

# Sandusky Presbyterian Church

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Dear Church Family & Friends,

In this time of social distancing and extra Covid-19 precautions, we acknowledge that churches are also being greatly affected. We are facing an unprecedented need for canceling in-person gatherings. What we need to remember is that there are many ways of nurturing our spiritual lives, drawing on God for comfort, and loving neighbor without bringing vulnerable people together in person. God is present everywhere, and homes are as holy a place to pray, praise, and worship God as the sanctuary is. We still have a number of ways of being in contact and keeping in touch with our community.

We are canceling all in-person church activities including worship until April 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time we will re-evaluate the situation. We will celebrate Easter on whatever Sunday we are able to resume worshipping together. During this time, we will be providing alternate ways of staying connected with our church family and with God. Those alternatives are given at the end of this letter. We ask that you give these alternatives a try, even if it's new experience for you. This is all new to each of us.

The internet is an extremely useful tool for those of us who are connected. We will be making greater use of social media and video. A worship service will be available to watch on Facebook live on Sunday mornings, or not live at your leisure later. We will have a weekly scheduled conference call on Wednesdays at 7pm, hosted by Pastor Katja, to check in with one another, and offer prayer. See below for how to call in. If you've never been on a conference call – think of the party line of the past – with the whole street on at the same time. On Wednesday mornings, I will be leading the Lenten To-Go Box devotional, also via Facebook video, watchable anytime after. I do have a resource to share for families wanting a Christian activity/lesson to use with your kids each week, as Sunday School is suspended. Keep reading for that.

We encourage church members to consider mailing in your weekly or monthly contributions to the church office. We will still be checking the mail and paying our bills, and doing necessary administrative work. Your pastor is still working hard, increasing communication with our church family, planning a different kind of worship experience, continuing pastoral

care via phone/video call, and providing leadership in this rapidly evolving situation.

If you find, in the coming weeks, that you are unable to get out and get your basic needs covered, let me know. We will find ways to help.

If I can be of any be any support, please reach out! I will not be working in my office, but my cell # is 810-310-0172, my email is [PastorKatja@gmail.com](mailto:PastorKatja@gmail.com), and I'm happy to talk with you, or walk you through any of these new ways of being church together. I promise to do my best to keep you updated and informed as the situation changes. I invite you to join me in prayer, as we find our way through this time, with God's help.

With faith, hope, and love,  
Pastor Katja & The Session

### WORSHIP

- **Services are canceled on March 22, March 29, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter.**
- We will celebrate Easter on whichever Sunday we can resume normal worship. The Session will re-evaluate the circumstances on April 15<sup>th</sup>. You will be notified if we are unable to resume worship in person on April 19<sup>th</sup> with an Easter celebration, or if by some miracle, we can resume on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Alternative:** Pastor Katja will be broadcasting a **live worship video** each Sunday at **10am** (to split the time difference with Yale) via Facebook Live. *You do not need to be a regular user of Facebook, you do not need to have an account or login with a name and password to view these videos!* A screen may pop up asking you to log in, but you can "x" out of it and have full access. A bulletin will be provided to download electronically to follow along, via a link in a post below the video post. She will be live broadcasting to the Sandusky Presbyterian Church Facebook page at this web address: [www.facebook.com/SanduskyPres](https://www.facebook.com/SanduskyPres) Links to that video will be also be shared on our church website: [www.SanduskyPres.org](http://www.SanduskyPres.org) and to our email list.  
Any internet connected device – smart phone, tablet, computer, smart TV can be used to view these videos. Please feel free to call, text, email Pastor Katja if you have prayer requests you'd like prayer for in the context of worship, and she will include them. Remember that if you watch "live", you are watching together with many from our congregation and community and beyond. Our hearts are together!

## LENT STUDY, WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, SUNDAY SCHOOL

- All in-person church gatherings are canceled through April 15<sup>th</sup>. We will notify you when these activities can resume. Everything will be thoroughly cleaned before we resume using our meeting spaces.
- **Sunday School Alternative: Illustrated Ministry** (run by a colleague of Pastor Katja), is offering a weekly email with free printable resources for families (or anyone, really) wanting a Christian activity/lesson to do together. Go to [www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve](http://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve) to sign up.
- **Women's Bible Study:** will continue with "Entering the Passion of Jesus", Mondays at 6:30pm via Zoom (video or audio conference). Instructions on participating will be sent to our regular group members. If you want to join, let Pastor Katja know. She'll get you connected.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND STAYING CONNECTED

- Pastor Katja is hosting a **conference call, Wednesdays at 7pm** for anyone who wants to check in and pray together. This is our alternative to group gatherings, especially for those who aren't online. We are using a free conference calling service, there is no charge to participate.  
**How to: call this number: (425) 436 – 6346.**  
**When prompted, dial this access code: 469849**  
You'll be on the line with Pastor Katja and others from our church family!
- Pastor Katja will also be doing a Facebook video on Wednesday mornings with the Lent To-Go-Box devotions. On any web connected device, go to: [www.facebook.com/sanduskypres](http://www.facebook.com/sanduskypres) Again, you do not need an account to watch! You can "x" out of the login prompt, and see all page content. Video can be watched anytime after it is posted.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- We invite church members to consider mailing in their usual offerings, for weeks we are unable to meet in person. We understand that those who face a personal financial strain, due to being out of work, or reduced hours, or increased child care costs, or other reasons may not be able to contribute at this time.
- We are monitoring our finances, as usual. We hope to be able to make up any shortfall that may occur later in the year. We do have plenty of cash on hand to cover operating costs.