Message from Pastor Rachael
As spring continues to unfold around us, it's easy to see the beauty and wonder of Creation. We can celebrate the violets, the magnolias, the crocus, the forsythia, and even the dandelions and creeping charlie for the bright spots of color they add. As you have walked or ridden through your neighborhood, how many different flowers and trees have you seen in bloom? Did you give thanks for their beauty, their resilience, and their persistence? What will you notice this week?
The lectionary readings during this Easter Season have all been about God's presence and God's promise of new life - beauty, resilience, and persistence. As we pursue God's holy ways rather than our own we become like the world in springtime. We find new ways to bloom in spite of the conditions around us. We are resilient when challenges come, and we persist in living into God's love. While it is hard to find joy and gratitude in these virus-filled, fear-filled days, it is not impossible. We are not the one violet blooming in a field of grass; we are all in this together with our unique and wonderful places in the world.
Keep seeking God's path even when the pastures are not green, the waters are not still, and the valleys are deep and full of grief. Spring always follows winter. If we trust God's steadfast love for us, we will find a way through this current crisis. On the other side of it, we will see how we have grown and changed and become a new and beautiful community that is the Body of Christ.

Where are you finding beauty this week? Take a picture and share it with someone who needs encouragement. Send a note to someone describing how you experience God's love in them. Reach out to a friend or family member you haven't spoken with for a while. Now is a good time to build or strengthen or work toward healing relationships.

May the peace of Christ open your hearts to joy and love, gratitude and beauty in the coming days.

Be well.

Pr. Rachael

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**Calendar**

All Living Table events are Virtual, see the website for information. Rental groups are meeting at their own discretion but many to most are cancelling.

**Tuesday:**
6:30 pm Congregational Care Meeting

**Wednesday:**
10 am Tea with Pastor Rachael
5 pm Centering Prayer Group
6 pm GA Meeting (Rental)
6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

**Thursday:**
6:30 pm Grief and Loss Group

**Saturday:**
8 am Morning Bible Study Group reading Luke

**Sunday:**
9:15 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

**Monday:**
3:30 pm Spanish Class (Happening Online)
4:30 pm Discernment Meeting
6:30 pm Property Ministry

View the full calendar in the Calendar tab on our website:

**This Week on Zoom**

Congregational Care [https://zoom.us/j/259644816](https://zoom.us/j/259644816)
Readers Needed
If you would like to read during our Zoom Worship on any Sunday, please let Pr. Rachael know. We need two readers each week.

From Mental Health Connect:
Moving from Anxiety to Optimal Wellbeing

L. Read Sulik, MD
CEO & CMO Praestan Health
Monday, May 11, 2020 - 6:30-8 pm
Livestream video information to come

This workshop will help you understand the “Exploding Canvas of Anxiety” and 4 steps you can take to help you gain control of the chaos. It is designed to get us started on our own path or guide others on their path to optimal wellbeing. Dr. Sulik will address anxiety in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic.

This is a free event. No registration is required. However, a free-will offering is appreciated. All are welcome! 1.5 hour Participation Certificate available for professionals. Call Barb Huwe if any questions 612-386-3916.

You can also access a livestream on YouTube: https://youtu.be/hgVo4ULiEC8

Virtual Tea
You can have virtual tea (or whatever you like) with Pr Rachael. She will be on Zoom from 10 -12 each Wednesday to check in with you and chat with others who might be needing a little extra kinship these days. Just click the link and join in. https://zoom.us/j/998527789

Join Us for Healing
Spring Forest Qigong
Together we will follow a video by Master Chunyi Lin
This practice of movements gives support to those with coronavirus and all those concerned.
Every morning at 8 am for 1/2 hour on Zoom for 30 days, with Judy St Clair, Beth Cherne, and Barb Huwe. Call or text Barb for more information. Email her for a Zoom invite

**Save your printer cartridges!**
When we come back together, Sandy S. will be collecting printer cartridges to recycle for cash. Money will go to the Jubilee Fund. All cartridges except Epson are acceptable.

**Sewing Masks for Hospitals**

**Can you sew?** One critical need that has emerged over the past several days is the need for more personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gowns, in hospitals and other health care settings. In recent days, doctors and nurses have warned that they are running out of equipment to stay safe as they diagnose and treat patients. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Allina Health, along with several community partners, have launched a statewide volunteer effort, calling for people to sew and donate masks for doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. Read more here.
The CDC compliant DIY mask pattern, material list, and directions can be found here: [https://www.sewgoodgoods.org/face-mask-covid-19](https://www.sewgoodgoods.org/face-mask-covid-19)

Can't sew, but still want to help? If you don't sew but would like to support the effort, donations are welcome to Sew Good Goods through GiveMN. All money received will be used for supplies to support the community through this COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a Minnesota health system that would like to receive handmade masks or a local fabric store that would like to supply fabric to volunteers, contact Susan Schuster at susan.schuster@bluecrossmn.com to be added to the list. Health care systems accepting masks are asked to provide their own drop-off sites and make sure their facility has a process for accepting and sanitizing masks.

Any surplus masks will be made available to other organizations in need.

**Sewing Masks for Our Community**
Congregational Care is responding to a need for making cloth masks for our community. If you can help and/or have cotton material, please contact Barb Huwe

**Jubilee Fund**
We are currently receiving donations to the Jubilee Fund. This fund is being created to assist members and friends of Living Table who experience financial difficulties during this time. Funds will be ready for distribution in early May. If you have financial need and would like to apply for assistance from this fund, please contact Pr. Rachael. Thank you to all who have donated so far. We will get through this current crisis by supporting and encouraging one another.
UCC Special Offering
During April, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. It provides education to children, empowers communities through vocational training, supports microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, and empowers families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors. You can participate by sending a check to the church, or using the Special Offering option through the Donate Now button.

Calling in to Zoom
For those of you who may need to connect to Zoom via phone, here are the numbers to call: 1-929-436-2866 or 1-312-626-6799. The meeting ID is the same as the numbers in the Zoom link. For example the meeting ID for Sunday morning Worship is 284 800 825 followed by #. Then follow the directions to enter the meeting.

Adult Sunday School
You are invited to share anything you find inspiring, hopeful, or healing. It could be a short article, a video clip, an image, a meme, a poem, or something else. Please send anything you want to share to Pr Rachael by Wednesday evening so they can be included in Thursday's Table Talk.

Funeral Planning Form
If anyone would like a copy of the Funeral Planning Form, contact Barb Huwe. Also if you need help filling it out, contact Laura Beth Gatke.

Congregational Care Needs Volunteers
If you are willing and able to assist other members by running errands such as grocery shopping or pharmacy pick up, please contact Barb Howe or Pr. Rachael. Congregational Care would like to have a list of people with minimal risk who are able to help those who must be more cautious.

Book Club Beginnings
There is interest in starting a Living Table Book Club. A good way to start would be sharing book recommendations. Perhaps we end up with a few different book clubs based on interest. If you have a book to recommend, send it to Pr. Rachael and make sure to note the genre. You can offer a very brief summary or a statement of why you are recommending the book as well. Here's an example:
Moonheart by Charles de Lint is an Urban Fantasy book. It includes a bit of romance, time travel, monsters, magic, and an epic battle between good and evil. It happens to be my all-time favorite novel. - Pr. Rachael

Information about Automatic Deductions
Now that we can’t pass the plate, people are learning other ways to donate to Living Table and its causes. The way that we’ve used for a long time is to
have our payment services company, Vanco, deduct money from your 
checking account on a regular basis so that you don’t have to think about it. 
You can still do it that way by sending Ann 1) a voided check, 2) how much 
you want to donate, and 3) at what intervals. Those can be sent directly or 
to the church.

Another way to donate is to use the Donate Now button on the church 
website (scroll down to the large photo. The button is just above that; it’s 
also at the bottom of Table Talk). The site you go to has two sections. The 
left side of the page enables you to donate via credit card, checking 
account, or savings account. (Please note that using a credit card costs us a 
fee out of your donation.) You can designate that money to general 
operating, the UCC special offering, the Sheridan project, or the food shelf.

The right side of the page enables you to set up an account with a password 
so that you don’t have to put payment information in each time you use it. 
In both methods, you can designate a one-time gift or a continuing gift. 
Note that Vanco will send you a receipt from the church for your donation. 
However, we also track your gift, which shows up on your yearly statement. 
Be careful not to claim it twice on your taxes.

Interested in Donating to the Church?

Donate Now

God's Peace | Table Talk Issues? Contact us!

Living Table is a compassionate community drawn together in Christ to 
embody love, seek justice, and invite healing