



Community of Grace

The Rev. Matthew W. Henning, Pastor
1200 Athens Highway Grayson, GA 30017
Phone: (770) 972-4304
www.transformlives.org

Date: March 14, 2020
To: Community of Grace
From: Pastor Matt Henning
Ref: Church Gathering and Worship Changes

The Community of Grace Vision Board has decided to cancel worship and all activities at the church until Sunday April 5, 2020. This is in response to the State and National Declarations of Emergency and the guidance of the CDC in relation to “Social Distancing” during the outbreak of the Coronavirus. As a Pastor I made vows to congregation, greater church, and to the community we serve together in Grayson and surrounding areas. It is our responsibility to comply with the public health needs that we all share and have a stake in. We canceled worship but there are some things we have not canceled:

1. Loving God and loving our neighbor. There are many things that we can do to love our neighbor during this time. Seek out your neighbors who are in “at risk” groups such as the elderly/people with suppressed immune systems. Offer to shop for them, help them go to the pharmacy, or other needs they may have.
2. Worshiping God on Sunday. Read God’s word: Sunday focus lessons are posted on our website home page at www.transformlives.org. Listen to the weekly message on the recorded sermons page of our website. Pray for your neighbors and for our world. Share the Apostles’ Creed and pray the Lord’s Prayer. Stream for favorite hymn or listen to the suggested hymns on our music ministry page. Reflect on the gifts God brings into our lives. Continue giving as you are able; you can make your offering through the mail or use our on-line option found on the home page (Vision Board has committed to pay staff throughout the shut-down so we will need your gifts to make this possible.)

3. Be intentional about making connections with one another. Use the phone, social media, or other means of communication to check in on one another. Just because we are physically isolated does not mean we cannot connect spiritually. Nurturing the relationships we share is vital in this time. Share posted sermons with family and friends who may not have a resource during this time.
4. Give to your neighbors in need such as a local food bank (the Southeast Gwinnett Coop will still be open and helping our neighbors.)
5. Use the web-page daily www.transformlives.org this is a central tool for daily living out your discipleship. Daily walks, sermons, link to our mission partners the Coop, ELCA Southeastern Synod, and ELCA National are all there. We will also post updates on our response in the community we all share.

Social Distancing is a responsibility we all share and we can still be faithful disciples as we do this. Be intentional, use your gifts, and pray for the world we share.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Matt Henning

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”
Psalm 121: 1-2.