

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 360 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

Governor
SHEILA Y. OLIVER
LL Governor

PHILIP D. MURPHY

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

April 3, 2020

Dear Religious Leader:

As the state and our communities work to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, we would like to take a moment to send greetings to you and your faith communities at this time as you enter the month of April. This month, the faithful of New Jersey's religious communities will be celebrating various holidays including Passover, Easter, Vaisahki and Ramadan. While under normal circumstances these would be times to congregate for religious services and family gatherings, we continue to urge the residents of New Jersey to abide by the ban on social gatherings of any size set forth in the Governor's Executive Order 107 that directs all residents to stay at home until further notice. In an effort to strengthen the existing social distancing measures in place, the order prohibits the gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events unless otherwise authorized by the Order. We understand that while this may be disappointing to many who look forward to spending time visiting with relatives and friends, it is imperative to limit human interaction in an effort to help slow the spread of the virus which causes COVID-19.

We urge you to reach out to the members of your congregations and remind them that they should not be gathering for religious services or for meals until the ban is lifted. Remain at home with only those who live together in the household and celebrate together. Please notify your congregations of any live streamed or televised services that may be available and provide them with suggestions on how they can create meaningful celebrations at home without gathering with others.

Thank you for your cooperation during this unprecedented public health event. The more everyone cooperates and follows the social distancing recommendations, the sooner we can all return to our regular daily activities. On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Health, I wish you a joyous spring holiday season.

Sincerely,

Judith Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA

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Commissioner

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HEALTH DEPT. RUTHERFORD, NJ Living Gospel Baptist Church (SBC) 23 West Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Tempel Beth-El 185 Montross Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Rutherford Congregational Church 251 Union Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church 27 Elm Street Rutherford, NJ 07070 Grace Episcopal Church 128 West Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 St. John's Lutheran Church 145 Mortimer Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

Rutherford United Methodist Church 56 West Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Abundant Grace Church 70 Home Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford I East Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

St. Mary's R.C. Church 91 Home Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 St. John Vianney Residence 60 Home Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Grace Presbyterian Church (Korean PCUSA) 145 Mortimer Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

Canaan Presbyterian Church (Korean PCA) 245 Union Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Community of God's Love, Inc. 70 W Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Gerard DeMatteo (c/o Rutherford Bible Chapel) 102 E Van Ness Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

Rutherford Bible Chapel 161 West Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070 Cornerstone Presbyterian Fellowship PCUSA: Korean-American 2 East Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

Iranian Muslim Association of Eastern US 66 E. Pierrepont Avenue Rutherford, NJ 07070

United Methodist Church 56 West Passaic Avenue Rutherford, NJ 070707

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