



RE: WORSHIP SERVICES CANCELED FOR TWO WEEKS

Dear friends,

We are in the midst of a public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). News and information about the virus is constantly being updated. In the past 72 hours, the virus has been upgraded to a global pandemic, the President has declared a national state of emergency and our Governor has closed public schools throughout the state until the end of the month. And, many of our senior living communities have limited visits to their residents in order to keep our friends healthy.

In response to all that is happening in our community and around us we invite you to join us in praying for people around the world who are being affected by the virus. We lift up leaders, first responders, healthcare providers and support staff as they seek to care for those who are ill. We pray for scientists who are working to develop medications and vaccines to address the overwhelming need. Our hearts go out to those who are suffering and ask God to enfold the families of those who have died and to comfort all those who are hurting, broken, and anxious. All this, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## WORSHIP

In an abundance of caution and in support of those who are most vulnerable among us, we will **CANCEL ALL WORSHIP SERVICES and Sunday School for the next two weeks.**

**On Sunday, March 15 and 22** we will make worship available to you online through Facebook live. We will provide additional information about how to tune in on Sunday morning as soon as plans are complete.

## OTHER EVENTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL REMAIN OPEN and our staff will be available to assist you.

The Celebration of Life for Dick Church scheduled for Friday, March 20 at 7 PM will continue as planned in the sanctuary.

The Celebration of Life for Jacob Sasser scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at 2:30PM will continue as planned in the sanctuary.

March 21-Pancake Breakfast & Country Store (CANCELLED)

March 20 & 21 Piecemakers' Open House (POSTPONED)

March 22-Pot Luck Dinner (POSTPONED)

March 26-Village on The Isle Wellness Fair (POSTPONED)

The nature of this crisis is very fluid. Your pastors, the staff and leaders at Grace will continue to closely monitoring state and local advisories and we will make decisions about other events as needed.

## **PASTORAL CARE, PRAYER AND SUPPORT**

We know that the decision to cancel worship will impact some the members of our church and community significantly. Please know that you are not alone, we are here for you. Pastor Robin, Pastor Jim and the members of our Compassionate Care Team are available if you have a prayer concern or would like someone to talk with. If you find yourself in need of food or supplies and you are unable to get them, please call the church office (941) 488-1374 or send a message to us on Facebook and we will do our best to care for you.

## **FAITHFUL GIVING**

We are grateful for your faithful giving throughout the year and especially thankful for your faithfulness during these difficult days. Your continued giving will play a crucial role in helping us keep our financial commitments to ministry and mission in this uncertain time. We are committed to paying our staff and supporting efforts to make sure that those who are financially vulnerable have the resources they need. Titles and offerings can be mailed or dropped off at the church office throughout the week or go to [graceontheisland.com/give](https://graceontheisland.com/give) to give online.

Your safety and wellbeing are important to us, so take care of yourself and those who are close to you. This is an opportunity for all of us to show the love of God by being a good neighbor. I encourage you to check in on your neighbors and lend someone a hand or offer a listening ear if you can.

Be healthy, be safe, be blessed and know you are loved,

Pastor Robin

Pastor Jim,  
The Staff and Volunteers of Grace