

March 24, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of The Old Scotch Church,

As we seek to love our neighbors by staying home and finding electronic ways to connect, I find the chances to see faces and hear voices through Zoom meetings all the more valuable. My daily prayers have been that each of us is entering into this unexpected time and space with our eyes firmly fixed on God who loves us, so we can respond out of that steadfast, endless love.

After consideration and recommendation from the Church Closure Task Force, who consulted medical, state and church authorities, the Session voted to suspend in-person gatherings for the month of April. In addition, the church office will be closed to the public, although staff may have the freedom to work there in a coordinated isolated way, and officers may check their mailboxes or arrange with Jeff for drop off and pick up of church essential business.

The Worship and Music Commission is working to offer more online worship options which will be explained in further detail in the Friday email where we will also send out the weekly prayer list. We hope to start offering a service on March 29, as well as Holy Week services.

The list of members and church friends have been divided into groups with contact helpers making weekly contact. This contact will be by text, email, phone call, or a combination of the three. We hope this is a time to share joys and concerns, as well as connect with the gracious volunteers who are committing to this service for the next several weeks. Feel free to share prayer requests with them, and let them know if you want those on the prayer list. If you'd like a pastoral call, tell them, or call me at home directly (503.430.7435).

For church communications, we will continue to post information to the church website ([www.oldscothchurch.org](http://www.oldscothchurch.org)), the church private Facebook page, and through these emails. If you would like to join The Old Scotch Members and Friends Facebook page, please send your email to Julie Metz ([jacmetz@hotmail.com](mailto:jacmetz@hotmail.com)) and she will send an invitation to those with a church link.

Finally, friends, remember that we are claimed and kept by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christ is our strength and our center. Christ is our hope and our focus. As we watch the world, may we see it through the eyes of Christ, as my pastor friend has done in this poem:

On the Sixth Day of Social Distancing  
By Michael Gehrling (a 1001 New Worship Community Pastor)

The deliveryman came to my house today  
In the form of two bluejays

They delivered envy  
to be free to leave my own nest  
for a partner with whom to travel this strange new terrain  
to hear the chatter of friends' voices without a device's metallic echo

They delivered wonder  
splashes of color against the backdrop of grey cinderblock  
a dance-like rhythm hopping from branch to ground to fence and back again  
the return of childlike thoughts of what it's like to fly

They delivered hope  
for the arrival of spring  
the reminder that every season gives way to the next  
that even when it's hard to see, new life is coming.

You are in my prayers!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tracie