



April 2020

Dear Oakdale Park Church,

We pray this finds you at peace and hopeful through the victory we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We wanted to update you on our lives and ministry in Detroit during this unique and challenging season of pandemic. We particularly wanted to offer you a glimpse beyond statistics of what it feels like to be in a region deeply impacted by this virus.

We have had dozens of friends and neighbors who have contracted COVID-19, a few who have been hospitalized, and unfortunately, a couple who have died. As we stretch out just one degree of separation, there have been many more sicknesses and deaths (a few of our friends and acquaintances have lost family members). While the vast majority of people do recover from the virus, it still feels to us as if death is fairly consistently crouching at the door. And the racial disparities in how the virus disproportionately affects African-Americans are a sad reminder of the inequity that persists in our city and country. These realities affirm the need for us to advocate on behalf of the oppressed and vulnerable amongst us and be mindful of healthy practices whereby we can love our neighbors.

Our ministry outside of our home has obviously been limited, but we have focused on mobilizing Christians for prayer, community connections, and service to neighbors. We have worked to connect people in need to resources (food, stimulus check receiving for those experiencing homelessness, and access to technology for children to continue their education online). We are continuing our weekly programming with videoconferences. We have seen much beauty and redemption in people loving their neighbors well by giving generously and sharing sacrificially.

Please continue to pray:

- for Detroiters who are suffering and grieving during this season
- for our witness of hope and healing in Jesus to spread through neighborhoods in Detroit
- for our children to continue to grow and experience the goodness of God

We continue to give thanks to God for the opportunity to live and serve in this great city and for the people like Oakdale Park Church who support us through prayer.

Grace and Peace,

Mark and Kristen Jamison, Tyler, & Quentin VanAndel



If you'd like to follow along more regularly with photos of our ministry, please follow us on social media  
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