



**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
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March 13, 2020

Dear Friends,

Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

As we might have imagined, we have stayed in close contact with one another and God this week.

At 3:00 PM today, Chester County officials issued a declaration of disaster emergency, citing at least one presumption case of COVID-19 in the county. As a result, county organizations, schools, and residents have been asked to avoid gathering for the next 14 days in order to prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus. Governor Tom Wolf announced that all Pennsylvania schools would be closed.

In order to ensure your health and well-being as well as your neighbors, we are suspending worship services, classes, non-essential meetings, and other gatherings for the next 14 days, until March 28<sup>th</sup>. Meetings that can be shifted to remote meetings will become virtual gatherings. Re-evaluation will occur if necessary, during this time. This decision was made in collaboration with our Administrative Council, our District Superintendent, and Bishop, and in line with our support of our brothers and sisters, who are vulnerable. The most efficient way to mitigate the spread of pandemic is decreasing contact and social distancing. Mild symptoms, unknowing carriers of the virus, and limited testing supplies, keep us from knowing who might expose our most vulnerable populations.

For the next two weekends, we invite you to come to worship on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc/> at **9:30 am**. This will be a blended service with traditional and contemporary elements. This time is familiar as our blended worship time will give us an opportunity to gather virtually. Janice Bowers will be bringing the next message in our series, Prayers of Jesus: The Lord's Prayer, as she reflects on Heaven on Earth. If you miss the 9:30am live time of worship, you can watch afterwards. Please consider mailing your tithes and offering, giving through the link available at the livestream or signing up for online giving, so that ministry and mission continues without disruption.

In these two weeks, all non-essential meetings will be postponed as well as gatherings, classes and rehearsals. We will include this information in our regular Monday and Thursday emails. Help us as we keep you informed, share with your neighbors without computer access.

Throughout this time, I invite you to care and concern for one another and your neighbors. In my previous letter, I commended Philippians 4:6-8 to you. Now, I urged you to read one verse more:

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Check your email and <https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc/> for new updates as well as regular words of encouragement. Our office will be on reduced hours for these two weeks, and some of our staff will be working remotely. Please check our website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org), <https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc/>, or call ahead before you come, so that we might serve you.

Join me in prayer as we navigate this together. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill as well as those who care for them. May God provide healing and grace, as well as grant us faith and hope to follow those who lead. Let the love and compassion of Christ guide our actions and the peace of Christ heal our world.

*In God's Love, Pastor Monica*

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