



First Presbyterian
Church of Sheridan

Dear Ones,

On Tuesday, March 17, the church Session decided to suspend in-person gatherings at the church and to fully transition to on-line gatherings until April 6 as we learn more about Covid-19 and its spread through our community. This decision includes worship, choir, bells, Christian education offerings, youth programming, fellowship gatherings, and Presbyterian Women. Once we reach April 6, the Session will reassess the situation and make further decisions about going forward. As with last week's decision to suspend gathering in-person for worship, this decision was not made out of fear but out of care and love for our neighbors throughout the community.

Of course, this is not an ideal situation for us in this Lenten season nor would it be in any season of the church year. But the technological advancements of the day provide us with opportunities to continue to nurture our spiritual health and that of our community. As such, I encourage you to gather together virtually. We will continue to offer weekly worship videos and will soon be expanding our virtual gatherings to include the Lenten study. By following our YouTube channel (link [here](#)) you can engage with both of these weekly videos. But those are not the only ways to be involved and to be Christ's light in the world. Here are some other ways to engage spiritually and with what our congregation is doing at this time:

- **Pray.** Pray for our community. Pray for healthcare workers, for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of the disease, and for all who are inflicted already. Pray for those who have lost loved ones and those who will yet experience such losses. Pray for those worldwide who do not have access to healthcare either because of the virus or because of a lack of infrastructure in their country. Pray for one another.
- **Be well. Be wise.** Keep yourself up to date on recommendations from local health departments and the CDC (link [here](#)). Take the necessary precautions that are advised for you. Remember that proper care for yourself is also proper care for the wider community and is imperative at this time.
- **Give.** Continue your support of the church as you are able by giving online or by mailing in your offering. Our church will continue to serve those in this time who are affected financially and physically as best we can as well as by supporting our community mission partners. Also keep in mind that it is important to support local businesses and organizations during this time to help mitigate the economic effects on our own community and to support workers whose well-beings are at stake.
- **Ask for support. Be (safe) support.** If you need to stay in your home for whatever reasons those might be and need support please let the church staff know. We are working to mobilize volunteers to run errands and to be in touch with healthcare workers that can help us discern safest practices for helping all who are in need. If you are able to support others, please do so in the safest ways and with the safety of others and yourself as your primary concern.

This truly an unprecedented time for all of us as individuals, as a church congregation, and as a world community. Be safe, my friends. Remember that we are in this together and that we will get through this together. Heed the words of Joshua 1:9, "Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl