

SUNDAY, March 29, 2020

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship on Sunday Morning

On Sunday, **March 29**, the fifth Sunday of Lent, we continue the journey through the gospel lectionary passages and look forward to seeing Jesus' life-changing encounter with Lazarus in John 11. We invite you to join together virtually for worship via Facebook Live once again at 10:00 AM. Click [here](#) 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 (please note that there may be some dead space at the beginning of the video where nothing is happening before worship begins). 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.

Joys & Concerns

We would love for joys and concerns to still be shared during our time of prayer on Sunday. 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.

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 via Zoom. If you'd like to be part of this study, please email Pastor Joel (joelekok@gmail.com) and he will send you a link to join. This study will begin on Sunday, **March 29** with Jeremiah 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Free Grace Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Mark Schwarz.

April Courier

The April Courier will only be printed by request this month. You can read it [here](#), or email the office (covenant@mtcnet.net) if you want a printed copy!

From the Council:

Dear congregation,

As a part of how we deal with responsible institutional behavior during the coronavirus pandemic, we'd like to ask that no members of the congregation other than staff come into the church building without express notice or permission. We ask this based on directives and guidelines from both government and our denomination regarding how we think the virus spreads, the importance of social distancing, and quarantining ourselves for two weeks after we travel. We want to protect our staff by trying to ensure that the facility is as safe as we can make it. And because we plan to continue streaming worship services, a few people will need to feel they are coming to as safe a place as we can control in order to worship together--even virtually. We know that even healthy people can carry COVID 19. Many experts say we should behave as though everyone might be a carrier at this point to limit the spread.

The council has agreed that we should follow the guidelines available to us, so we ask for your support in this process. We want to be as responsible as we can with the information we have, even erring on the side of caution. We also know the Lord holds this and us in his hands. We pray for his grace and peace for you all.

Thanks for your attention to this,

For the Council,
Steve Holtrop, president
Sally Jongsma, clerk

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.

Offerings for March

29 Building Fund

Offerings for April

5	General Fund	19	Missions Fund
12	Christian Education Fund	26	Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund

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 World Renew

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@crcna.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crcnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Auden Mellema, Marty Vander Plaats, Rebecca DeVries

Happy Anniversary this Week

Brian & Barb Mellema

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship Formation Sunday Evening: Jeremiah Study (by Zoom): Jeremiah 1
Sunday, 5th	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship Formation Sunday Evening: Jeremiah Study (by Zoom): Jeremiah 2-3
