



Friends,

As you know, the Session has formed an In-Person Worship Task Force. The job of the task force is to explore and make recommendations to the Session on when in-person activities can begin to resume in the church building. If you have not filled out the survey sent out earlier, PLEASE take a moment and do that. The link to the survey is found in the survey announcement below.

Our primary goal is to make sure that we stay as safe and healthy as possible, so part of what the task force is doing is paying attention to leading experts to help guide our decision making. We know that not all of the recommendations will be popular, and members of the task force do not like some of what the research suggests. But what we like and what is prudent and safe are two very different things.

For the next few weeks, I will use this space to share some of the research to help you understand some of the recommendations that the task force is making. This week, we will explore singing. Dr. Sally and I have had endless conversations about singing. We are greatly influenced by the findings of an expert panel assembled by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America, the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Performing Arts Medical Association (PAMA). This panel has laid out a sobering vision for the future of public singing in America. The primary goal of the panel, according to NATS Executive Director Dr. Allen Henderson, was "to bring scientists and medical professionals directly to our audience, as those of us who run professional organizations do not have the direct knowledge ourselves of these complex issues."

Here are their findings in brief:

1. The virus is contained in micro-droplets that we all expel when we breathe and speak.
2. The act of singing produces even larger amounts of the droplets and sends them out even further than normal breathing and speaking.
3. There is no spacing solution for singing groups that would eliminate risk.
4. Masks do not provide sufficient protection when singing.

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians says this based on the findings: *We believe that current measures to restrict singing—as much as we might lament them—are in the best interest of the church and world at this time.* When we return to in-person worship, we will not be singing hymns. That doesn't mean there will not be hymns. It means that they will be included in worship in ways that don't involve singing them corporately. Dr. Sally has also suspended the vocal choir and Ringers and Singers until health experts indicate it is safe to sing again.

If you know me, you know that I love music; I almost always have music playing in my office. My happy time is standing in the kitchen, cooking away with music playing much too loudly. And I know that music is integral to the life of RPC. As your preacher and worship leader, corporate singing in worship is often when I personally have the opportunity to worship. Sally and I grieve the loss of hymn singing, but not nearly as much as we would grieve someone getting sick because we chose not to follow the advice of professionals.

We will sing again,
Dale

For information on joining worship on YouTube or telephone via Zoom please see the bulletin. If you don't have a computer or tablet but do have a "smart" TV, you should be able to go to the YouTube channel on the TV and watch the service. The entire RPC building is closed. There are no in-person meetings and the only people allowed in the building are those stocking the food pantry and staff on an as-needed basis.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



ZOOM COFFEE TIME—Sunday mornings after the worship service you are invited to join Zoom coffee time. Here is the information you need to join us.

<https://zoom.us/j/198259471?pwd=VFJuSDJmOE5uK2N0SWtKY2hYmxKZz09> or to dial in 1(312)626-6799
Meeting ID: 198 259 471, Password: 928313

JOYS & CONCERNS – Prayers for Ruth and Frank Svestka, while Ruth awaits her upcoming surgery. Healing for Marie Cerny who is in the hospital. If you'd like to send a card, contact the church office for her new address. Healing for Monica Wood and Jack Smith. Prayers for Olivia, a friend of the Nadkarni family, who remains alone in the hospital on a ventilator as her body fights off leukemia.

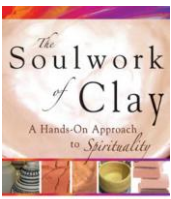


SURVEY – The Task Force for In-Person Worship developed a survey to gauge your interest and willingness to return to in-person worship. You should have received the survey from Pastor Dale’s email or in the mail if you do not have an email address. Please fill out the survey and return it by Wednesday, June 17. <https://forms.gle/25UukQ9YjwofTS1YA>

TITHES & OFFERINGS—The Session is committed to paying all staff during these difficult days. The ministry and mission of the congregation not only continues but is more important than ever. Please mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546. You can also give online.



YOU CAN BE A PART OF WORSHIP – Have you ever wished you could be the liturgist but are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd of people? Good news - if you are able to do an audio recording Reverend Jackson would love for you to participate in worship. You could read Scripture, read a poem, offer a prayer or lead the Call to Worship and never have to stand in front of the congregation! Reverend Jackson will provide everything you need. Reach out via email pastor@rpcusa.org.



THEOLOGY ON TAP—Monday June 15 at 7:00 on Zoom. We are reading *Soulwork of Clay: A Hands-On Approach to Spirituality* which is a companion study to the worship series. If you are interested contact Dale at pastor@rpcusa.org. For Monday June 15 please read the prologue and chapter one. Dale has clay for your use. Here is the login information for Zoom for Theology on Tap each week: <https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXlTc3ozQT09> Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Password: 636553

EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE ITEMS —We have many organic fair-trade items for sale (tea, coffee, baking cocoa and hot cocoa, chocolate chips and chocolate bars). If you’d like more detailed information on products or to place an order, contact the church office to arrange contact-free pick up.



MEAL TRAIN PLUS FOR BEDS COVID-19 MEAL SUPPORT

BEDS Plus is presently providing over 4000 individual meals a week to shelter clients, at risk clients/families we have housed in motels and over 100 families and individuals who are housed and experiencing food insecurity. Here are the ways that you can help us provide these services: shelter meals – lunches and dinners, a grocery bag filled with meal items, gift card purchases for grocery stores and restaurants. Here is the link to the website. <https://beds-plus.org/urgent-updates/www.mealtrain.com>



REFRIGERATORS FOR SALE — The two Little Food Pantry refrigerators are for sale. They were not rated for outdoor use and were replaced with two new refrigerators that meet the Village requirements. The original cost of each refrigerator was \$300. They are 3.2 cubic feet with see through glass doors and a stainless-steel frame. They are less than a year old and work well. \$150 each or best offer if you are interested. The proceeds will go back into the Little Food Pantry fund.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEWS —Thanks to the generous donations of many and the hard work of Jon Jansky, we have been able to purchase and install 2 new outdoor refrigerators for donated produce from Aldi. This past week, we resumed produce pick up and fresh produce will always be available Monday and Friday. If there is extra produce, it will be stored in the refrigerators in the social hall kitchen and put out for distribution on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All produce must be kept in the refrigerator only. If you are interested in volunteering to pick up produce once a month, please contact Tara Gregus at 708-447-9551. Thank you!