

*From the Desk of Mark Diehl, Interim Pastor*

The leaders and staff of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church continue to find our footing as we travel through the uncharted landscape of the coronavirus. A hoped-for quick resolution that would provide relief to the suffering and to those meeting the medical and human needs of our communities has not materialized. While the first peak of the pandemic may have passed in our community, many here remain vulnerable, the next steps are unclear, patience is stretched thin, and the economic toll is beginning to be counted. Other communities around our nation are only now entering what we endured the past 6 weeks. Pray for them as they have prayed for us.

Returning to some semblance of normalcy is on our horizon as a congregation. Doing so requires sensitivity to the vulnerabilities of our congregation and staff and community, an awareness of appropriate public health protocols for this stage of the pandemic, and the needs and risks unique to this particular community of faith. At this point, we do not know what the “new normal” will look like at GPMC, or when we might arrive there.

What we can expect through the end of May (and possibly through the summer) is this:

- continuing to worship remotely with one service broadcast each Sunday at 9 am (and available for viewing thereafter)
- providing youth and adult educational programs, as well as Bible studies and small groups, remotely through Zoom
- exercising oversight of programs, finances, and administration through our councils and committees
- caring for the needs of our congregation through contact and communication that minimizes isolation and helps to build support
- mobilizing outreach resources that will impact immediate needs in our community, particularly for the hungry, homeless, and poor, as well as for first responders, medical workers, and service providers.

The staff and Session are assessing responsible ways of reconnecting as a community of faith even as we protect the most vulnerable among us in a time of risk as we seek the steps to a new normal. That is our task over the course of the next many months. We need the Spirit’s wisdom and guidance. Keep us in your prayers.

April 29, 2020