeks to come. I would welcome any questions that you have that could be used as a topic for a pastoral letter. It could be on faith or scripture or spirituality or the church or anything related. I can also address questions to the best of my ability on basketball and the Beatles. Send questions to [mwilson@charleswoodunited.org](mailto:mwilson@charleswoodunited.org)

And please, if you know of anyone from our community who is in need of contact, especially if they have not email or computer access, could you let us know at the church.

Grace and peace,

Michael