



Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

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March 13, 2020

Dear Church,

Just a few hours ago, the Session of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church voted to suspend in-person worship on March 15, 22, and 29 in response to COVID-19. This is not a decision we made lightly.

Now, to be clear: while we we will not gather in person, there will still be an opportunity to worship with us. We will have videos posted each Sunday morning, at about the time you would normally come to church, with prayers, music, scripture, a sermon, and a children's lesson, all led by our staff. These videos will be accessible . Yes, we prefer to be together in physical community, but at this time I am grateful for technology that allows us to fill some of the gap.

As Christians, and particularly as Presbyterians, we have a responsibility to the church and a responsibility to the larger community. Both compel us to err on the side of prevention and caution. This is no longer a decision about what we need or desire, but about what best serves the city we call home (and beyond). Two days ago, the World Health Organization declared that we are in the midst of a global health pandemic. While the city is not officially quarantined, everything we can do to minimize gatherings of people helps contain the virus. Jesus always emphasized caring for the most vulnerable among us above all else, even above public worship. We believe the decision to suspend in-person worship at this time is a faithful one.

If you are aware of any members or regular attendees who might not receive this email (or check their email!) please give them a call. Please also let us know if you, or anyone else you hear from, are in need of help. We are still here, just taking extra precautions. From its very first days, church has always been a people, not a building. Perhaps we are being invited into some new ways of remembering this.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. We are responding to questions as quickly as we are able, but this is the simple truth: we do not have all the answers. We are working diligently, however, and we appreciate your prayers.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff