

SUNDAY, March 22, 2020

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship on Sunday Morning

On Sunday, **March 22**, the fourth Sunday of Lent, at 10:00 AM the Covenant congregation is invited to join together virtually for worship via Facebook Live. A week ago, I don't know that I would have imagined this would be our reality, but for the time being it is. And we are so thankful to have the resources and volunteers to make it happen. Less than 10 of us will lead a service of Worship, Word, and Prayer from the sanctuary, and we hope you will tune-in and join-in from home in whatever way you feel most comfortable.

Click [here](https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/) to find the livestream footage on Facebook (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). You should not need a Facebook account to access this. Then click on the "Videos" section on the left hand side. It should say "live" next to it when we are live. Remember, the video will not show up until a few minutes before 10:00 AM on Sunday. You can also choose to watch a recorded version of the service after it is over. If you prefer to simply worship as a family in your own way, we give you our blessing. You may find Sunday morning's liturgy a helpful guide. [Here](#) is a link to the liturgy.

For families of small children, we trust you to do what is best for your family. There are so many resources being shared right now. Here's one more that we use at the De Vries house from time to time.

Teach Us to Pray: Scripture-Centered Family Worship through the Year

[Link to the introduction](#) (includes helpful tips on how to use the book)

[Link to the Lenten Sampler](#) (scroll down to "Lent: Fourth Sunday" page 274)

In closing, as I plan and prepare for this "gathering", your names and faces keep coming to mind. They will be there on Sunday too. We will miss each other – seeing each other and hearing each other's voices and our collective voice lifted to God in prayer and praise. But God will see us and hear us and join our prayers and praises to each other as we glorify him and enjoy his fellowship.

-Rebecca DeVries

About the Scripture Reading

In our John 9 Gospel reading for Sunday, Jesus heals a man born blind in a way that opens our eyes to the work of God in our lives. In his weekly column for today, David Brooks speaks of seeing life with what he calls "plague eyes," a new way of perception related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In what way will our Lord give us new eyes to see as we worship together online? We do not yet know, but we can trust our Lord to speak and act in such a way that "the works of God might be revealed in [us]." (John 9:3) Eager for worship; "see you" on Sunday.

-Pastor Joel

Joys & Concerns

If you have prayer requests that you'd like included in our prayer time during our livestreamed service on Sunday, please email them to Pastor Joel at joelekok@gmail.com by Saturday evening at 7:00 PM. If you have prayer requests that you'd like sent out by email next week but not mentioned on our livestream, email them to the church office at covenant@mtcnet.net by Monday morning.

Giving During COVID-19

Looking for a way to continue giving to church and the regularly scheduled offerings? We have some options to continue that opportunity:

1. Simply write a check and drop it in the mail to Covenant CRC. (106 2nd Street NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250)
 - o In the memo line, simply write "Use as needed" or specify how you'd like your offering designated.
 - o Checks not designated will be used as needed.
 - o Please do not bring your donation to church as we are encouraging social distancing and don't want to spread the virus.
2. Use online bill pay via your bank – this is a free service from your bank and simple to use.
 - o You can add a memo to your check using this option.
3. ACH Bank Transfer – call Adam Fedders to discuss how to set this up.
4. The deacons are currently researching an online giving option – stay tuned for that!

During this time we are looking to make sure we can still meet our monthly budget commitments. Even with no onsite worship service, we still have expenses, such as staff payroll, utilities, insurance, building maintenance, etc. Thank you for considering these alternatives and your continued support of Covenant CRC. Contact Adam Fedders (feddersfarms@gmail.com) or your pastoral group deacon for further questions.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

During this time when we can't physically meet together, Pastor Joel will lead our Sunday evening formation times with a study of the prophet Jeremiah. More info to come, but feel free to start reading this book of the Bible and we hope to start this next Sunday, **March 29!**

Offerings for March

22 World Renew: US Disaster Response 29 Building Fund

Last week's offering Missions Fund \$841.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the First Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Travis Else.

April Courier

Do you have something you'd like to include in the April Courier? Please email it to the office by Monday, March 23! (covenant@mtcnet.net)

Pastoral Group Dinners

Pastoral Group Dinners will not happen as scheduled in March and April. We will reschedule those when we are able.

Serving our Sunday School Students

Do you have a heart for children and their faith development? If so, please consider becoming Covenant's Sunday School Superintendent beginning in May. Your duties would include working with the Education Committee to find teachers, order materials, and organize other details related to our 1st-8th grade Sunday School program. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca De Smith.

Cancellations

We received many cancellation notifications for events and fundraisers from ministry and non-profit organizations in the area which I do not plan to print at this time. Many of these organizations expressed concern for their finances with the cancellation of fundraising events, so please give as you're able to the ministries that are on your heart.

Helpful Links:

- Bulletins for our Sunday services are posted [here](#). (No bulletin this week, but you can find this announcement sheet and a link to Sunday morning's liturgy.)
- The Community Activities (Blue) Sheet is posted [here](#).
- Sermon recordings are posted [here](#).
- Mission and Ministry news: Click [here](#) for a note from Kelly and April Crull in Spain.

Encouraging our Missionaries

Our missionaries could probably also use some encouragement as they also deal with this global pandemic. Got a minute? Send them an email!

Kelly & April Crull
crulls@caimail.net

Gianni & Georgina Gracia
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou
smaletoungou@crna.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Richard Eggebeen, Victoria Eggebeen, Mike Janssen, Tricia Van Dyk-Groenewold, Beth Vanden Berg, Emma Haan

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
Monday	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting (by Zoom)
Sunday, 22nd	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship Formation Sunday Evening: Jeremiah Study (details to come)
