



March 20, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I trust that this letter finds all of you in good health, and that the Lord has found ways to encourage you during the challenges of social distancing. I continue to pray for you every day. A lot has happened since I wrote one week ago. As promised, the Session has continued to reevaluate our response to COVID-19 as circumstances change. On Wednesday Governor Polis issued an executive order prohibiting all gatherings of over ten people, including church services. In compliance with this mandate, RMPC will transition to virtual corporate worship this Sunday. This practice will remain in effect as long as the executive order is in place. The current mandate is for thirty days, but it will likely be extended. We have a high view of corporate worship at RMPC, and we would not be transitioning to a virtual format unless it was absolutely necessary.

Starting this coming Sunday, we are taking several steps to vastly improve the production quality of our online service. We will utilize new equipment to create a significant upgrade to the picture and sound. Instead of live streaming on Facebook, we will record the service and post it to our website and YouTube. To worship on Sunday morning, simply go to the homepage of our website ([www.rmpca.org](http://www.rmpca.org)), or to our newly created YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM9lCd4ldNX1n6BpJFzQAvA/>). YouTube will be particularly advantageous if you want to view the service on your television, as long as it has an internet connection (e.g. smart tv, roku, fire stick, etc.). As circumstances change, we will continue to adapt our approach and use technology to facilitate corporate worship.

During this time of uncertainty, our families need to be encouraged by Christ and fed from his Word. Therefore, the Session encourages you to continue making our worship service a priority. Keep it as the central event of Sunday morning. Think of creative ways to make Sunday special for your family. We especially implore the men of our congregation to lead your families spiritually, and initiate corporate worship on the Lord's Day.

While this season presents many challenges, it also gives us the opportunity to reach a new audience. Our YouTube channel will make our services and sermons available to people we have never met. Each week we will post a one-minute video clip of the sermon to Facebook with a link to view the sermon on our website. As I apply the gospel to the real life situations you are facing, I will preach that same gospel for unbelievers. Even in the midst of social distancing, there is an opportunity for RMPC to be missional.

As vital as corporate worship is, there are other important aspects to the church. The Session has been thinking of creative ways to feed your souls, and provide you with a sense of community during social distancing. We have subscribed to a video conferencing service called Zoom, and we are encouraging journey groups and community groups to utilize this service to continue meeting. Video conferencing is not as ideal as meeting in person, but it is far superior to weathering this storm in isolation. We will also use Zoom for committee meetings, the Session and Diaconate, etc. If you are a leader of one of these groups, please contact the church office to set up a meeting. You can also contact the church office if you would like to join a community group.

Some members of RMPC will be seriously impacted by COVID-19. If you contract the virus, please notify your elder or the church office. We can organize a team of people to bring you meals, or help meet other needs you may have. We also ask you to contact us if the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19 has a severe impact on your finances. Our deacons have a fund to give assistance to people with financial needs. However you are struggling, your church family is ready to serve you. In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to think of ways we can care for you.

I am confident that there can be a silver lining in this distressing event. It is a reminder of how delicate life is, and how dependent we are upon God. He can use this public health crisis to draw us closer to him, and remind us of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. COVID-19 can deprive us of a lot of things, but it cannot take away the love and presence of Jesus in our lives. We read in Romans 8:35-37: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” The same Savior who conquered death for you will conquer COVID-19 as well. I pray this precious truth lifts your spirits during this trying time.

For His Glory,

Pastor Shane  
On Behalf of the RMPC Session