

With the changes that have happened within our community and commonwealth during the past day, the leadership of Opequon Church has decided to suspend worship and all other activities beginning tomorrow, March 15 and continuing through March 31. At this time, we plan to begin activities again on Wednesday, April 1. While we will not join together in-person for worship tomorrow, several staff members will fully execute a worship service that will be available to you through livestream at 11:00 am tomorrow morning and any time after. This may be accessed through the church website (www.opequonchurch.org) or by simply going to YouTube and searching for Opequon Church. The bulletin for tomorrow is here on the website, along with the "Take 10-Worship While Away" that was sent out on Thursday. Please use these resources in order to join us for worship from your homes.

Obviously, the church will continue to function as we care for people and our community. Your continued financial support is necessary and essential. Contributions can be sent to the church or may be made by going to the church's website and clicking on the DONATE NOW link. We will keep you posted on evolving efforts planned to reach out to those in need and isolated both within our church family and within the community. Please stay safe and well, taking all precautions during these days. Remember to wash your hands and to pray as you do!

Now with the apostle Paul, who wrote to the Philippians (4:5-6), "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord," let us pray for one another, our community, and our world...

A prayer for these days - adapted from an unknown source (shared by The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia)

Lord our God, we offer you our prayers when so little else around us seems settled this day.

Bless all who are in need today with your gracious presence and transforming peace.

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have few risk factors
remember those who are most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving health and making the rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when schools close
remember those who have no viable options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in tumultuous markets
remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country and world
let us choose love.*

*In these days when we cannot physically wrap arms around each other
let us find ways to be the loving embrace of Christ to our neighbors.*

In Jesus' holy name. Amen.