

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. After prayerful consideration and discussion, we have decided to suspend worship this Sunday (3/15) and possibly next Sunday (3/22). We had prepared for this Sunday by taking precautionary measures regarding seating and offering procedures but after monitoring area churches, considering Minnesota Department of Health recommendations and Governor Walz' suggestions that religious institutions suspend worship, it was prudent for the safety of our church family and community to suspend worship. In the interim we will be working to put together an online and phone virtual worship for next Sunday.

This week I will be on a conference call with the Presbytery to determine best practices going forward as we collectively assess this rapidly changing situation. As a family it can be difficult to be out of familiar routines and cherished connections and I urge you to support one another during this time by reaching out to your church family especially those who are isolated or at risk. The at risk category of people are those above 60 with underlying health conditions or those with pre-existing health conditions especially respiratory issues. The most loving thing you can do with this group even if you are not showing any symptoms is to call them rather than visit as you might be an asymptomatic carrier.

In these uncertain and dark times, know that the light of Christ still shines, and the promises of our steadfast God remain true. May the Spirit of life lead us all.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” – John 14:27*

In prayer for you and with you,

Pastor Riz