

Dear People of Grace,

***“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” ~Psalm 23:4***

God promises to be with us in the peaks and valleys of life. We trust in God’s presence and goodness at all times, but especially in times of fear and darkness. As the closings and warnings about COVID-19 move across our lives at a rapid pace, we put our faith into practice.

This morning staff and council members met to discuss how we should proceed as a congregation in this unprecedented situation. We looked at several options and came to the following conclusions. We made these decisions out of care and concern for your wellbeing, and the safety of the most vulnerable among us.

- **This Sunday’s play will be *postponed*.** We know the cast has been working hard, but we feel that this is the best decision. We will be rescheduling it at a later time so that more people will feel comfortable attending safely.
- **Sunday, March 15 & Sunday, March 22 we will not have worship, but the sanctuary will be open from 9-10:30.** The pastors will be available for prayer if you need. We know that this situation has raised some fear and anxiety in many and we want to support you. Please know that even if you choose to stay home, we are holding you close in prayer.
- We won’t have Wednesday Lenten Services or meals for the next two weeks (March 18 and March 25). All People’s has cancelled their Lent visits, and we hope to reschedule a gathering with them at another time.
- Thursday Services are cancelled for March 19 & 26.
- Sunday School, Confirmations and Youth Programs (3k-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) are cancelled through April 13, in following what the local schools are recommending.
- Other Grace activities (Bible study, quilting, yoga, cards, council, etc.) will be cancelled for the next two weeks.
- The Pastors will be working on some videos and other ways to minister and be present to you during this time. We will share them through email and on Facebook.
- We know in this time that this is a small concern for many, but if you would like to mail your offerings in, you can do that. You can also call the office to sign up for e-giving.
- Please let us know if you or someone in your immediate family contracts the coronavirus, so that we can provide you the support and prayer that you need. We are here to help each other whether that is by dropping of supplies or food or prayer. We can do so in confidence.
- The office staff will continue to check email and will be in as they can be. You are welcome to contact us through email or by cell phone.

**We will continue to monitor this situation and will be reassessing things as they change.**

And finally, whether you are suffering physically or not, the emotional and mental toll of this situation has affected all of us. Be mindful of your mental health and reach out if you need to. You can still take walks, read, enjoy nature, pray, and maybe get to all those home projects you’ve been putting off. Even in the stress and fear, keep your eyes open for the blessings that God will still bring to us. Please keep our healthcare workers in your prayers as they are bravely and faithfully caring for those

who are sick. We face these times knowing that God is with us always. We look forward to being together in body and not just in spirit again when we can do so safely.

God's Peace and Comfort be with you all,

You church staff and council

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