



Redeemer Church

News, Updates, and Resources in the time of COVID-19

Dear Redeemer Family,

The COVID-19 outbreak brings with it a disruption to our daily lives unlike anything we've seen before. As we navigate the ever-changing recommendations regarding social distancing, it's obvious that it will be some time before we're able to gather together in the same physical location. And yet, we have God's promise that even though we cannot gather in person, we are connected to one another through the power and promise of God's Holy Spirit that has sustained the Church for centuries.

In this uncertain time, let's continue to follow Jesus' command to love each other. Hold one another and all people in prayer. Reach out by phone, email, or text to people you care about, especially those who are stuck at home alone. And, if you'd like to, volunteer to help bring groceries or other needed supplies to people stuck at home. And, if you need help with anything, please reach out and say so. **If you'd like to help or are in need of some help, please call or text Pastor Peter at 773-329-1230.**

As a worshipping community Redeemer has been blessed to have established a culture that embraces experimentation with worship style, discipleship, and community. This unique time presents us with the opportunity to look with anticipation at what new things God will do during our time apart. **If you have ideas for things we can be doing together to support each other and help each other grow, please call or text Pastor Dan at 773-405-4491.**

As a staff we have met to determine what initial steps we will take to "be the church" in this new and different way. This will be an ever-evolving experiment, but we have identified our initial plan for gatherings and communication, which is outlined below.

For now, our large group interaction will be on Zoom, a conferencing tool. Zoom will allow us to interact with one another on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. You can use Zoom from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can also dial in from any phone without requiring any internet connection. Instructions for connecting to Zoom meetings are listed below.

Sunday Reflection

On Sunday we were reminded that our relationship with God is not based on our ability to gather in a specific worship space. Instead, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are invited into an ongoing, constant relationship with God that is characterized by faith and forgiveness.

Jesus died so that when we find ourselves filled with anxiety over health, jobs, and finances, or doubt caused by suffering we see in the world around us, we are able to confront the reality of those experiences while also looking beyond them. We are called to live as people of hope, trusting that our future is secure.

Pastor Dan noted that the impact that COVID-19 is having on our lives is forcing us to slow down and live differently.

Questions for Reflection:

How could you use this time to explore where God might be leading you?

Who do you know who needs to hear a word of forgiveness (either from God or from you personally)?

Midweek Lenten Meditation – March 25, 2019

During the season of Lent, we have been sharing with each other about Bible passages that are particularly meaningful to us. This week, Petra Rickertsen has recorded a short reflection on John 11:35 that means a lot to her. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Sunday Morning Worship – March 29, 10:00-10:45am

We will gather from our homes for an interactive worship experience. Conni Brown will be sharing the message this week. We will celebrate holy communion a little differently, trusting in Christ's presence however we have the meal together. Before our worship, gather your own communion elements, which we'll take together. Whatever you have on hand is fine—just a bite of something to eat and sip of something to drink.

Click this link to join our Sunday Morning Worship Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/611528282>

Meeting ID: 611 528 282

OR

Dial this number to call in on your phone: +1 312 626 6799

- Enter this Meeting ID: **611 528 282** when prompted.
- No Participant ID is required. Just press # when prompted.
- Press *6 to mute and unmute yourself.

Two Online Bible Studies: Tuesdays & Thursdays

We're organizing two different ways to connect and check in with each other, and also to study God's word together. Be part of a Bible study on either Tuesdays at 12pm or Thursdays at 7:30pm. No preparation is needed. Just join in anytime if you can!

TUESDAYS (STARTING MARCH 31), 12PM

Click this link to join our Tuesday Midday Bible Study Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/681953393>

Meeting ID: 681 953 393

OR

Dial this number to call in on your phone: +1 312 626 6799

- Enter this Meeting ID: **681 953 393** when prompted.
- No Participant ID is required. Just press # when prompted.
- Press *6 to mute and unmute yourself.

THURSDAYS (STARTING MARCH 19), 7:30PM

Click this link to join our Thursday Night Bible Study Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/170068582>

Meeting ID: 170 068 582

OR

Dial this number to call in on your phone: +1 312 626 6799

- Enter this Meeting ID: **170 068 582** when prompted.
- No Participant ID is required. Just press # when prompted.
- Press *6 to mute and unmute yourself.

Kids' Ministry

While we can't meet for Sunday school the way we're used to right now, families will receive tools each week to have Sunday school at home. The lessons include video Bible lessons along with easy-to-use parent guides with fun activities and discussion prompts for preschoolers, K-3, and preteens. [Here's a link to this Sunday's lesson.](#)

If you aren't currently receiving Sunday school parent emails, and you'd like to be, please email Rachel (rachel@redeemerchicago.com)

Youth Group

We had our first Zoom Youth Group meeting today at 4pm. The Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesdays at this time going forward, for at least as long as we're sheltering in place. This week we asked the question "Where is God in the midst of a

global pandemic?" If you're in sixth through twelfth grade and would like to participate, reach out to Aneel (aneeltrivedi@gmail.com), and he'll get you the link to join.

Additionally, the youth group is keeping in touch on Google Hangouts. We have daily questions and reflections, as well as plenty of GIFs. We'd love to have you join us! Reach out to Aneel for the link to join this group as well.

Serve One Another From Home

It's especially important that people are checking in with one another right now. If you'd like to be part of a team who can make some check-in phone calls to people in the congregation, please contact Pastor Peter (peter@redeemerchicago.com).

Financial Participation

In order to continue to support our shared mission, financial tithes and offerings can be given online [by clicking here](#) (select "Redeemer Ministries & Expenses"). Or checks can be mailed to the Redeemer Church office (1006 Gillick Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068).

Additional Resources

[Google Hangouts](#) - If you're looking to set up an online meeting with a smaller group, Google Hangouts is free and has no time limits. This is a good resource for small group gatherings and coaching conversations.

[The Bible Project](#) - The Bible Project is a wonderful resource with a wealth of videos and Bible reading plans on whatever you might be looking for. [Sign up to receive a weekly Church at Home email](#) during this time of social distancing. Each week you'll receive a video and other resources to help you engage with scripture at home.

[YouVersion Bible App](#) - This Bible app offers over 10,000 reading plans. You can also connect with your friends and participate in reading challenges together.

[Vitalant](#) - One important way healthy people can show love for others during this time is by donating blood. If you're eligible to give blood, please consider making an appointment.

[Monarch Thrift Shop](#) - For the last few years, we've been partnering with this local non-profit ministry during our Faith in Action weekend. They provide work opportunities and other support for vulnerable populations. Please consider supporting them while their physical store is closed by shopping online and/or buying a gift card.