



RUMC's  
prayerful  
RESPONSE

"Let each of you look out not only for your own interest, but also for the interests of others." --Philippians 2:4

Greetings,

March 17, 2020

With the heightened warnings and anxiety over the COVID-19 as well as other colds, flu and viruses, we want to care for ourselves, our families and one another. I want to assure you that we are taking necessary and common sense steps at the church in making sound decisions to remain connected while staying safe.

As of the writing of this letter, the church office is remaining open during regular office hours, which will now be 9-4 Monday through Thursday, however, note the following scheduling changes:

- Weekday programs such as Youth Group, Kids of the Kingdom, Yoga, Wednesday Unbinding Your Soul book study and Lenten Services, are canceled until further notice.
- Worshiping at RUMC **in person** will no longer be an option. However, we will be live streaming a shortened version of a service through YouTube. If you would like to tune in, either go to our website and click on the link or type in [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm55c9m0Q6Uf\\_F1QKhMMGDw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm55c9m0Q6Uf_F1QKhMMGDw) in your web browser. The service will start at 9:00 am on Sunday, but will also be downloaded to view at another time.
- Although Children's Sunday School is canceled until further notice, we will be offering virtual Adult Sunday School to continue our study of *Unbinding Your Heart*. If you are interested in participating in this, send an email to Howard Brantmeyer at [howiedo@live.com](mailto:howiedo@live.com) and he will send you an invitation so you can participate through ZOOM. NOTE: if you still need a book, we still have copies on the welcoming center or you can order one through Amazon by searching for the book, *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing*, by Martha Grace Reese. Classes will start on Sundays at 10:15.
- Team/committee meetings will continue, **however**, there will be an option to attend via video conferencing from home. If you are interested in virtually attending, look in your email for invitations to join via ZOOM. This will allow the leader to send you an email invitation to a link to join the meeting.
- Please know the church continues to operate and share ministry throughout the week. Keeping up with your financial stewardship giving makes a difference. If you are not already, this is a good time to consider becoming an electronic giver. You can access on line giving by going to our website and clicking on the box marked DONATE, or call the office for assistance during office hours. You may also use the enclosed envelope

If you plan on stopping by the office consider the following:

- Please use your elbows to activate the automatic doors.
- Hand sanitizer is available. You are encouraged to wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds, sing the Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
- Please do not hug or handshake. These days a friendly greeting and a nod is lovingly keeping everybody safe.
- If you are not feeling well or have an ill family member, please stay home, rest, drink fluids and call your health clinic if you have questions or feel you should be tested.
- If there is something you truly need please call and we will see what we can do to accommodate you.

Ways you can help:

- Pray. Folks, we are a praying community. This last Sunday I challenged us to ramp up our prayer. That is one thing that COVID19 cannot take from us. It is important to stay calm, and remember we are a part of something bigger than this.
- Be kind. It's so easy, with all the fears and uncertainty for us to lose our patience
- Nursing homes are currently not accepting visitors. Reach out by phone, text, social media, or even the old fashioned US Postal Service. Call the office if there is someone you would like to reach out to.
- Election day is Tuesday, April 7. Since the city is not allowing anyone over 60 to work at the poles, there is no one to assist that day. If you are under 60 and available for a shift of two contact Julie at [jsturtz@ci.reedsburg.wi.us](mailto:jsturtz@ci.reedsburg.wi.us).
- If you are aware of someone who really cannot leave their home, whether they are self-quarantined or fit the description of the more vulnerable population (over 60 and/or have a compromised immune system), before you go to the store check in with them to see if they need anything. But, PLEASE, do so responsibly.

In these days of increased anxiety, we have the opportunity as people of faith to care for one another, to be informed of best practices and resources, and to be a non-anxious presence to those around us. We will do our best to communicate these changes and activities via social media, email, newsletter, phone calls and word of mouth. This is a very fluid situation, and guidelines are constantly changing. Please direct any questions or concerns to me. My contact information is below.

In the Peace of Christ,



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**Follow this link for thoughts from Bishop Jung:**

<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/bishops-corner/soul-food/5615-a-faith-response-to-covid-19>

**Follow this link to an information sheet from the CDC:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

**From UW Health:**

<https://www.uwhealth.org/covid-19/covid-19/53246>