

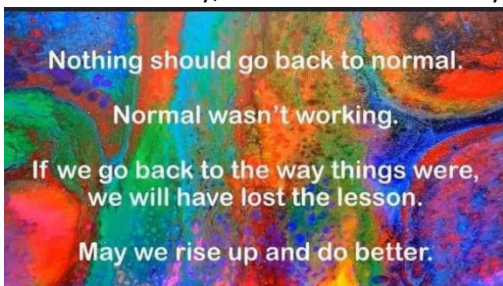
Friends,

# FROM THE PASTOR

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday night, the Session suspended all in-person worship until groups of larger than 50 can safely meet. We will continue to offer worship services on our YouTube channel, and folks can join us on their telephone via Zoom. And remember that 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. On May 3 and on Pentecost May 31, we will be celebrating the sacrament of Communion in our homes. The church office will continue to do mailings to the entire congregation to keep us connected and up to date. Both Men's and Women's Forum meet via Zoom as well as Theology on Tap. 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.

As always, if you are ill or unable to leave your house and need anything, please call me at the church office and leave a message on my voicemail, call my cellphone, or email me at [pastor@rpcusa.org](mailto:pastor@rpcusa.org). You can also call your Deacon. Know that I am keeping all of you in my thoughts.

On Easter Sunday, I used this meme in my sermon:



I concluded my sermon by saying:

*The resurrection cannot just be something that happened years ago; resurrection must be action taken now. Christ is risen when Christians refuse to surrender when they see injustice; Christ is risen when the suffering feel the divine presence with them; Christ is risen when we hold fast to our own humanity and the humanity of others. Christ is risen when we rise up.*

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. There are times that we all need resurrection and times we have all experienced resurrection. We might be in need of rising up out of the depths of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, or oppression; not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? What keeps us down?

I invite you to share with me, and the congregation, stories of your how you have experienced "resurrection" in your own lives. Maybe it's your own resurrection; maybe it's a resurrection you've observed. Your story might just inspire all of us to rise up!

Although I would love for you to share your story with me as a video or an audio recording, you can also write your story and send it to me. Let me know if you need some technological hints to help your recording look and sound its best. If you choose to write something or record audio only, please include an illustrative picture or image. I will be using these stories when we gather for worship in the weeks ahead.

Peace, Dale

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**For information on joining worship on the internet or phone please see the bulletin.**

**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>

Meeting ID: 198 259 471, Password: 928313

To dial in 1(312)626-6799 and use Meeting ID: 198 259 471, Password: 928313



**JAZZ SUNDAY** — Our annual Jazz Sunday Worship service has been postponed.

**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. If you normally place your tithes and offerings in the offering plate on Sunday, please mail them to the church at 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546. You can also give online.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP**—Join us Mondays at 7:00 on Zoom for a movie study.

For Monday, April 20, please watch *The Story of God* Season 2 called *Proof of God* on Netflix.

For Monday, April 29, please watch *The Two Popes* on Netflix

Here is the information for logging into Zoom for Theology on Tap each week:

<https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXlTc3ozQT09>

Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Password: 636553

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS** – We are exercising extra precautionary measures to ensure the safety of our Little Food Pantry Patrons. If you would like to donate canned goods, please contact Dale and arrange a time to drop off your canned goods. Please DO NOT place items directly in the pantry. All items are being wiped with a disinfectant and then pre-bagged. During this time, you might consider making a monetary donation to the pantry. We have also had to suspend our offerings of fresh produce for the time being.

**The City of Chicago** is encouraging residents to sign up for [Smart911](#) – a free, voluntary, and secure service that allows individuals and families to provide critical medical information when they call 9-1-1. Residents can create a safety profile for themselves and family members that will include information on current health conditions as well as information if a resident is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or is under quarantine. This information will automatically be provided to first responders when calling 9-1-1 and will enable them to quickly and safely respond to emergencies. To learn more, [check out this video](#).



**EARTH DAY VIRTUAL MINI FILM FEST** - For the entire week of Earth Day and in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 — you are invited to participate in *One Earth Film Fest's Earth Week Free Virtual Mini Film Festival*, in partnership with the City of Chicago. For more information, follow this link <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/>.