

Dear Grace Family,

Your pastors and leadership for Grace UMC are working hard to navigate the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the part of the world we call home, even as we pray for all those impacted around the world. As a family of faith with so many vulnerable among us, we are committed to providing safe ways to worship God without gathering for the next few weeks.

It seems counter to everything we've taught about being in relationship together but, for now, "It's all about distancing ... physically, that is!" Our governor, our Bishop Sally and the Center for Disease Control agree it is vital to offer this as a preventative to overwhelming the medical system and endangering our people. With our creative staff, the wisdom of our lay leaders, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we've come up with the following plan:

1. Saturday, March 14, 5 p.m., Grace Youth Choir will present the musical, "Build My Life."
2. This Sunday, March 15, through Sunday, March 29, there will be NO 'IN-PERSON' WORSHIP.
3. Your giving is vital to maintain the ministries of Grace. You are welcome to stop by the church during regular office hours or drop your contribution in the mail. For online go to www.peopleofgrace.org/giving.
4. We will re-evaluate the plan at the end of March.
5. We will offer live-streaming and/or video recordings for a Sunday worship experience in your homes beginning this Sunday. Pastor Daniel is preparing a message you will receive in your in-box, along with the Youth Musical. Choir recordings and special messages may also come your way.
6. Beginning Monday, March 15 ALL CLASSES, GROUPS, AND MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED through March 29, including the "Parenting with Grace" panel originally scheduled for Sunday at 2:00 p.m. See No. 8 below for more information on studying at home via Amplify.
7. The Gathering Space will remain open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and available to you for small group meetings of less than ten persons. The building will close at 4:30 p.m.
8. Amplify Media, an online resource, is available to all members and friends of Grace with internet connection, with videos from the latest curriculum, including the Faithful and Inclusive course. Your group might plan a special study for the next 3 weeks, with discussion via Zoom or Facebook! Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/graceumcnapervilleil>
Enter our Access Code: BTSNPM

While we've never been in this situation before, we are most cognizant of God's work in our lives when we reach the end of our own understanding. So, please continue praying, reading scripture and participating in fellowship in all the ways available to us in this age of connection. We are especially aware that those without technology will need extra assurance that their church has not forgotten them. This holy work will go a long way toward opening ourselves to God's guidance in pointing us to those in need. WE are the church after all! This is what we do! The pastors will be using this time to craft extra messages of comfort, hope and endurance, reaching out to as many as we can and praying for each of you by name.

Stay calm, stay connected, stay the course, in Christ's peace
Pastor Cindy