

January 15, 2018

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Over the last couple of weeks, I have become more and more concerned about the partial government shutdown.

It's not just that our elected leaders cannot come together on some sort of compromise that would reopen the government. While that is troubling, I have been more upset by the ways in which this shutdown affects many of you. I know many Grace Church parishioners are currently furloughed and not receiving a paycheck.

This had been weighing on me heavily, and I have been trying to think of ways that Grace Church might support our parishioners during this stressful time. Please know that all of you who are furloughed have been in my prayers and the prayers of Amanda and Richard, as well.

But, I have also felt compelled to help in some other, more tangible, way. I figured there must be something we can do...

And, there is.

***Starting immediately, Grace Church will provide financial assistance to any parishioner who is currently furloughed and not receiving a paycheck.***

We have an emergency fund set aside for just this purpose, and we can provide anyone with a small loan that can be repaid when the shutdown ends. It may not cover all of your expenses, and it is not the same as getting a paycheck. But, it is something.

Now, one thing I have learned in ministry is that people are always hesitant to ask for help, and in particular, people never, ever want to ask for financial help, especially from the church. It is part of our John Wayne American culture, in which we are always supposed to take care of ourselves and never ask for anything.

I get it.

But, please, if you could use a little short term help, let me know. You can speak with me after church, call the church office, or send me an email. It will be completely confidential.

And, that is why the church is here – for you!

See you in church,  
*Andrew*