

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Christ Centered – Biblically Based – Spiritually Alive!

March 18, 2020

“Consider it pure joy whenever you meet trials of various kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops steadfastness” (James 1:2-3, ESV).

Dear saints at Trinity:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Knowing we are living in uncertain and threatening times, it's always good to be reminded that we're to remain joyful, knowing ultimately in whom we believe and have our trust — just as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, *“thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine”* (Isaiah 43:1).

Trusting in the faithfulness and love of our God, your Session and church staff want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our prayers and that we are here to support you. We know that God is with us and will see us through these challenging days.

At a called meeting on Monday (March 16), based on public information and at the urging from both the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the President of the United States regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) — and with your health and safety in mind — your Session has decided to suspend any public gathering in our church buildings until the end of March, which includes Sunday worship services and all weekday activities. Your Session will meet again on March 30 to assess the situation for further action.

Your church staff is currently meeting to find new and creative ways to lead worship online with you in mind — most likely by pre-recording instead of livestreaming for technical reasons. Once determined, you'll be notified regarding how to access the video by email and on the church's website.

While our Trustees are currently setting up an online-giving platform to enable you to give electronically, you're welcome to send in your tithes and offerings by regular mail or by going to the following webpage: <https://www.trinitypc.org/donate/>. Your continued financial faithfulness is much appreciated!

Also, if you know of anyone who may need assistance during this time, such as food shopping or other daily needs that they cannot get on their own, please contact the church office or **Lou Szekeres**, Moderator of the Deacons.

Even though all weekday activities have been suspended, for obvious reasons the all-important Community Assistance Ministry (CAM) services will go on albeit in a somewhat reduced capacity. According to CAM director, **Todd Miller**, CAM has already introduced certain restrictive measures to have better control over potential contamination, such as: Excluding ALL clients from entering the church building facility for any reason; implementing dramatic new cleaning and sanitation measures; requiring ALL volunteers to wash hands thoroughly upon both their on-site arrival and their departure as well as frequently throughout their outreach day; requiring ALL volunteers to wear gloves during their outreach; as well as several other measures.

In Todd's own words: “We know that during this fast-paced and fluid period of changing situations these measures, though also seeming dramatic, uncomfortable, and unwanted to us, are absolutely necessary for both our protection and to be able to continue to meet the basic food needs of those most disadvantaged among us. We are prayerfully, thoughtfully, and incrementally

implementing such measures only as are believed demanded by extant factors. And so, though we may grumble a bit, we continue to maintain a positive attitude overall, embrace these temporary changes, and thank God for His continuing mercies and grace. We at Trinity's CAM are determined to continue to safely meet our mission goals with His guidance and blessings. We thank Him constantly for His provision and the honor and privilege to be as His hands and feet."

In quoting the above verses from the Letter of James, my good friend Stan Ott writes:

There is a lot of pressure on our lives today, what with fears of the coronavirus and the countless concerns we are tending! A good word from the Bible is, "Hang in there!", which is the essential meaning of the New Testament word *hupomone* (pronounced hoop-o-mown-ay).

"Consider it pure joy whenever you meet trials of various kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops steadfastness [*hupomone*]" (James 1:2-3).

Hupomone is actually composed of two words. The prefix *hupo* means "under" and the verb *mone* means "remain." Literally, *hupomone* means to "remain under."

You find yourself under pressure. You have concerns about the coronavirus or a loved one or to do with you or work. The greater the pressure pushes down, the greater your desire to get out from under it, to be done with it, to escape it.

However, inspired by your trust in Jesus Christ and the encouragement you receive from the Scriptures, you "remain under" the situation, seeing it through, remaining faithful to our Lord, trusting in the power and presence of God. That's *hupomone*!

"Remembering before our God and Father your... steadfastness [*hupomone*] of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 1:3).

"...that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Hang in there. *Hupomone*! The Lord is with you.

[From *Building One Another*, March 16, 2020 ©Copyright 2020 E. Stanley Ott]

As we continue to go through these uncertain days, please follow the latest updates on the Corona Virus at <https://www.cdc.gov/>; <https://www.who.int/>; and <https://www.hhs.gov/>. Please also keep our church and community, nation, and world in your prayers as we glorify God and enjoy His Spirit and healing presence.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Bill Teng,
Interim Pastor