

March 19, 2020

Dear Merrill Pres. Church Family,

I wanted to send out this quick reminder about worship on Sunday. After much prayer and due to the new guidelines put forth by the President and the Governor of Oregon, the Session of Merrill Pres. Church, has decided to suspend Wednesday Night Bible Study for at least 2 weeks, and go on online only worship for at least March 22 & 29. This is done out of care and concern for our church and our community as we participate in trying to halt the spread of the Corona virus and protect those most vulnerable to the virus, along with abiding by State and National guidelines.

We believe that worship is central to our being, and essential during these times, so we will still be having worship at 9:30am on Sunday, but it will be online only. You will be able to go to the church Facebook page and join in worship there. As long as technology agrees to work as it should, we will take care of the video portion; all you have to do is go to our church Facebook page about 9:30am on Sunday morning and join us for virtual worship. If you are on Facebook and have not yet 'liked' our page, you can easily find us by going on Facebook and typing @merrillpc in the search box. If you do not have a Facebook account, it is easy and free to sign up for one. If you are unsure of how to set it up or how to find us, please feel free to contact Pastor Liz or any of the church staff and we will do our best to get to set up and ready to go.

Due to music copyright issues, the whole worship service will only be on our Facebook page until 12pm, at which time it will be taken down. However, we are still using our YouTube channel to post the Scripture reading and sermon, and so that part of our worship service can be found there after 12pm on Sunday. Our YouTube channel can be found by clicking on the link from our Facebook page, or you can find it here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRWkUISlw7VdS0Q2dxhNuyQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRWkUISlw7VdS0Q2dxhNuyQ?view_as=subscriber) (please note that there is an "\_" between 'view' and 'as' near the end of the link.

A few things to keep in mind:

- **Prayer Requests** – if you have prayer concerns or praises you would like prayed for please send them to Pastor Liz ([PastorLiz@MerrillPC.org](mailto:PastorLiz@MerrillPC.org)) by 12pm on Saturday and we will be more than happy to include them in the prayer time during our online service.
- **Offering** – even though we may not be passing the offering plates on Sunday morning, your offering is still necessary in order to allow us to continue our ministry and continue to pay our bills. Your offering is vital to our work and ministry as we share the good news of Jesus Christ during this difficult time, and cannot wait until we are able to meet again in person. There are several ways you can continue to give to the church:
  - Mail a check to the church (PO Box 276, Merrill, OR 97633).
  - If you use online banking, you can use 'Bill Pay' and have your bank send the church a check at no cost to you or the church at whatever amount you would like. You can even set this up to be done automatically.

- Stop by the church on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9am-12pm or 1pm-3pm and drop off your offering.
- **Helping Others** – If you know someone in our church who may have trouble getting online please offer to help them, or invite them to join you in your home and watch together (with appropriate hand washing and social distancing in place, of course).
- **Updates** – Wednesday Night Bible Study, Women’s Bible Study, and Men’s Breakfast are all on hold until at least April. Prayerfully we will be back in worship in person on April 5<sup>th</sup> for Palm Sunday and to celebrate communion together. However, as we have all experienced over the last few weeks, this situation can change at a moment’s notice. We will continue to pray and monitor the situation and let you know of any other changes that may be coming for the church via e-mail and our Facebook page as soon as we are able.
- This is new for all of us, so there are still bugs that we are working out. Please be patient with us.

If you have any question or concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Liz or any member of the Session at any time.

God bless,

*Liz*