



THINGS TO DO RELATIVE TO LOCAL CHURCH COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: Pastors

FROM: Scott Gillum

This resource was used by an Oklahoma pastor and could be adapted to meet your local church preferences/ needs.

After prayerful consideration and consultation with our Church Board and Pastoral Team, we have reached the painful decision to temporarily suspend all gatherings and activities at our local church until such time as we know it is safe to resume. None of us are happy about this, and we would clearly prefer to continue our normal rhythm of gatherings, but as responsible citizens and faithful Christ followers, we feel it is our duty to do all we can to help stop the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus in our community. I pray that all of you will understand and support this decision.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION:

To help ensure that our congregation remains connected and cared for as much as possible under these circumstances we will make available online each week a video with a sermon, prayer needs, announcements, music and other pertinent content. Each of our congregants will receive by email and/or text a link to the video which can be viewed at your convenience. For those with no internet access we will provide a printed copy of the sermon, prayer needs, and announcements.

CONSIDERATION FOR GIVING:

In order to sustain the essential, on-going financial commitments of the church we will be providing a couple of options for making online donations. (Provide appropriate detailed instructions for online giving.) Of course, you can still give your tithes and offerings in cash or check by mail. Your faithful and sacrificial generosity will be needed in the days ahead more than ever before.

NECESSITY TO QUARANTINE:

If you are required to quarantine in your home at some point and you need help getting groceries, medications, or other necessities delivered to you, please let us know. (Ask for members volunteers to help with that sort of thing.) This difficult time is actually a good opportunity for us to live out the “one another” commands of the New Testament.

COMMITMENT OF PRAYER

I encourage each of you to continue, and even increase, your daily commitment to prayer and study of God’s Word. Let us believe that God will use this pandemic as a call to the whole world to surrender to Him.

Throughout the troubling days ahead, our lives will be stabilized by our trust in the power and goodness of our sovereign God who created the universe and who sustains it by the power of His word. Human wisdom, knowledge and skill are needed in this crisis. Governmental leadership will be required to help us rise above political agendas and serve the needs of anyone affected by the virus. Medical professionals, sound treatment and effective medications are essential. But our greatest hope, as always, is found in the loving heart of our good God, who is the ultimate source of all we may need.

As we face an uncertain future, let us embrace and live out Paul’s wise instructions:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things”
(Philippians 4:4-8).*