

To the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church community:

Dear Friends,

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church will be suspending Sunday morning worship for at least the next two weeks –Sundays, March 15 and March 22. Also, other events at the church, Saturday's Shine for the Divine, the women's Saturday Bible study, and Monday's choir rehearsal, have been cancelled.

This has been a weighty decision made all the more difficult because our ministry of music has been preparing the Faure Requiem for this Sunday morning. I have expressed my hope to Dr. Bingham that we might be able to present the requiem in worship on a future Sunday in the spring, but that may not be a possibility given the logistics of bringing many musicians together.

I think it is wise for the church to match the spirit of what the State of Maryland and many other institutions have put in place for public safety. Furthermore, the National Capital Presbytery has issued a strong recommendation that all its churches suspend worship for the next two weeks.

I commend to you the recommendations for your own self-care that come from the Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>.

I will be preparing for Sunday a form of written worship that can be read at home. This liturgy will be available on the church web-site and through a special edition of the What's What. We will also look into ways we can enhance a worship experience that can be experienced remotely in future weeks when worship at the church is still suspended.

In the meantime, we need to think about how to reach out to our elderly and homebound members. The pandemic will only increase their isolation. We need to communicate to them our love and concern, and act creatively in lessening their burden through this trial.

Sincerely,

Jim Reisner
Interim Pastor
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
Takoma Park, Maryland