



Letter #4 >> March 27, 2020

Grief. Regardless of how recently you've visited a cemetery, we're all grieving death due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The death of plans we had made. The death of the expectation to return to the classroom. The death of the ability to go to the coffee shop with friends. The death of soccer and track season. The death of orders at work that were scaled back or even canceled. The death of the prospect of going out with friends tonight. The death of our hopes for some of our investments. The death of our presumption that we're in control.

Your council and staff think it's important to name this grief. We've all had expectations and hopes dashed for what March and April 2020 were going to be like. So if you're feeling unsettled, sad, or even depressed, don't be surprised and don't be too hard on yourself. We're all experiencing various losses, and any loss – whether large or small – requires a grief process on the journey to healing.

So don't pretend everything's ok. Please reach out to a staff or council member if you'd like to talk and pray about what's happening. We're working on contacting more people than we otherwise would, but we might not get a hold of you or you might like to chat before we get to you. So please call, email, text, snap, or use social media to connect with us.

Please also share prayer requests with us. We'll add them to our prayers and (only with your permission) share them with the church. Come to the office to share them in person. Text or email us a note. Or stop by the office hallway where we've set up some flipcharts where you can jot down what you're sad about as well as what you're still thankful for. We also put a basket there for your written prayer requests.

The apostle James teaches us that the prayers of God's people are "powerful and effective" (see James 5:13-18), a truth we invite the entire congregation to claim.

Shalom,

Trinity CRC Executive Team and Staff

PS: Remember to join us on local channel 77 or online at trinitycrc.com for worship this Sunday at our usual times of 9:30am and 6:00pm so we can focus together on Jesus, God's Son, who is the way, the truth, and life. We need to hear this Good News all the time and especially now!