

# Jay Gould Memorial Reformed Church

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March 27, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are living in a new way in this time marked by the coronavirus. Words and practices that seemed so out of the norm two weeks ago are part of daily life now. Social isolation which is marked by the lack of physical contact rules instead of the simple acts of hugging and shaking hands. Gathering for strength and community expression is temporarily banned and we are finding new ways to do things.

**Worship is happening!** Pastor Alisha is doing a Facebook Live service on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. I'll be posting short messages for members to watch as well. It isn't the same as being able to gather in the church, but it can be worship.

Hopefully, you've been able to adjust. Hopefully you have found ways to reach out and communicate with others by phone or email. Hopefully, you've found ways to feed your spirit while we go through this different time. This isn't the first time that the church has learned how to adjust to adversity, and some of the best practices we have come from those times of greatest stress.

If you need anything, a phone call, someone to shop for you, someone to help in any way, please reach out and let us know. I've had offers from members who can shop, bring some food in, or call and pray with you. Just let us know how we can be church together.

Your Pastor,

*Rich Dykstra*



## **New Treasurer**

Stacey Walker has agreed to serve as our new church treasurer! This is great news because Betty Heiseler had been asking us to find a replacement for her for several months.

We want to thank Betty for her volunteer services as our Treasurer for many years. She stepped in when no one else volunteered, and was willing to do this work that often seems thankless.

By the way, the procedures for our finances remain the same: Donations and bills still come to the church address which is P.O. Box 267, Roxbury NY 12474. Donations are recorded and deposited by our Financial Secretary (Anita Miskovsky). Bills are paid by our Treasurer. If you mail your donations, please write "Financial Secretary" on the outside of the envelope and it will be given to her unopened.



## **Church Offerings and Donations to the Church**

Members and supporters of the church are asked to mail their donations until we can start worshiping in the building again. We will be looking at ways to receive funds electronically, but at this point request that you mail them in or drop them in the offering plate or under the office door if you are in the church.

## **Sunday Prayers**

The church will be open for prayer every day. This is not a service, but a time to allow those who feel a need for prayer to come and pray. Pastor Rich will be in the church on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Please do not come expecting to socialize but to keep social distancing from others.



## **Roxbury Food Bank**

The Food Bank in the Methodist Church remains open at this time. People in need of emergency food are encouraged to utilize it. It is open on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Several of our members will be stepping in to help out for a while.



## **Spring Bazaar Cancelled**

In case you missed the news, the Spring Bazaar planned for next weekend has been cancelled, as well as the Easter Egg Hunt that was planned in Kirkside Park.

## **More Reunion Service Cancelled**

The John More Association, which holds a reunion every five years, has decided to cancel this year's reunion. It would have been in July and would have included the worship service in our church.



## **Pork Dinner Thank You!**

We want to report that about \$2,200 was raised in the Roast Pork Dinner held on March 14. It turned into a take out event because we were on the eve of social isolation, and the people running it were very pleased with the cooperation from our diners. We ran out of food early, which was a new experience for us, but we were happier to do that than to have lots of food to freeze or find homes for.

Thank you to our coordinators Nancy Mattice and Andrea Cammer! And to all of our helpers who baked, cooked, served, cleaned and sold tickets! The income was perfectly timed because it came just in time to pay the heating bill for the church.

As a side note, we still have some dessert platters and dishes that came in. They are in the Carriage House (which is open most of the time) and I'd invite you to stop by and take them home.

## **Tom Hynes**

Please continue to keep Tom Hynes' family in your prayers on his passing last Friday. Even though he was not a member of our church, he probably spent more time in our church than a lot of our members. As our local funeral home director, his was the comforting face that greeted most of our families and our community whenever there was a funeral. We trusted his quiet leadership and ability to guide us through the hardest moments of our lives. He was a strong supporter of our church dinners and was always there for us. We will miss him greatly.



**Struggling with isolation?**

**Connection can help.  
Talk to someone today.**

**NEW YORK STATE  
COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT HELPLINE:**

**1-844-863-9314**

**8 AM - 10 PM, 7 days a week**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a new helpline for people who are experiencing overwhelming anxiety, stress and depression brought on by the coronavirus emergency.

**Call now for free and confidential support.**



**Office of  
Mental Health**