



Face-to-Face Worship, All Music Rehearsals, and Soup & Sound are Canceled until the end of March.
Please read below for more information.

March 13, 2020

Dear Friends and Family of Trinity,

A great deal has happened in the last 24 hours. Area school districts are canceling plays and sporting events and preparing for the possibility of school closings and the move toward virtual instruction. Rehabilitation centers, retirement communities and nursing homes have ceased allowing any visitors to enter their facilities. Hospitals are also in the process of restricting entrance. All of this is part of the attempt to flatten the epidemiological curve that we have seen in China and Italy; a curve that is well underway here in America.

The Governor has now discouraged gatherings in excess of 250 people. We want to be good citizens who join with others in caring for the common good.

In an effort to keep you informed, let me share the following:

1. The Session has decided to cancel face-to-face worship for the next three Sundays (March 15, 22 and 29). All music rehearsals, Soup and Sound, and the Lenten Bible Study have also been canceled until the end of the month. This has been a difficult decision, but we believe it is the wise and loving decision to help flatten the epidemiological curve. We encourage all committees and groups to cease rehearsals, meetings, etc. until April.
2. The pastoral and music staff are working to form a virtual (e.g. electronic) Sunday worship experience where I will offer a time of teaching and encouragement, along with Sarah leading in a time of prayer. Lisa has also said she'd be glad to help us have a music component for this virtual worship experience. I'm hopeful that this virtual worship will be made available on Trinity's YouTube channel, Trinity's Facebook page and our church's website. We hope this will be a help to you during this brief hiatus in our weekly worship services.

3. Pastors will be offering more care via phone calls as the risk demands. Pastors will remain available for urgent pastoral care matters. We will honor the rules and restrictions of health care institutions. Our goal is not to become “carriers”.
4. We ask you to remember to continue giving. In times like these, our financial demands tend to increase rather than decrease. We encourage you to give online. EasyTithe can be accessed through your computer, tablet and cell phone. The setup process is very straightforward and can be accomplished in just a couple of minutes. To sign up, go to Trinity’s home page and click on “Online Giving” or go directly to www.easytithe.com/trinpres.

An EasyTithe app is also available for download to your tablet or cell phone. Once you’re set up, you can also text a gift in one simple step! Our phone number for text giving is 856-238-5444.

As we put these protections in place and as we all seek to honor social distancing, I ask you to pay attention to the danger of “social isolation”. No one is meant to be alone. Call and email one another. Pray for one another. Care for one another. Pastors are available by phone and email. Next week pastors and leadership will begin to think about how we stay connected in a time such as this.

While we may gather less, think of the opportunities for reflection and devotion. Why not carve out 10-15 minutes a day to read the Bible devotionally, explore some spiritual practices, and pray? How might this “pause” present us with an opportunity for personal, spiritual growth? We may share more about that later.

Finally, let me say thank you to a great group of leaders at Trinity Presbyterian Church. We have a great Session, a creative and caring staff and a great team of lay leaders who are seeking to have faithful and healthy responses to this moment of challenge. Thank you.

Praying for you and with you,

Gregory

Please continue to check your inbox and the church website for additional updates

www.trinpres.org

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