

Dear WFMC Family,

I hope you're well today! These are, without doubt, the strangest days I've ever lived through. I hear from friends and acquaintances a mixture of good news and hard news. Some are just loving having their children home, even though that brings its own set of challenges. At the same time, people are grieving the loss of in-person communication with others they love. Some are loving the change in schedules while others are concerned about the potential loss of income and business.

This circumstance is proving particularly hard for some small business owners, who have to lay off valued employees and who are concerned about their ability to keep their store or service open. Please keep all these needs in prayer.

A Few Items for You Today:

Society Meeting: It goes without saying that we will not have a "normal" Society meeting this spring. Due to the Covid situation, I have asked our BOA (and they have voted in approval) to extend the terms of our current church officers until an in-person vote can be held to approve the new officer nominees. I hope this can occur sometime this summer, but in the interim, we have excellent leaders in place.

High School Senior Recognition Service: Again, due to Covid, we are not able to have our Senior Recognition Service, which was originally scheduled to happen this Sunday evening (April 26.) This will be re-scheduled for later this summer if at all possible, but in the meantime, please do pray for our H.S. Seniors – that they would finish their last year of high school strong and that they would have the Lord's wisdom for the many decisions they have to make in the coming months. Our class of 2020 includes: Chloe Adams, Anna Blankenship, Ben Diddle, Victoria Kusche, Kate Madill, Isaac McCants, Ryan Padgett, Paul Robert Stackhouse, Jessie Thompson, Luke VanLaningham, Brittany Wagler, Clayton Winter and Calvin Wright.

A Word About Giving: Thank you for your faithful giving. With strong giving and comparatively low expenses, we are doing well, financially, and stand ready to help those who need short-term financial assistance.

Today's Covid Comment comes from Dr. Craig Saunders – [click here to check it out at the church YouTube channel.](#)

This Week's Children's Activity: Families- we hope you are doing well. Enjoy this scavenger hunt with your family and use the guide to pray for our world as you spot the different items in God's beautiful display of nature around you. [Click here to download.](#)

We Have Officially Suspended VBS for 2020 ☹️

Embracing Our Opportunities: How do we leverage this moment to engage change for the better in ministry? F.M. Bishops Whitehead, Adams and Cowart will be addressing this topic in a Facebook LIVE event tomorrow, April 23rd at 7 p.m. EDT. [Like the bishops' Facebook page to ensure you don't miss out.](#)

A Brief Article, *Warm Hearted Thinking*, that proved helpful to me this week, by Dr. Joseph Horton, professor of Psychology, Grove City College:

I do not hate my mom. Many in the media and some friends on social media seem to believe I do hate my mom, as well as other older people with compromised immune systems.

For more than a decade my mom has been taking potent drugs that suppress her immune system, and so I become a hypochondriac whenever a visit approaches. Is my throat scratchy? Could I be getting a cold...maybe something worse than a cold? I am keenly aware that my health affects not only her health, but her life expectancy.

But the thought that we need to consider the costs of shutting down economic activity is viewed with horror! The cultural message of the moment is that I value money more than people. But the human costs of our national shutdown are enormous.

Social isolation, the loss of productive work, limiting exercise opportunities, and removing control over our lives will produce significant mental and physical health problems. The research connecting these factors to well-being is well established.

We can be confident that the intensity of symptoms have increased for people who currently suffer from depression and anxiety. Further we can be confident that new cases of depression and anxiety are on the rise, as are problems with alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic violence. Lives and relationships are being ruined and, yes, some of these people will die.

The people who are suffering the consequences of our extended economic shutdown have faces, too—just as the people who contract COVID-19. The media may not be counting the victims of the shutdown, but they exist.

Even the gyms are closed. Yet we know that exercise boosts the immune system and reduces the risk of depression and many diseases. How many more heart attacks and strokes will occur due to the forced closure of gyms?

What of the loss of purpose for laid-off workers? Does it feel like a slap in the face to get more in unemployment than one earned for productive work? What dangers will idle minds be drawn to?

When I walk through my neighborhood I pass a funeral home. Funerals are still taking place, but few people are able to attend. At the time of their greatest loss, families are disconnected from each other and their friends.

Then there are the young people who were to celebrate their marriages before family and friends. With legal limits on the size of gatherings and orders to shelter in place, nothing approaching a normal wedding can be had.

I think of shut-ins who long for visitors in normal times and now those visits are illegal.

At what point are the losses from the shutdown greater than the losses from COVID-19 itself? Considering this question comes not from a cold heart, but a warm one. We need to remember the invisible victims and consider their needs, too, as we decide the best course of action.

Yes, it is political leaders who will make the decisions, but they need to know that we the people recognize there is a downside to an extended shutdown, and that downside likewise includes very real human suffering.

Some COVID Humor:

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighborhood! Those are your neighbors without makeup and hair cuts/color.

Me: "Alexa what's the weather this weekend?"

Alexa: "It doesn't matter... you're not going anywhere."

Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers, and we get really excited about car rides.

And Finally, A Prayer for Today:

Dear Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or been over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessings upon you today.

Pastor Daryl