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April 30, 2020 - COVID-19 Update from Session

Dear West Siders,

As I write, it is the last day of April. Wow! The last Sunday we met for worship on our campus was March 8th. There has been incredible work and progress of staying connected through Deacons, Facebook, Zoom meetings, emails, Constant-Contact, www.westsidechurchrichland.com, and even Youtube. I am proud of the leadership demonstrated by Staff, Elders, Life Group leaders, Deacons, Bite-2-Go, Preschool, and all the different ministries that have had to pause operations. Praise the Lord for His provision, guidance, and power at work in and through the whole body of believers.

Session promised to provide updates as we assess and move forward. At this point, we are expecting May to continue as we have been doing through April. This means:

- The Building remains closed to groups and ministry (except Bite-2-Go) until Session considers State requirements and consults with members of our body who are health professionals.
- Sunday Worship will be Live Online at 9:45 AM on our Facebook page at “West Side Church, Richland WA” and our webpage at www.westsidechurchrichland.org. If you want to connect with us during worship, view the Facebook Live service and say “Hi” or “Amen” or share a prayer request. If you can’t worship with us at 9:45 AM, a video of the service will be available on both Facebook and our webpage to view at your convenience.
- We will continue to provide opportunities for growing, learning, and worship.
 - Ben is looking to engage with youth
 - The Grover’s are producing Sunday School videos and Zoom chats.
 - Patrick has tried a Worship Sing-a-long.
 - The whole staff are producing Words of Life Meditations, working through the Fruit of the Spirit.
 - I am teaching a Monday and Wednesday Bible Study on the book of Revelation and a Thursday lecture series on Humility and Leadership.
- We will continue to encourage the whole body to find ways to engage and connect with one another.
 - Reach out and make some extra phone calls to people in our church family.
 - Life Groups can meet together on Zoom or other online platforms.
 - Be creative in connecting while maintaining appropriate social distancing.
- Good News! The leadership of the church is researching and gathering resources on what opening up can look like. While we don’t know when and what it will exactly look like, it seems like we are a little closer to getting back to normal. There is still a lot we don’t know, but we are trying to be as prepared as we can.

Overall, while we all feel pain and difficulty of these times, we have received lots of encouragement from all of you that the love of our community is being felt by one another. May the Lord Bless you and keep you in these difficult times.

In Christ, Ralph Kieneker (one of your pastors)