

THE *talking trinity*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Phyllis!

Phyllis Todd gets a surprise on her **101st** birthday! More than 30 Trinity friends honor her with a celebratory drive-by car parade.



**SEPTEMBER
2020**

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How Can I Worship? Let me count the ways!

Many of us are worshipping "together" by watching the video worship each week. It's easy to view and can be seen anytime beginning on Sunday morning. Worshipping online has the benefit of staying connected to our church family while remaining safe at home. If you are interrupted you can pause and come back to it. You can view other worship services you may have missed. Our archive on the website houses all our past worship services. Finally, joining from your couch, while wearing pajamas, with coffee in hand is a bonus! There are several ways to watch and I hope this guide can help you find the way that is easy for you.

1. How to use the email Meredith sends each week: It usually comes on Friday and is called "Worship Online" and the date of service.

a. The first link in the email (often in blue font) is a link to the bulletin. If you click that link a new page will open showing a PDF of the bulletin. Most browsers will show a picture of a printer at the top that you may click to print the bulletin. If you are using Google Chrome you need to hover your mouse just above the bulletin to get this icon to appear.

b. The second link in the email (usually blue font) is a link to the FaceBook page. You do not have to be a

FaceBook user to watch here when you use the link. The fun part about watching on the FaceBook link is that you can watch at 10:30 am Sunday when the video premiers. Other Trinity members will be on at this time and can chat in the comments of the video. We like to wish each other good morning and visit about worship.

c. The third link in the email (usually blue font) is a link to the Trinity Presbyterian Church website. The link will take you directly to the page where worship is viewed. Simply click the "play" triangle and enjoy!

2. If you are a FaceBook user:

Our FaceBook page is called, "Trinity Presbyterian Church, Topeka, Kansas." If you do not see Trinity regularly in your newsfeed, please visit the site and "like" or "follow." All our posts, notifications, and videos will show in your newsfeed and you'll always know what's happening at Trinity. You'll also get notifications about the worship video premiers.

3. Visit the website
www.trinitypresbyterian.net
We just updated the homepage to make it easy to find information on worship, the calendar, The Candle, Talking Trinity, and a video on mental health during COVID-19.



A Message from Mere

It is especially providential that the Adult CE Committee has chosen “Relationships” as our educational theme this year. The past 6 months have been upended by the pandemic, and it has impacted our relationships: relationships with family, friends, and loved ones; relationships with our jobs; relationship with our community; even our relationship with Jesus Christ. Prior to the pandemic, we relied on a familiar rhythm of life and routine relationships. That rhythm stopped abruptly. Since then, we have been left to learn a new rhythm and think and act creatively to maintain and grow the significant relationships in our life.

A pastor’s job is inherently relational. So what happens when meeting/worshipping/learning/praying can no longer happen face-to

-face? Like other pastors, I have had to re-learn a significant portion of my job. I rely heavily on the wonders of technology and though there are times when I have some serious ZOOM fatigue, I am so thankful it exists because it has allowed me to be present with our community in new ways. For example--I have enjoyed going to ZOOM Sunday school because I can see the faces of people I love and miss dearly. And of course, telephone calls have an even great significance! More than once, a day has brightened because a “routine” phone call gave me an opportunity to hear the sound of a familiar voice.

Should the way be clear, our congregation will return to in-building worship on September 13. I am beyond proud of the hard work our Session and volunteers have done to make sure our worship will be safe

without sacrificing our commitment to hospitality. But our relationship with worship has changed, and will change in this “in-between time” before a vaccine becomes widespread and available. Some elements will be different, some will be familiar. Some of our friends will be making the faithful choice to stay home, and others will make the faithful choice to be in church. Regardless of what group you fall into, the relationship with your church family and with God will continue to be strong, because you, (yes, you!) are dearly loved. I look forward to seeing you in person or on the web!

Stay safe and be blessed.
Rev. Meredith



Visioning Technology

The Trinity session approved that Visioning Committee move forward with the purchase of live streaming equipment and other technology improvements. Live streaming will allow online viewers to join the in-person services in real time. In the moment that some of our Trinity family worship in our sanctuary, viewers at home will be able to see, hear, and participate in worshipping God together. Once this plan is

accomplished, Visioning team is looking forward to other ways to increase our media visibility in the building, on 21st Street, and beyond! Of course, Session could not have planned for this added expense, but recognize the necessity of virtual outreach in this unprecedented time, and have allowed special funds as needed. To get the best value on our investment, we will set up a system that will carry us easily for the next

five years. Sanctuary media improvements will cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. We invite those who feel called to contribute to this audio-visual ministry, beyond your pledge, to contact Ross Freeman.

“...recognize the necessity of virtual outreach in this unprecedented time...”



Return to Worship at Trinity!

This is peek at what it will look like when Trinity opens its doors again for Sunday Worship. Many thanks to the communication team and the 24 volunteers who participated in training in preparation for Sept 13 return to in-person worship.





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August 27, 2020

Dear Trinity Family and Friends -

The session is meeting regularly to consider the next steps in our Plan to Restart In-Person Worship. Together with the leadership committees and church staff, we have been working to ensure that the ties that bind us are strong, resilient and steadfast during these challenging times. Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers, attendance at online worship, continued financial support of Trinity, and care for one another.

As the Session works on the Plan to Restart In-Person Worship, it does so against a backdrop of Kansas' Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas, the Centers for Disease Control, Shawnee County Department of Health, the Presbytery of Northern Kansas and our liability insurance carrier.

Per our recent survey, 82% of our members self-identified as "at risk". The church's Plan must be based on extreme concern against Covid-19 infection and any transmission that may occur. Despite our best efforts, no locale can be guaranteed to be germ free. Please act accordingly and be your best advocate in protecting your health.

Staying home and worshiping online is a faithful choice. Please do NOT come to the church if you are ill or feel safer staying home.

Currently, our worship is occurring online and will continue to do so. In-Person Worship is scheduled to begin September 13, 2020.

Session will continue to evaluate options for worship according to state and county guidelines and recommendations from committees and the Presbytery.

Your patience and prayers are requested.

Yours in Christ,

Trinity Session



Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan
 Minister

Kathy Welch, R.N.
 Parish Nurse

Karen Meenen
 Dir. of Christian Education

Checklist for Returning to In-Person Worship

Engage in the steps below to prepare you and your family for in-person worship.



✓ Checklist for Church Members	
AT HOME	
	Pray for Trinity, its leaders, your family, and yourself.
	Discuss as a family what to expect and the importance of following guidance.
	Review any recent church communications on reopening policies and procedures.
	Download the Sunday bulletin to your phone (or follow on-screen during service).
	Do not leave home without your mask!
	Visit your bathroom before heading to the church building.
	Wash your hands right before leaving home and immediately after returning.
ASSESS YOUR HEALTH	
	Stay home if you or one of your family members is showing signs or symptoms of an illness, especially a fever or cough.
	Stay home if you or others you are staying with may have been exposed to someone suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.
	If you begin to show signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 following an in-person worship service, contact your primary health provider immediately.
UPON EXITING YOUR VEHICLE	
	Mentally prepare yourself for social distancing. Remind children and youth of what this means.
	Keep in mind that you and others will be excited to see everyone. Please wave to each other, no bodily contact.
	Put on a mask; make sure it is correctly secured around the nose and mouth.
	Use hand sanitizer before exiting your vehicle and again before you head home.
	Maintain social distancing as a family unit while entering and exiting the building. Provide others with their needed space.
	Be sure to maintain social distancing in the parking lot and on sidewalks leading to the church.
IN ENTRYWAYS AND HALLWAYS	
	Listen for instructions from leaders and volunteers and pay attention to signs providing guidance. Maintain social distancing. Wear your mask at all times.
	Do not congregate in the entryway, lobby, or narthex. Follow directions from ushers.
	Be intentional with grace and patience as you, your family, and others are experiencing various emotions during the new process.
	The handicap restroom will be open only for emergencies.
	Listen for new directives regarding collecting the offering and recording attendance.
	The nursery, office, parlor, kitchen, fellowship hall and basement level will be closed

IN THE WORSHIP SPACE

	If you must leave the sanctuary for any reason, you will be unable to re-enter.
	Be prepared for everything to look different. Be gracious and patient as you, your family and others are dealing emotionally with the changes.
	Ushers will seat you, filling the sections from front to back. Family units must sit together. The nursery and parlor will be closed; children and youth will sit with their families.
	Please remain in your seat until you are directed to exit at the conclusion of the service.
	Wear your mask; keep it secure over your nose and mouth.
	There will be music, but the congregation will NOT sing.
	Participate as directed during responsive readings.
	Communion will not be celebrated.
	Acknowledge your friends and neighbors with a nod or wave. Pray for one another.

EXITING THE WORSHIP SPACE

	Ushers will dismiss you from your pew from back to front. Leave the sanctuary maintaining 6' between you and others. Do not stop to visit.
	The offering box will be in place at the back of the sanctuary. Place your tithes and gifts in the box and continue to exit as guided.
	Keep social distancing through the lobby and parking lot. We will not congregate after the service.
	Do not remove your mask until you have reached your vehicle.
	Sanitize your hands and wash them with soap and water when you arrive home.

On-line services will continue. Adult Sunday School is offered through Zoom. Contact the office for an invitation to attend.

Mission Committee will have cloth masks for sale for a \$5.00 donation with proceeds going to mission outreach.

Know Your W's

If you leave home, know your Ws!



<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/materials-resources/know-your-ws-wear-wait-wash>

In addition to Wear— Wait— Wash, it is important to **frequently WASH your re-usable, non-medical, cloth/ fabric masks** as pathogens/germs will build up in the mask. Even though the virus can't survive after a period of time, other infectious agents/germs, such as bacteria and mold can proliferate. It will also help reduce breathing in the environmental allergens, such as pollen and dust. One doesn't have to wait for a load of laundry to wash a mask! Masks used during the day can easily be hand-washed at the end of the day, and left to dry overnight so that they are ready for use the next day. If you obtain more than one fabric mask, it can easily be changed out for a "fresh" mask multiple times during the day.

Since the COVID-19 virus (and all viruses) are microscopic, current research shows that while wearing (non-medical or fabric) face coverings won't necessarily prevent one from contracting the virus, it could reduce the "viral inoculation" or "load," and may result in a much milder case of the infection if one happens to contract it. The virus is attached to the respiratory droplets that are projected out of our mouths when we speak, cough, sneeze, laugh, etc. Also, it can reduce ones chances of passing it on to others, even if you are unknowingly asymptomatic. It is estimated that 35-40% of the population is asymptomatic.

Even though COVID 19 is spread primarily by aerosol transmission of respiratory droplets, frequent hand washing with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) is still one of our most powerful tools against contracting and spreading infections. Working-up a good lather while using friction in rubbing hands together, followed by thorough rinsing, helps break-up and remove all kinds of "germs" - pathogens. If unable to wash with soap and water, using >60% isopropyl or ethanol alcohol based hand sanitizer is very helpful. However, hand sanitizers are **NOT** effective against all infectious agents, and especially not effective against the very notorious, infectious diarrheal, C. Diff (Clostridium difficile) infections. Also, please check out last months article for recalls on hand sanitizer products on the government website, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use?> The update 8-12-20, now lists 160 hand sanitizer products with recalls (up from 70 a month ago). Many contain the highly toxic methanol as the main ingredient or are contaminated with methanol. Others were made in questionable labs or do not contain a high enough percentage of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol to be considered effective. Although a few of the products are from the States, most are from Mexico. Stay safe and well!

Blessings in Christ Jesus
Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse

August 19, 2020 Highlight from...



Approval was given to pursue a comprehensive media plan, beginning with purchase of equipment and installation to enable live streaming and Fellowship Hall audio/visual improvements. Funds will come from the General Contingency Fund, not to exceed \$25,000.



The Saga of the Memo Line

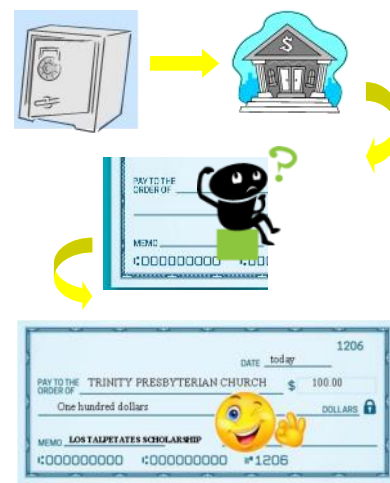
Throughout the week, financial gifts to Trinity are placed in the church office safe. They are added to the Sunday morning offering and taken directly to Silver Lake Bank for deposit by approved depositors. The bank processes the donations and provides the Financial Secretary with an electronic file with the donor's name, donation amount and the fund to which the donation was made.

IF THE MEMO LINE ON A CHECK IS BLANK, the bank labels the donation as Miscellaneous and the Financial Secretary has to determine the fund for which the donation was intended. Many

times, a pledge envelope is blank as well, so there is no back-up for the Financial Secretary to attempt to determine the use of the gift. This is especially true for Los Talpetates Scholarships vs. Los Talpetates general use donations.

Without the appropriate fund designation, accurate pledge information and budget detail cannot be compiled. Please call or email me if you have questions or concerns about this request.

REMEMBER THE MEMO.
THANKS for your help in listing your gifts as you intended.



Living Green

Being green means doing small things every day to make a difference in the world.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, every day Americans produce 4.6 pounds of municipal solid waste per person. However, more than 10 percent of municipal solid waste generated in the United States is recycled.

- ♥ Are you doing your part to recycle?
- ♥ How long does it take for garbage to decompose?

- ✓ Glass bottle— 1 million years;
- ✓ Monofilament fishing line— 600 years;
- ✓ Plastic beverage bottles — 450 years;
- ✓ Disposable diapers — 450 years;
- ✓ Aluminum can — 80 to 200 years;
- ✓ Rubber boot sole — 50 to 80 years;
- ✓ Tin cans — 50 years;
- ✓ Leather — 50 years;
- ✓ Nylon fabric — 30 to 40 years;
- ✓ Plastic bag — 10 to 20 years;
- ✓ Cigarette butt — 1 to 5 years;
- ✓ Wool sock — 1 to 5 years;
- ✓ Plywood — 1 to 3 years;
- ✓ Waxed juice carton — 3 months;
- ✓ Apple core — 2 months;

- ✓ Newspaper — 6 weeks;
- ✓ Orange or banana peel — 2 to 5 weeks;
- ✓ Paper towel — 2 to 4 weeks.

Thanks for joining the green team at Trinity recycling whatever you can each day!



GREEN CORNER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School and Welcome Back Sunday!

Adult Sunday School will continue through ZOOM, not at church.

Through Sept. 6, we will begin at our regular time (9:15am) with joys and concerns, followed by prayer. The lesson, based on the lectionary for the week, will start at 9:35am.

Welcome Back Sunday!

Beginning Sept. 13, Sunday School will begin at 8:45am to give those who would like to go to worship in the church enough time to get there.

- ❖ **September 13**, Laura Sidlinger will be our first speaker on "Building Healthy Relationships."
- ❖ **September 20**, We'll begin our 6

week study of Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*. We have that book available to purchase for \$12. The book is NOT a must for the Sunday School class, but a good resource to have.

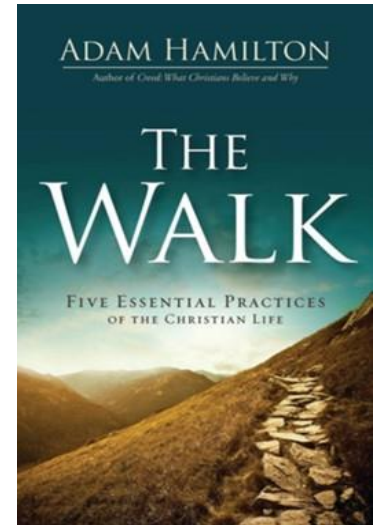
Carol Thomas (ctmshm@gmail.com) will continue to be the ZOOM host.

The ZOOM waiting room will open at 8:40am. We will begin sharing joys and concerns at 8:45, conclude Joys and Concerns with prayer at 9:00, and then we will begin the lesson.

To purchase "The Walk" from the church, email or call the church to order your book. Make your check out for \$12 to: **Trinity Presbyterian Church** and put in the Memo Line: **Adult CE**.

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT to:

Trinity Presbyterian Church,
4746 SW 21st St., Topeka KS 66604.
Questions? Contact Jenny Lee.



PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY

Join us on ZOOM at 1:30 Fridays. We are studying Richard Rohr's book, "The Universal Christ."

Our next book will be 'A Year of Biblical Womanhood' by Rachel Held Evans.

Contact Jenny Lee if you would like more information:
jenny222lee@gmail.com.

To join the group and receive a ZOOM invitation, contact Carol Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com

TUESDAYS WITH THE WORD

Join Rev. Meredith and others for a time of fellowship and study using the Wired Word. We'll meet via ZOOM Tuesdays at 9:00am, beginning Aug. 25.

If you would like a ZOOM invite, please email or call Rev. Meredith.



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Topeka, Kansas

August 10 at 6:16 PM
Adult Christian Education Committee
zoom meeting planning the fall semester.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY, YOU ASK?

Well, in the August 23rd issue of the Trinity Candle, the Property Committee ran this article:

"LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In the coming weeks, Trinity's Campus Beautification committee is organizing to enhance the landscaping in several areas around our church. The projects and details are still under development, but having an idea of volunteers interested in assisting will be helpful. "

THIS IS HOW IT LOOKS TODAY!



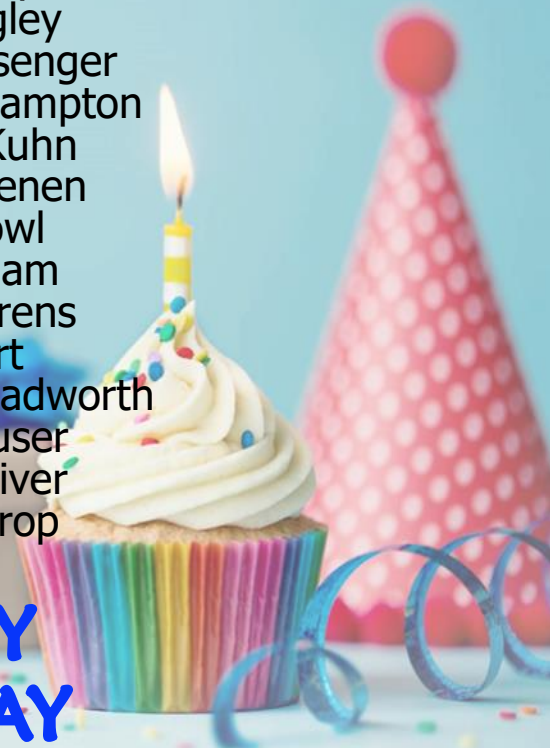
Happy Anniversary

4-Sep Karen & Mike Dove
 6-Sep Kent Lathrop & Becky Bollinger
 9-Sep Jaron & Qiyao Marcus
 10-Sep Tyler & Kelly Kuhn
 12-Sep Doug & Karen Meenen

1-Sep Stan McAdoo
 1-Sep Byron Ashley
 2-Sep Art Lancaster
 3-Sep Madeline Snapp
 6-Sep Camryn Baldwin
 8-Sep Cade Schoffelman
 8-Sep Galen Whipple
 9-Sep Jace Raines
 10-Sep Cynthia Ndungu
 11-Sep Peggy McAdoo
 12-Sep Jon Farrell-Higgins
 13-Sep Connie Hubbell
 14-Sep Cambria Raines
 14-Sep Doug Meenen
 15-Sep Brayden Smelser
 15-Sep Riley Voigt
 16-Sep Jeremy Thoman
 16-Sep Dana Schoffelman

18-Sep Jack Hachiya
 18-Sep Alice Langley
 20-Sep Judy Messenger
 20-Sep Michael Hampton
 21-Sep Jasmine Kuhn
 22-Sep Karen Meenen
 23-Sep Becky Crowl
 24-Sep Bob Fincham
 25-Sep Shane Ahrens
 26-Sep Joann Hurt
 27-Sep Devan Headworth
 29-Sep David Houser
 29-Sep David Shriver
 30-Sep Kent Lathrop

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**THANK YOU TO OUR
 PROPERTY COMMITTEE
 FOR COORDINATING THE
 INSTALLATION OF NEW
 CARPETING IN THE
 PARLOR!**

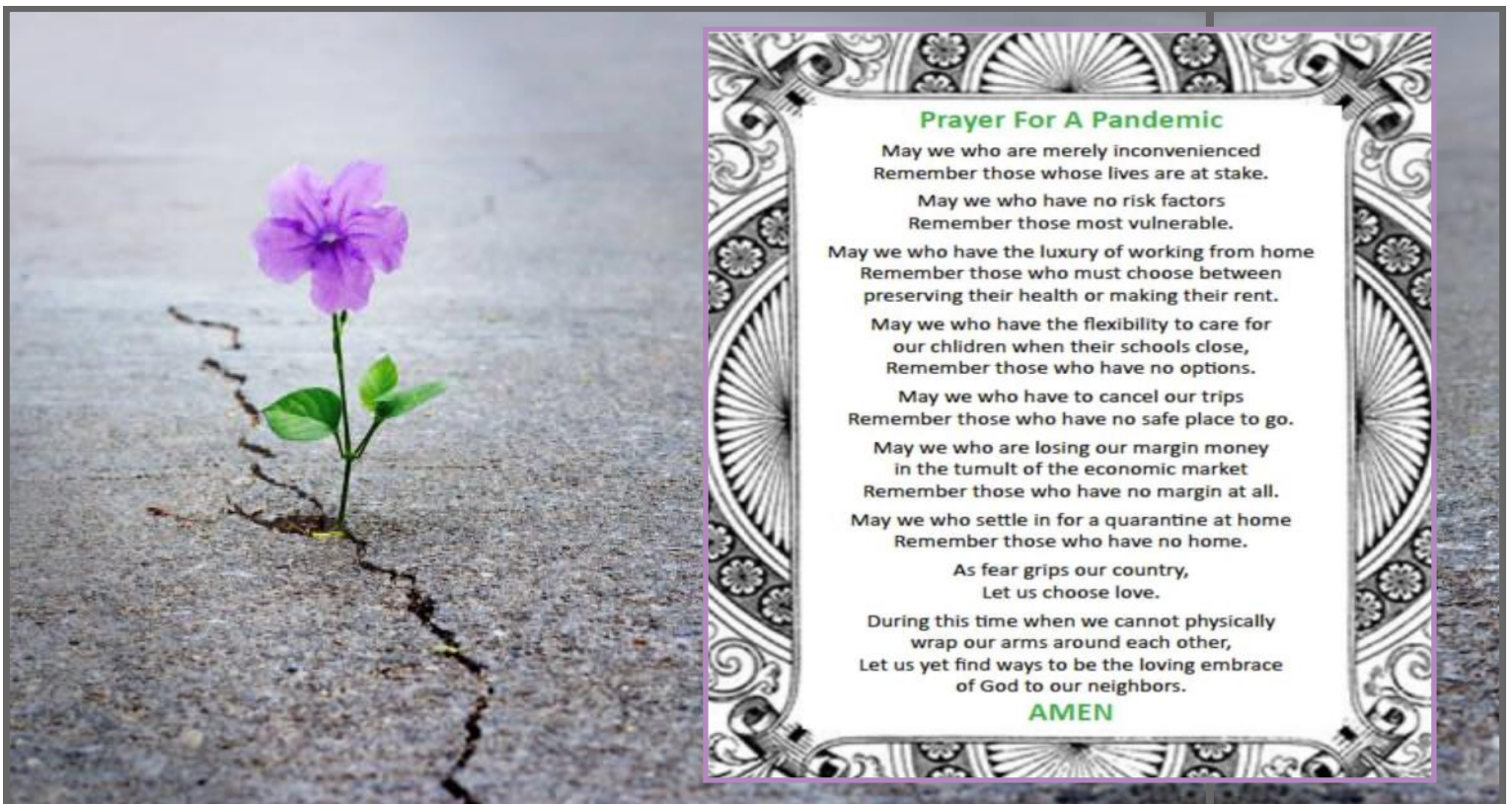




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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

AMEN