

Given the action of our County Supervisors (<https://www.kwch.com/content/news/WATCH-LIVE-Sedgwick-County-holds-daily-briefing-on-coronavirus-569027601.html>) and in the best interest of our staff, the PCT and I have discussed and voted to close the office of the Presbytery of Southern Kansas in the same time period as the County orders (currently until April 23rd unless otherwise enacted, cancelled or superseded in some way). This does not mean we are not working or not serving you as a Presbytery. Jan and I will be working from home. Since religious staff are exempt to some degree, and our financials are much more complicated to administer from home, we will leave the office available for Rachel to do a minimal and required amount of work and check writing on her own in the office. We are all committed to sanitizing the office upon entry and departure.

If you have ANY need, your church has any need or there is any way you would like to make connection with us during this time, please leave a message as we will be retrieving them. If you wish to talk to someone or have an emergency, please call the Transitional Executive Leader at 925-852-7481 on her cell phone. If you cannot reach me, please contact Jan Lane at 316-993-5503 (cell) or e mail [jane-lane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jane-lane@sbcglobal.net).

In order to stay somewhat sane, I will maintain my regular work schedule, and keep Friday as my day off. On Sundays, I will continue to worship with various congregations in our Presbytery and around the country, but now electronically. I would SO much rather be with you in person.

This is a time that brings so many metaphors to mind and so many scriptures. I was on a conference today with our co-moderator of the General Assembly, Cindy Kohlman and she was reminding us of God's leading God's people through the wilderness. She said "no one chooses this." However, God has chosen us, chosen us to live, care, respond, be faithful, be good stewards of the mind, body, soul and strength, and has chosen us to be a beacon, a light, and a guide, in times exactly like this one. I've already seen this happen in so many ways. I continue to look forward to the day when we will be a Body of Christ IN BODY, and not just spirit and icon and Zoom screens....but until that day, remember these words from the Apostle Paul, out of the Message,

*31-39 So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:*

*They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.*

*We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.*

*None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.*

Praying for you each and every one,      Reverend Gail Doering