



Wednesday, March 14, 2020

Late yesterday afternoon, the Mayor of Des Moines urged churches in the metro area to consider canceling services to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. **After considerable prayer, conversation, and consultation with experts, the Meredith Drive Reformed Church administrative board and senior staff unanimously decided not to hold in-person worship services this Sunday, March 15.** Given all the unknowns, and out of an abundance of caution and care for all, we believe this decision best cares for our neighbors—particularly the vulnerable.

**We will Livestream a service from our Bridge location at 9 and 10 AM without the congregation in attendance.** You can tune in [here](#). Every Monday by 2 PM, you can find Sunday's sermon [online](#) in video and audio format, as we have always provided.

We've talked a lot over the last eighteen months about the love of God and love for neighbor, even as we love ourselves. We have an enormous opportunity and responsibility to care for each other and the vulnerable with wisdom and courage. We have the chance to act redemptively amid crisis and fear. We have the invitation to worship with creativity and resilience.

**Please call us at (515) 276-4901 if you need Pastoral care.** Local hospitals, care facilities, and senior living facilities have put visitor restrictions in place to address the spread of the COVID-19. Only "primary caregivers" and "other defined caregivers" are allowed to visit until this threat has passed. Local clergy are being asked to observe these restrictions. As you may consider your pastors to be a "defined caregiver," we will continue to be available for pastoral visits. However, we will only visit if you request us to be present. Certain situations may call for a pastor to be present.

**Right now, we plan for the offices to remain open.** With Spring Break, all ministry activities for next week were already canceled. If you have general questions, please call us during regular hours, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at (515) 276-4901 or text at (515) 717-0359.

*Additionally, there are a few things that are important to know:*

- Ross McCarty, retired Chief of Police for Urbandale, has agreed to lead a response team. They will have their first meeting on Sunday. We have begun working on planning for possible contingencies.
- We are taking spring break week to deep clean our facilities. Given the level of sanitizing being recommended by the CDC, we are asking for volunteers to help us get it done. If you have some spare time on Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

One Congregation in Two Locations

Meredith Drive campus 5128 Meredith Drive | Des Moines, IA 50310 | (515) 276-4901  
The Bridge campus 10025 NW 62nd Avenue | Johnston, IA 50131 | (515) 986-5867

[meredithdrive.org](http://meredithdrive.org)

**Tuesday, March 17, Meredith Drive campus (1:00–4:00 PM and/or 5:30–8:00 PM)**  
**Wednesday, March 18, The Bridge campus (1:00–4:00 PM and/or 5:30–8:00 PM)**

**We're working to be prepared out of a spirit of love, not panic or denial.** We're thinking concretely and creatively about how to care for our congregation and others in our community using everything from cleaning supplies to live streaming to individualized communion packages. God has been preparing us for this moment. We'd already been talking about strengthening our "change" muscles and letting go of "we've always done it that way." I encourage you: Please be mindful of your own spiritual and physical health. Be careful with your words, in person, and on social media. Pray for those around us who are having to make difficult leadership decisions. Be mindful of your neighbors and seek to be a person of light and grace.

I reflect on Ephesians 3:20. Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." May we be open to all the ways God might want to work within us and around us at this moment.

Blessings,  
Pastor Suzanne

*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:6-7*

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