

Dear Friends,

The pandemic has taken its toll in many ways including door-to-door, face-to-face interactions. The last ten months have not been conducive to people coming to your door seeking to sell you something or have you sign a petition or support a candidate or hear about a particular religious point of view.

And yet some door-related industries have grown and flourished during Covid 19. Food delivery services have gained in popularity over the past year including Uber Eats, Grubhub, and DoorDash. Personally, we don't need DoorDash at our house since we have DavidDash, but DoorDash is apparently doing quite well and just recently donated \$500,000 to the Connecticut Restaurant Relief Fund.

Catalogue purchases, online shopping, and home deliveries have increased during the pandemic.

Companies that drop off packages right at your door have made shopping safe and easy. (Some might say too easy!)

Last Wednesday, a door was in the news. It didn't have anything to do with take-out food or shopping. Newly inaugurated Joe Biden and his wife Jill went to enter the White House – their new home – when they were met with a closed door. Normally, when a president and spouse enter the White House, the door is open. There is no knocking involved. No key to find in a purse or fumble for in a pocket or search for beneath the welcome mat or under a nearby flower pot. Apparently, the President and First Lady were kept waiting only ten seconds; yet, that protocol faux pas must have felt like a very long, awkward ten seconds.

It's never a good thing to feel as though you have been locked out or kept out. A church I served years ago had a temperamental front door. A woman, who was going through a tough time, had come to church one Sunday morning. Even though the door was unlocked, she couldn't open it and no one could hear her knocking. She later told me how awful that made her feel that she couldn't get into her own church, and I've never forgotten it. To be shut out of your church physically is not pleasant, and I am mindful that the past ten months have been a painful time for people not to come to church. Of course, our doors have been closed temporarily in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

We follow a Savior of open doors who says in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke: *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

With these words, Jesus taps into our feelings of longing, isolation, lostness, and feeling left out. He reminds us not to give up and turn away, but to ask, seek, and knock – and the door will be opened. **We** will be opened to the goodness that awaits us.

In another passage of scripture, Revelation 3:20, Jesus says that he stands at the door and waits for us to open and let him in. *“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”* This verse reminds us to open our hearts to Jesus and let him in.

Doors open in and doors open out. In time, God willing, as the coronavirus dangers lift, the actual doors to our church building will open once again. And the doors to our homes will open, and we will let people in who have stayed away during the pandemic. But we don't have to wait until then to open the doors of our hearts to let love in and let love out. We don't have to keep Jesus waiting as he stands at the door and knocks. Let him in!

Yours in faith,
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