

Letter from the Pastor

Friends,

Last night, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Session took action on recommendations from the In-Person Task Force. The recommendations took several factors into account:

1. An advisory opinion from the Presbytery of Chicago Coordinating Commission (a group similar to the Session for the Presbytery) suggesting that the earliest congregations should consider returning to in-person worship is August 30.
2. RPC has much lower attendance numbers during the summer months.
3. Most importantly, the results from the survey that over 59 of you filled out. The survey results showed an overwhelming number of those who responded wished to continue worshiping online until it was safer to return to in-person worship.

Based on those factors, the Session has:

- Suspended in-person worship through August 30.
- Decided to keep the entire building (including the gym) closed to all gatherings through August 30. The only folks allowed in the church building are staff and stockers for the Little Food Pantry.
- Postpone the Strawberry Social scheduled for July 15 until September 16.

These are hard decisions to make. I, for one, am anxious to have life return to a semblance of normal. But even more, I want us all to stay safe and healthy. Please know that these new dates are all subject to review, and both the Session and In-Person Task Force continue to monitor recommendations from denominational leaders and health experts.

Along with the Session, I want to thank you for your commitment to RPC. This difficult time has shown how strong we are as a congregation. Many of you have expressed concern about finances. I have invited Ellen Hamilton, our treasurer, to use this space next week to give you an update. But I can share that we are making a \$50,000 payment on our Capital Campaign Loan!

I look forward to "seeing" all of you on Sunday.

Peace,
Dale

For information on joining worship on the internet or phone please see the bulletin. Worship is offered on our YouTube channel, and folks can join us on their telephone via Zoom. If you don't have a computer or tablet but do have a "smart" TV, you should be able to go to the YouTube channel on the TV and watch the service. If you would like a DVD of the service please contact me. The entire RPC building is closed. There are no in-person meetings and the only people allowed in the building are those stocking the food pantry and staff on an as-needed basis.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



ZOOM COFFEE TIME—Sunday mornings after the worship service you are invited to join Zoom coffee time. Here is the information you need to join us.

<https://zoom.us/j/198259471?pwd=VFJuSDJmOE5uK2N0SWtKY2hYmxKZz09> or to dial in 1(312)626-6799
Meeting ID: 198 259 471, Password: 928313

JOYS & CONCERNS – Healing for Monica Wood and Jack Smith. Healing for Judy Lynch, Susan Lynch's sister-in-law. Prayers for Ruth and Frank Svestka, while Ruth awaits her upcoming surgery. Healing for Marie Cerny who is in the hospital. If you'd like to send her a card, contact the church office for her new address. Prayers for Olivia, a friend of the Nadkarni family, who remains alone in the hospital on a ventilator as her body fights off leukemia.

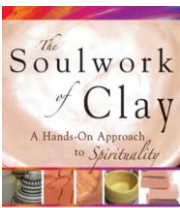


SURVEY – The Task Force for In-Person Worship Committee developed a survey to gauge your interest and willingness to return to in-person worship. You should have received the survey from Pastor Dale’s email or in the mail if you do not have an email address.

TITHES & OFFERINGS—The Session is committed to paying all staff during these difficult days. The ministry and mission of the congregation not only continues but is more important than ever. Please mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546. You can also give online.



YOU CAN BE A PART OF WORSHIP – Have you ever wished you could be the liturgist but are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd of people? Good news - if you are able to do an audio recording Reverend Jackson would love for you to participate in worship. You could read Scripture, read a poem, offer a prayer or lead the Call to Worship and never have to stand in front of the congregation! Reverend Jackson will provide everything you need. Reach out via email pastor@rpcusa.org.



THEOLOGY ON TAP– Monday June 22 at 7:00 on Zoom. We are reading *Soulwork of Clay: A Hands-On Approach to Spirituality* which is a companion study to the worship series. Please read chapter two.

Here is the login information for Zoom for Theology on Tap each week:

<https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXITc3ozQT09>

Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Password: 636553

EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE ITEMS —We have many organic fair-trade items for sale (tea, coffee, baking cocoa and hot cocoa, chocolate chips and chocolate bars). If you’d like more detailed information on products or to place an order, contact the church office to arrange contact-free pick up.



MEAL TRAIN PLUS FOR BEDS COVID-19 MEAL SUPPORT

BEDS Plus is presently providing over 4000 individual meals a week to shelter clients, at risk clients/families we have housed in motels and over 100 families and individuals who are housed and experiencing food insecurity. Here are the ways that you can help us provide these services: shelter meals – lunches and dinners, a grocery bag filled with meal items, gift card purchases for grocery stores and restaurants. Here is the link to the website. <https://beds-plus.org/urgent-updates/www.mealtrain.com>



REFRIGERATORS FOR SALE — The two Little Food Pantry refrigerators are for sale. They were not rated for outdoor use and were replaced with two new refrigerators that meet the Village requirements. The original cost of each refrigerator was \$300. They are 3.2 cubic feet with see through glass doors and a stainless-steel frame. They are less than a year old and work well. \$150 each or best offer if you are interested. The proceeds will go back into the Little Food Pantry fund.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEWS —Thanks to the generous donations of many and the hard work of Jon Jansky, we have been able to purchase and install 2 new outdoor refrigerators for donated produce from Aldi. This past week, we resumed produce pickup and fresh produce will always be available Monday and Friday. If there is extra produce, it will be stored in the refrigerator in the social hall kitchen and put out for distribution on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All produce must be kept in the refrigerator only. If you are interested in volunteering to pick up produce once a month, please contact Tara Gregus at 708-447-9551. Thank you!