

We are ALL in this together. Love will win!

We are in this together and we are called to love one another. . . . which at this time and place in the story of the world means that **we have to stay home and distance our physical selves as if our lives depend on it because even if ours doesn't, someone else's does.**

Let's love big. Let's hang out at home! We can do this!

March 22, 2020

Holy Moment

Dear Friends,

About 6:00 last night, we were standing on the bluff above Lake Mendota at the edge of Baskerville Ave watching a pair of loons dive around. Doug and I got so focused on watching them, we almost forgot the world was weird. For a few fabulous moments, we stood mesmerized by the gift of creation, totally immersed in normalcy. It was amazing.

What is normal? What is not?

Seeing the goodness of humankind is beautifully normal. It is right and good and true. It is edifying and fulfilling to watch all the ways people among us and in our tribes are working to sustain the collective human spirit.

However, yesterday I also saw that some people were hosting gatherings of 10 or less. . . . posting such things as if they had found a way around the rules. The problem with that is this: we put EVERYONE in danger when we do that.

Our son-in-law is the Chief of Staff at his hospital. He is an ER doctor with asthma. Our daughter (his wife) is expecting a child. They have two little boys at home. As he would share, every time you think you are "getting around the rules" by acting in a way that brings people together, you are putting doctors, nurses, and all the frontline people at greater risk everywhere. If he would get sick, his own life will be in jeopardy because of the asthma. If he gets sick, he has to be out of work, and the other doctors in his practice have to work more and longer hours. If two or more of them get sick, the workload just gets heavier and heavier. If all of them get sick, there is no health care option in their community. Really friends, the best way to honor our friends and family, is to protect them by staying home.

Please get creative with your own homies. Reach out to others via social media and other connections like FaceBook live and FaceTime, Google hang out, Skype, Zoom, etc. Please avoid coming into person to person contact with people outside your own household. It matters!

Mom's groups—or social groups—try making a HaPpY HoUr date or an after-kids-are-in-bed-and-asleep date on any of those meeting kinds of hosting sites. Late at night is a great time because professional meetings are not connecting as much them.

For those of you who are trying to help out small businesses, ChEErS to YoU. Awesome! It is best practice to do that by purchasing gift certificates over the phone or online so that there is no in-person contact. Avoid every human interaction you can. As you know, this virus can live a long time on surfaces...so bags, containers, your credit card, etc. can all be places the virus can live and be shared.

Creation is amazing. There are so many wilderness areas around us. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world. Take your people out on a hike...somewhere where other people are not going. You might even know a farmer who can allow you to adopt your own field...or section of woods...to romp around in. Use your yard. Adopt a ditch on a side road. If you go on a walk around the neighborhood, give 12 feet of distance from any others who are also on a walk around the neighborhood. Protect people. All people. Because when you do, you protect yourselves and our healthcare system. And that right now, is what it means to love our neighbors in faithful ways.

We can do this! We can love by doing even more than what they are asking of us. We can wait...even though it is hard. We can do it! Invent more to do at home. Get outside to isolated places. Love BIG-REaLly BIG-REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BIG.

Together in Christ,
The Peace Team

Song of the Day: <https://youtu.be/dCQ9RlatxCO> This is "The Light Shines In The Darkness" by Dakota Road Music-Larry & Hans are friends of Doug & Karen. It is a slower song...but the words appear to be written for us today. Enjoy!

Prayer of the Day (adapted from Nadia Bolz-Weber)

God who made us all,

Our healers are exhausted, God. Give rest to those who care for the sick.

Our children are bored, God. Grant extra creativity to their caregivers.

Our friends are lonely, God. Help us to reach out via social media.

Our pastors are doing the best they can, God. Help them to know it is enough.

Our workers are jobless, God. Grant us the collective will to take care of them.

Our fellow parents are losing their minds, God. Bring unexpected-but safe, social media driven-play and joy and dance parties to all in need.

Our grocery and drug store workers are absorbing everyones's anxiety, God. Protect them from us.

Our elderly are even more isolated God. Comfort them.

We haven't done this before and we are scared, God.

I don't even know what else to pray for.

Amen.