

Email: May 16th, 2020

Hi City Reformed Church,
Included in this email:

1. **"Secret Houses"**
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"Secret Houses"

I know that we are all looking forward to when we can be together again in person! I thought that it might be fun to create a new way to connect with each other during this time. Much like "secret santas", anyone who is interested can send me a quick email [blocked] letting me know and we'll "draw names". The person/couple/family whose name you draw is for whom you will find 2-3 ways to "surprise" in the next month! This could be a yard sign, a treat left on their doorstep, a chalk design in their driveway, some snail mail, anything you come up with! We'd love as many of you who want to participate join in the fun, so let me know by **Thursday, May 21**.

Weekly Devotions

This week's devotions (attached) come from the book [Good Dirt: Kingdomtide](#) by Lacy Finn Borgo. There are other books in this series tied to different seasons of the church calendar, so you can also find one centered around Lent/Easter and another around Advent/Christmas/Epiphany. This book uses the analogy of seeds being planted within us and reminds us of the importance of things such as tilling the ground of our hearts, planting the word of God in them, watering it (by responding through word or deed) and weeding out the areas of our life that try to impede growth. Given that we are seeing new life all around us in the natural world, this could be a good time to try out this devotion with your family!

An Encouragement

I don't know about you, but this time at home hasn't necessarily gotten easier. Yes, there are ways that we've established new rhythms and routines, but when we are made to live in community, it's still really hard. This blog, entitled [When the Going Gets Tough](#), has many helpful reminders to me when things feel particularly tough in this season. As the author writes:

When the going gets tough may I pause, reach out a hand, and make the way easier for someone else.

When the going gets tough may I remember that I'm not alone. May I be kind.

I know that I often need to remind myself to find new and creative ways to do this, to think outside of myself, when the days and weeks are hard and long. Praying with you and for you as we continue this journey!

Blessings,
Kelli Dunn