



Greetings from Pastor Nate Kirk in the Hills

March 23, 2020

Dear Kirk family,

Last week in a video from my home, I shared a quote that encouraged each of us to “lean into the good things that remain.” On Saturday night, as the cars piled into our parking lots and lined Long Lake Road for our drive-in carillon concert, it seemed like the whole community heard that call. Everyone in the community seemed to be leaning into a good thing (the church bells are not broken!) that remains, all at the same time. One of you texted me to say “great job” on the concert and my immediate reaction was, “I wish the world didn’t need this so much.”

I really wish it didn’t.

But it does.

Sadly, with the **Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order** from Governor Whitmer, we are unable to hold another carillon concert this Saturday. Our building, like so many buildings, remains closed and our staff is working from home, *huddling* daily over Zoom technology. I meet three times a week, again over Zoom, with the church’s pandemic response team and we are monitoring things right alongside you—looking forward to the day when things will open back up. When we can all come back.

Holy Week at the Kirk will be much different than any year in our history. We WILL have special services planned for our worshipping community and we hope that you will join together at 9:15 a.m. through livestream at kirkinthehills.org, Facebook, OR through our new radio ministry at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday on Faith Talk FM 92.7FM | AM1500 WLQV.

Our small groups, youth groups, and Bible studies are still going on via Zoom. If you are looking to join one as you stay at home—I teach a men’s study at 7:00 a.m. on Friday and a women’s study at 10:30 a.m. on Friday. Pastor Fernando is starting a new study every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome and you can find the links below or on our Worship from Home website page.

We continue the work of checking in on our congregation—and the needs of the wider community at this time. If you hear of pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Angela or Pastor Marjorie. If you notice an opportunity to enlist the congregation in helping out in our cities and neighborhoods, please reach out to Pastor Fernando.

Here’s an easy thing to do right now—I would like to start a prayer list for HEROES in this time. What is a hero? You decide. I was thinking of someone fighting the illness, healthcare workers, food retailers, members of the National Guard. I am sure there are many others. You can email names to Julie Walker at jwalker@kirkinthehills.org. We WILL be sharing this list, just so you know.

Finally, as we continue to do the good work of the church we are exceedingly grateful that so many of you continue to keep your pledge current! It is so affirming! As this continues, your generosity will help give us the confidence that we can continue to do what we are doing. You can use our online giving feature at kirkinthehills.org under Resources/Give, or send your check by U.S. Postal Service.

Friends, I will continue to stay in communication, I promise. I will send emails and short videos regularly. Please stay tuned to your email (and make sure we have your email by sending yours to nscully@kirkinthehills.org!), Facebook, and our website. Join us for worship through livestream and tell everyone about the radio program. Most of all though...

Stand tall and stay warm,



Pastor Nate

*Lord God,
in this world where goodness & evil
continue to clash w/each other,
instill in us & in all people,
discernment to see what is right,
faith to believe what is right,
& courage to do what is right.
Keep us & preserve us, body, mind & soul.
Amen.
~Iona Community*

Links to all of these offerings are available at kirkinthehills.org.

When	Title	Facilitator
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	Bible Study on Gospel of Mark	Ed Yousif
Mondays at 10:00 a.m.	Going Deeper: A Lenten Spiritual Journey (Prayer Class)	Pastor Marjorie
Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m.	Book Study Group (currently reading <i>The Wisdom Jesus</i>)	Marge Whittemore
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.	NEW!! Mid-week Book Study (<i>Having Nothing Possessing Everything</i>)	Pastor Fernando
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study	Helen Campbell
Fridays at 7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study (currently studying Colossians and prison letters)	Pastor Nate
Fridays at 10:30 a.m.	Books and Bible (starting a new book, <i>Snake Oil</i> by Becca Stevens)	Pastor Nate