
From: Grove Office <office@grovepres.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Grove Office <office@grovepres.org>
Subject: Weekly Update

Dear Grove Family,

Hello again! I hope you had a blessed Sabbath this past weekend and enjoyed Saturday's sunshine as well as Sunday's rain! Thank you to all who joined us on Facebook for worship and Zoom® for coffee-hour as well. If you didn't have a chance to do so yet, you can still watch the video on [Grove's Facebook page](#) (you do not need a Facebook account) or on the [Grove website](#).

On Sunday the Session also met again. We reviewed the current pandemic and decided that **we will continue to suspend all physical gatherings at the church through the month of May**. Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, May 18th, and we will discuss where things stand for the month of June at that time.

Tomorrow, Wednesday 4/29, at 7 pm we will continue with our weekly Bible study. Join us via Zoom® at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3244471903> (Password: 802434) You can download the software ahead of time, or just sign in a few minutes before the meeting will start. Or, if you can't do that, call ahead to 324-471-1903. You won't be able to see everyone, but you can still listen and interact. We are going to continue our discussion of the Apostle's Creed this week.

This coming Sunday, 5/3, we will have:

- 10:15 am normal worship watch party on Facebook which will include the observance of Communion, which we will be doing remotely - see Rev Jason's discussion of that plan below
- Immediately followed by coffee-hour via Zoom® at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3244471903> (password 802434)
- A children's Sunday school lesson for this Sunday can be found here: <http://grovepres.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/May-3-2020-Fourth-Sunday-of-Easter.pdf>

Friends, in this week's scripture passage from John 10 Jesus talks about following the shepherd and listening to the shepherds voice. He says sometimes there are false shepherds, and we need to listen for the true shepherds voice. What are the influences in your life? Are all of them good? Do you ever find yourself confused about where God is leading? Let's talk about that together this weekend.

*Another, super important, special announcement for this week: **We're having communion!***

I'll be preparing a communion presentation for you, but you have to do some preparation at home. This is what you can do before the worship service:

- Find some sort of bread to share with everyone who is going going to participate in communion.*
- Find some sort of juice to share with everyone who is going to participate in communion.*
- If you only have bread or you only have juice, that's OK. You don't need to make a special trip out for anything. You can just use one element if that's all you have. You can even use a slice of bread or a cracker.*
- Have your elements ready during the worship service. I'll let you know when you need them.*

We've got some special plans coming up in the next few weeks. Stay on your toes! I can't wait to worship with all of you this week.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jason*

Please be aware that although we are cancelling all our church activities, we continue to have our normal monthly bills for electric, heat, sewer, etc. Please continue, if you are able, mailing your weekly offering to the church office (at 376 Bloom St, Danville, PA 17821) to help maintain support at this time. You can also donate to use directly online (<https://onrealm.org/GrovePres/-/give/now>). I realize that many of you may feel stretched financially currently so I only ask you to give as you feel lead to do.

We continue to *be the church* in this time of social distancing. **Our church office remains physically closed but Kristin will be working remotely.** She will continue to work normal hours and will be answering the phone from 9-2:30 Monday through Fridays. Jason remains available via phone at #570-441-9550 and email pastor@grovepres.org as well.

On another note, if you are interested in participating in worship, contact Pastor Jason at pastor@grovepres.org and we'll find a way to make it happen.

You may have noticed that fresh flowers have appeared again for worship services. After the service is recorded, the flowers are delivered to homebound members (nursing homes will accept flower deliveries at the door). If you would like to order flowers and contribute to the flower ministry, please contact the office. Available upcoming dates are **May 31 and June 7, 14, 21, 28**. If you don't have a special date in mind, the office will save your flowers for a week when none are scheduled. The cost of flowers is \$29 this year.

As it is unclear how long we will need to remain separate, I will continue to reach out to you each week to double-check on your needs. Please let me know if you need:

- (1) Contact – a call or letter at this time
- (2) Help accessing our digital resources – sermons, participating in our Bible study via Zoom®
- (3) Childcare
- (4) Financial help if your work hours are being cut or if you have been laid off

In the interim, we'll try to keep emails going out about twice a week to keep you updated on what is going on. We'll try to keep you informed without overwhelming your inbox.

Book Club will again meet on Sunday 5/10 at 7 pm via Zoom® to discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger and also discuss some potential books for next year.

Ronald McDonald Dinner will next be held on Sunday 5/17 at 6 pm. Contact me via email (amandaleicht@hotmail.com) or phone (570/441-4494) if you would like to help.

We know that church members who are in nursing homes and assisted living communities are in a 'lock-down' mode right now so that they cannot receive physical visitors but they CAN receive mail. *Perhaps you could consider writing letters to some of our shut-ins instead? This would also be a GREAT activity for some of our children – to make cards at home and mail to our shut-ins.*

Here is a lovely poem and prayer that a family friend recently shared:

Be a bright flame before me, O God,
A guiding star above me,
Be a smooth path beneath me,
A kindly shepherd behind me,
Today, tonight and forever.

Alone with none but you, my God,
I journey on my way;

What need I fear when you are near,
O Lord of night and day!
More secure am I within your hand
Than if a multitude did round me stand.
Amen.
--St. Columba

Thank you as always for reading to the bottom!

Sincerely,
Amanda Leicht, Clerk of Session

Kristin Keller
Administrative Assistant
Grove Presbyterian Church
376 Bloom St.
Danville, PA 17821
570-275-0692
grovepres.org