

Dear Grace Community,

The Session and Pastoral Staff have been following the updates on the COVID-19 virus and the calls for social distancing, especially after multiple churches in our area ceased activities for the next few weeks. As per prior communications, earlier today we made the decision to cancel our weekend event, "Beyond the Rhetoric."

At this time, the Grace Session and Pastors unanimously agreed to cancel in-person worship for this Sunday and move the service entirely online.

- We need to meet now more than ever and hope you will join us online! On Sunday at 10:30am, pastors, music staff, and AV team will be recording and livestreaming a service at Grace.
- We hope that you and your family will join the service on Facebook Live or Youtube. You can tune in at the regular time or re-visit the recording later. Instructions for accessing the service in this manner are below, and should work from any computer or smartphone.
- Session will be meeting Saturday morning to develop a larger plan moving forward that may impact future committee meetings, fellowship gatherings, and worship.

This was a difficult decision, but we believe we have a responsibility to prioritize the well-being of our community. According to experts, social distancing and the suspension of large gatherings are intended to slow the spread of COVID-19, so that hospitals and medical centers may not be overwhelmed with such a volume of cases. This also helps prevent the spread to more vulnerable populations for whom the disease may be more severe.

While this move is disappointing, we are committed to thinking creatively about what it means to be the church. Should in-person gatherings be suspended for more than just this week, we hope to provide virtual opportunities for not only worship but also prayer and study, fellowship and connection. In addition, we hope to think about ways to support our community: those who are sick, or families for whom closures and cancellations may have a real economic effect.

For the time being, the building remains open and staff will be present. Please call the office and stay in touch with pastors and leadership about ways we can support you physically and spiritually during this uncertain time. And call your neighbors, friends, and those who may be needing that check-in and reminder of the love of Christ!

There is no better time than the present to stay centered in prayer, and to pray for those who have already been affected by COVID-19. In this time of uncertainty, may we all continue to stay grounded in the hope we have in Christ.

In hope and gratitude for this community,
Pastor Ben and Pastor Katie

Instructions for accessing online worship:

Please call the office if you need someone to walk you through this!

- 1) Facebook. Even if you're not a "Facebook member," you can access the livestream which is available to the public. There are two ways to do so:
 - a. Click on the Facebook link below and select 3/15/20 video:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/GraceSpringfield/videos/>
 - b. Log in to Facebook, search for "Grace Presbyterian, Springfield Va," and then click on the main page,
- 2) Youtube
 - a. Click on the Youtube link below and select the 3/15/20 video:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkHqMYsQzGeR-kczuMDmToQ/videos>
 - b. Go to youtube.com and search for "Grace Presby." Select the Grace Presby channel and click on "videos" to find the 3/15/20 video.