



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 404.255.2211

www.mvpchurch.org

Dear Mount Vernon Church Family,

Presbyterian Pastor William Sloane Coffin said, "The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love." The truth is that this has been surreal few weeks and one none of us fully understand. As Christians, however, our call is to love God and love one another. Over the past few days, your Session has deliberated about what to do so that we might best serve each other and the community at large. We have listened diligently to the guidance of public health officials as well as sister congregations. To that end we have made the following decisions:

We will move to online-only worship for March 15th and March 22nd. You are invited to join us for worship on our website, www.mvpchurch.org, precisely at 11am. The bulletin and hymns will be uploaded so you can participate with us.

All church activities are suspended through March 22nd. That includes Small Groups, Stephen Ministry, Choir Practice, Dinner with Friends, Confirmation, Youth Group, and Committee Meetings. We will conclude our commitment to Family Promise on Sunday.

Use of our facilities by outside entities is suspended through March 22nd.

Church staff will work from home unless essential tasks need to be done at the church. Debbie Nysewander, our Office Administrator, will check messages received at the church office in case you have an emergency or pastoral need. You may also email me at barrett@mvpchurch.org.

Your Session will convene via conference call to determine how we will move forward as a church beyond March 22nd.

Some of you might be asking how you can help those in need. We encourage you to do the following:

Call your fellow church members and neighbors and check-in on them, especially those who live alone.

Make sure they are doing well, and if they need any food, toiletries, and other essential items.

The Community Assistance Center (CAC) will be in need of volunteers as many of the regulars who volunteer are over 60 and will be highly encouraged to self-quarantine. Also, we will have a bin outside the office door to gather donations for CAC as they will be in need of food. With school closures, the vulnerable in our midst will not have access to meals they rely on. Suggested food items include: peanut butter, jelly, mac and cheese, juice boxes, snack bars, canned pasta, and fruit cups. Someone will check the bin daily to pickup the donations to give to CAC.

Finally, please know that God loves you, that God is our refuge and strength. I believe that once the hazy reality ends that we will emerge in the Easter light stronger than we began. I lament that we will be apart from one another, but I also take heart in the famous phrase of Psalm 46, "Be still, and know that I am God." May we find this stillness together.

To God be the Glory,

Barrett